WIN A STAY AT THE GRAND HYATT GOA

WHY WE TRAVEL

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AGENT OF CHANGE

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Building bridges, not walls
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BEACH, PLEASE

Four new seaside resorts are giving water babies reason to cheer. In Seychelles, the Six Senses Zil Pasyon (www.sixsenses.com), on the 652-acre tropical island of Félicité (pictured), has 30 pool villas and 17 private residences. The Maldives has two new openings. The Soneva Jani (www.soneva.com) offers 24 villas and one Island Villa—a four-bed pad with an island attached! It also features a silent open-air cinema, where guests can listen to films on Bluetooth headphones. The St. Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort (www.starwoodhotels.com) is a 77-key piece of paradise, with floor-to-ceiling sea views from the rooms, a spa, a tennis court, butler service and a number of seaside activities. And in Myanmar, there’s the 94-room Sanctum Inle Resort (http://sanctum-inle-resort.com) by the Inle Lake in Nyaung Shwe. The in-house restaurant, Refectory, showcases local fare, while local beers and wines, and a few international names are on offer at Cloister Bar. The Sanctuary Spa offers a range of Asian therapies (try the signature Tamarind Scrub).

GET DOWN AND PARTY

Forget the clichéd bashes and head to these underground spots in five of the world’s coolest cities. La Esquina in New York masquerades as a takeout taco shop, but its underground den serves spicy Mexican street food and kickass Margaritas that will get you going for a long night of salsa. Over on the Lower East Side of the city, the nondescript back door of an art gallery leads to Fig. 19, a speakeasy-style bar. We all know Rio de Janeiro loves to party, but if you want to groove to some live indie music, head to Circo Voador or Rio Scenarium. And at Cahoots in Soho, London, you’ll be forgiven for thinking you’ve travelled back to post-war times (in a defunct Tube station). If you and your buddies are craving the intimacy of a house-party, head to Berlin’s 3Zimmerwohnung, a three-bedroom apartment-turned-bar. Jerusalem’s Mahana Yahuda market is packed with spices, shopkeepers and tourists by day but very few know that at night, the market clears up to reveal a host of pubs and hidden nightlife spots. Make sure to stop by Beer Bazaar, Casino de Paris, The Shuka, Jimmy’s Parliament and Freddy Lemon.

(L)amp it up

Travel will always be on your mind with this beautiful handmade Lladró Lámpara Mihrab porcelain lamp occupying pride of place on your mantelpiece. It is inspired by traditional Middle Eastern and North African houses that featured a mihrab, or the part of the house that points towards the holy city of Mecca. (Rs1,000; www.lladro.com)