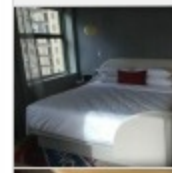




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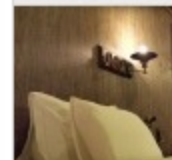


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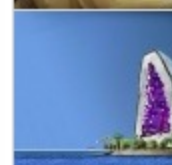


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A European-Style Sanctuary Is on Its Way to Burma's Inle Lake

Where: Maing Thauk Village, Inle Lake, Nyaung Shwe Township, Shan State, Myanmar

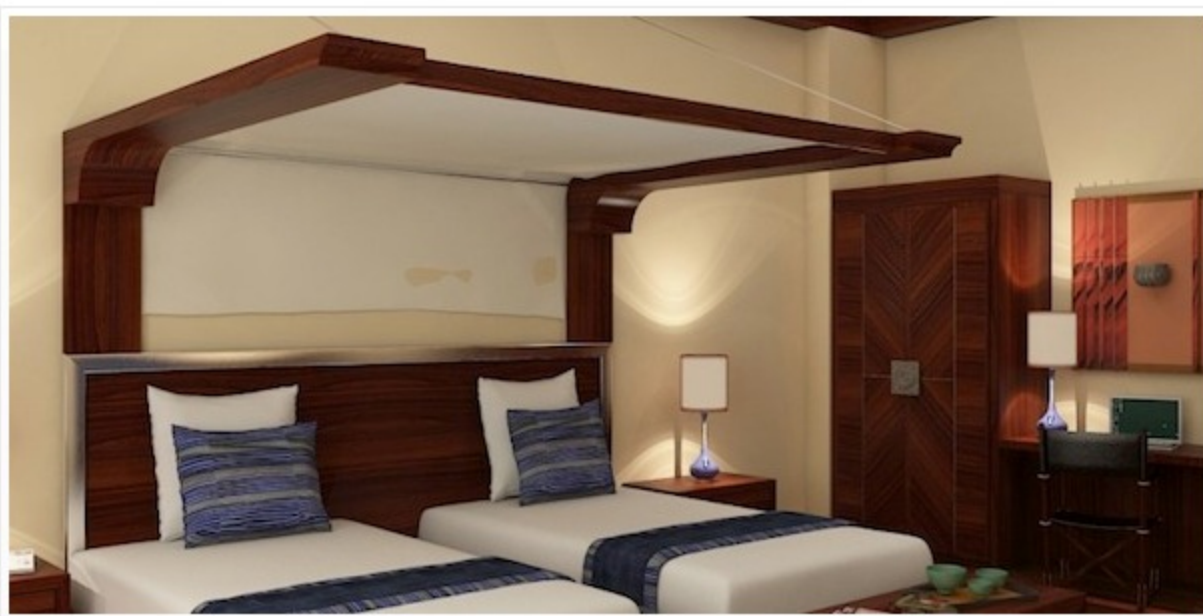
February 17, 2015 at 8:25 AM | by juliab | Comments (0)



A Suite

Burma's Inle Lake is one of the biggest tourist attractions in the country, home to men 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 here's one more, the **Sanctum Inle Resort**.

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



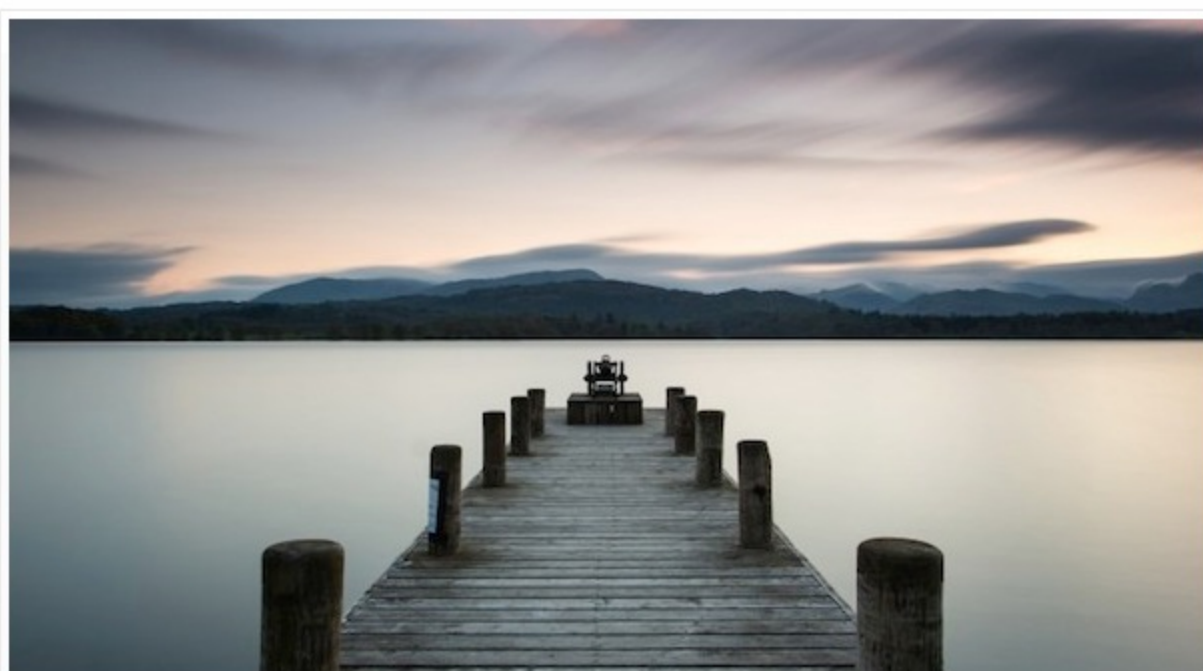
A Provost Junior Suite

The 96 rooms will, luckily, be more pared back lux than spartan monastery – "plush beds" are promised, along with TVs and minibars. We rather like the design, actually – light walls, plenty of wood, Romanesque arched windows and weird bedheads and beamed roofs, to add a bit of sass.

There will be a restaurant, the Refectory, a bar, the Cloister, 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 Inle, 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 meditate on in the meantime.



[Photos: Sanctum Inle Resort]

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