A European-Style Sanctuary Is on Its Way to Burma’s Inle Lake

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A Suite

Inle Lake is one of the biggest tourist attractions in the country, home to many who row their boats with their feet, floating gardens and a “jumping cat” temple. Because of that, it’s also heaving with hotels – and now there’s one more, the Sanctum Inle Resort.

Cast aside all thoughts of Sanctum Suho – this is no noddy hotel. In fact, it’s the polar opposite – a new build, but done in the style of a European monastery, complete with arches, contemplative doorways, plenty of greenery and an all-pervasive aura of calm. Now, we have no idea why the land of beautiful stupas has gone for a Balkanese monastery for its design – but remember, Burmese hotels tend to be Wendy wonderful.

A Provost Junior Suite

The 66 rooms will, luckily, be more pared back lux than monastic mutter – “shush beds” are promised, along with TVs and minibars. We rather like the design, actually – light walls, plenty of wood, Romanesque arched windows and wood bedheads and beamed roofs, to add a bit of suss.

There will be a restaurant, the Refectory, a bar, the Oister, and even that European must-have: a cigar lounge. To cushion your monastic retreat, there will also be a spa.

Rates are slightly less cushy – from $484 for a classic room. That’s considerably more than anything we looked at around Bne, but then again, it looks considerably nicer than anything we saw.

From the website, Provost Junior Suites are already available, for a cool $564, while the Classic Rooms have yet to show availability. Official word is that it opens in March – here’s a picture of their view of the lake, to whet your appetite.

(Photos: Sanctum Inle Resort)