Take a stay-cation now

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Refreshing getaways

Looking for a great new place for a holiday? Look no further than these exciting new openings or refurbishments in neighbouring countries.

1) A sanctuary in Myanmar

Opening in March, Sanctuary Inle Resort is a 95-room resort on Myanmar’s famed Inle Lake, gateway to some of Asia’s most fascinating markets, distinctive pagodas and remarkable stupas. Owned and operated by the same group behind perennial ‘T+L500’ selection La Residence Hotel & Spa in Hue, Vietnam, the resort inspires contemplation through its off-the-beaten-path location and architectural flourishes that invoke monastic traditions.

2) Landmark renovations in Taipei

Also in March, the Grand Hyatt Taipei concludes a landmark renovation that took all 853 rooms and suites down to their concrete bones. All nine restaurants and bars, meetings spaces and club facilities are likewise beneficiaries of an extreme makeover. “This renovation is really a rebuild,” said Kai Speth, the hotel’s general manager. “Once the work is done, the hotel will have the unique distinction of becoming the oldest and the newest luxury hotel in Taipei.” First opened in 1990, the Grand Hyatt Taipei commands a prominent location at the base of Taipei 101, the world’s tallest skyscraper from 2004 to 2010.

3) Tropical bliss in Bali

Opening in May, The Chedi Club Jimbaran is a private estate nestled amidst 22,000 sqm of tranquil grounds in the southern region of Bali. Comprised of 34 hut-serviced pool villas, each is equipped with its own private pool, in-room dining service, a full kitchen, a Balinese pavilion for alfresco meals and barbecues. Villas range from one-to-three bedrooms, along with The Estate, 4,000sqm of secluded indoor and outdoor living space with multiple pavilions, four bedrooms, and a 15m personal pool. The resort’s spaces are the creation of Robert Nation, principal of Nation Architects, and Jaya Ibrahim, one of Indonesia’s foremost interior designers.

4) Sojourn in Saigon

Also in May, the 286-room Reverie Saigon commands the upper and lower floors of a contemporary, 39-storey tower in Ho Chi Minh City and emerging reputation as the boldest expression of opulence to debut in Vietnam. With grandeur that epitomizes the best of Italian design, the hotel transcends expectations of place to a contemporary exploration of unapologetic splendour. From its rooms and suites to its restaurants and bars, as well as its lavish public spaces, all feature indelible expressions of original craftsmanship and artistry. As visually arresting as the hotel is within, so too are the expansive views from each and every room and suite. You’ve never seen Saigon quite like this. Already, CNN and Yahoo have named this place to their top ten lists of hotels to look out for in 2015.

5) Fun in the sun Queensland

Where in the world can you cuddle a koala, visit the world’s busiest wildlife hospital, play in a ‘splashtacular’ water park and stay within a tranquil, coastal oasis all in the same day? Australia’s family friendly resort Oaks Oasis on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast is where. With active, adventurous and fun loving families in mind, Oaks Oasis seaside resort in Queensland’s Caloundra has partnered with Australia Zoo to offer a holiday like no other, inviting families to “Take a Walk on the Wild Side”. From just $189 AUD per night, two adults and two children can stay in a newly refurbished Executive Family Room, with free WiFi, a late checkout and a complimentary bottle of sparkling wine. Guests will receive exclusive access to specially discounted Australia Zoo tickets and a FREE ‘Sneak Peek’ pass into the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital. Oaks Oasis is a do-all holiday destination idyllically positioned amongst 10 acres of lush, landscaped gardens and just a short stroll to Golden Beach. www.oaks-hotelsresorts.com/oaks-australia-zoo/

6) Riverside luxury in Bangkok

Anantara Bangkok Riverside Resort & Spa has proudly completed a THB335mln or USD$11mln refurbishment comprising upgraded accommodation and design uplifts of two riverside restaurants, in time for Anantara’s discerning guests to indulge in memorable stays at Bangkok’s only true resort beside the River of Kings.

The resort’s luxury accommodation offers 408 completely refurbished rooms, including 101 suites designed in exquisite Thai style with scenic river or lush garden views, admired through floor to ceiling windows from plush interior comforts and private balconies. The hotel’s dining experiences are rejuvenated to provide guests with the finest waterfront dining locations. The Market has received a polished uplift to its fresh contemporary Thai décor, while Riverside Terrace offers a more vibrant open air setting for the nightly international buffets as Thai dancers perform on a flame lit stage against the river.