

DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD
news

Essential travel intelligence

July 2015

AMSTERDAM
GO DUTCH FOR THE WEEKEND

VIP at
**HUNGARIAN
FORMULA 1**

Seoul Food
Dining in South
Korea's hip capital

BORNEO
Wild at heart

BODRUM
LUXURY ON THE
TURKISH RIVIERA

IBIZA
HEDONISM,
HEALING &
HAUTE CUISINE

**MONTE
CARLO**
An insider's guide

PHUKET'S
New Groove





VINTAGE PORTLAND

IT COMES AS NO SURPRISE THAT THE HIPSTER capital of the world has an affinity for all things vintage, but Portland's latest hotel reveals a double entendre. Hotel Vintage Plaza has re-emerged as Hotel Vintage Portland after a US\$16 million makeover with a focus on Oregon wine. The theme is threaded through the property's 117 guest rooms with an emphasis on the Willamette Valley and nods to local vintners whose tipples are served at the hotel. The transformation introduces a new two-storey lobby space with light fixtures styled as grape clusters and an expansive rug depicting an aerial view of the valley. The interiors are thanks to Seattle-based Dawson Design Associates who've incorporated the city's bohemian aspects, and reds and purples to reflect the fruits of the vine. More than 105,000 recycled wine corks were also used to create 73 unique portraits in each room. To mark its grand reopening, the hotel has concocted a variety of offers themed around the wine story including Love the Wine Your With, Que Syrah Syrah, and Sip Into Something More Comfortable.



BRAZIL THROUGH THE LENS

A NEW PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR IN BRAZIL'S PANTANAL WILDERNESS WILL ALLOW GUESTS TO explore and document the world's largest contiguous wetland and snap its remarkable wildlife. The 10-day tour is led by master photographer Ossian Lindholm and winds its way through the Amazon Rainforest, Brazilian Savannah and Paraguayan Chaco, home to innumerable bird and fish species, dozens of mammals and unique reptiles and amphibians. Expect to see regional fauna such as tapirs, giant anteaters, caiman, capybaras, howler monkeys, giant river otters, the hyacinth macaw and toucans – you may even get a glimpse of the ultra-elusive jaguar. The Pantanal photo journey is priced from US\$6,790 and takes place August 28-September 7, 2015.

EASTERN TRADITIONS IN ARIZONA

"SENSEI", IN JAPANESE CULTURE, IS USED to refer to a teacher but in fact holds an even higher honour. The literal translation is "person born before another" and has been adopted by an Arizona resort to convey a new multi-dimensional approach to wellness. Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain has introduced Sensei Therapists to its Asian-inspired spa. To qualify, each Sanctuary Sensei must pass rigorous training and certification exams; have at least seven years of experience in massage therapy and bodywork, and at least five years of experience at the Sanctuary Spa itself. Thus far, there are just four Sensei at the resort, performing highly specialised treatments such as the Golden Lotus Balancing Ritual, designed to balance yin and yang energy with a full-body acupressure session.

