

# LUXURY HOTELIERS

4th Quarter  
2016

**SPOTLIGHT  
ON  
ANTHONY  
MECHIORRI,**  
HOTEL IMPOSSIBLE  
“BUSINESS FIXER”

**ILHA**  
PINNACLE SUMMIT  
REPORT BACK

**SUSAN DOCHERTY, CEO,  
CANYON RANCH  
TALKS WELLNESS TRENDS**

**COGNAC ENTHUSIASTS RAISE  
FUNDS FOR THE COMMUNITY**

**GOING GREEN IN  
NYC’S  
URBAN JUNGLE**



# BETTER HEYDAYS

## Hotels with Glorious Pasts and Even More Glorious Presents

Yesterday is an irresistible lure, whether we're posting pics in Kodachrome on Throwback Thursday, stepping out in a fedora, or sliding behind the wheel of a Dodge Charger just off the line.

Scott Fitzgerald knew what he was talking about at the end of *The Great Gatsby* when he writes how we are all like "boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past."

And so it is with hotels, the Grand Dames that beckon us with their verandahs, their pillars, pediments, Marelli fans, wicker chairs and Old World appeal.

Life looked to be lived on a larger stage once upon a time, and we sometimes wonder whether people back in the day didn't move through the day with Edith Piaf somewhere close by, putting music to the mundane.

The feeling is especially palpable in Asia, where the past lingers a bit longer than elsewhere, and where being far-flung in distance lends itself to being far-flung in time, as well.

The hotels gathered here loom up from the past as icons of another age, but are, in fact, experiencing an even better heyday today.



### **SOFITEL LEGEND METROPOLE HANOI (VIETNAM)**

There are few, if any, hotels in Southeast Asia that evoke the Golden Age of Travel like the Metropole. Its immaculate white facade, green shutters and sidewalk terrace so persuasively speak of another era that guests today can't help but feel a kind of preternatural proximity to the likes of such former guests as Charlie Chaplin, Somerset Maugham and Graham Greene. Sofitel confirmed the hotel's



# SOFITEL LEGEND METROPOLE HANOI

Vietnam



iconic status in 2009 by crowning the Metropole as its first Legend hotel. Such legendary chops would be hard to best. But a hotel renovation in 2009 was so thorough that Condé Nast Traveler lauded the hotel on its Hot List, which is otherwise reserved for new hotels. A new restaurant, Angelina (named perhaps for another recent, legendary guest), became the most buzzed-about watering hole in the city. Its first spa emerged from a 110-year incubator, and was roundly celebrated as one of the top hotel spas in the world. Indeed, the spell of the hotel is so powerful that its general manager from 2000-2005 has circled back for yet another stint in its alluring domain.





# PALACE HOTEL TOKYO

JAPAN



## PALACE HOTEL TOKYO (JAPAN)

Just across the moat from Japan's imperial residence, Palace Hotel Tokyo has occupied one of the city's most prestigious addresses, 1-1-1 Marunouchi, for most of the country's post-war history, first as Hotel Teito and after 1961 as Palace Hotel. Indeed, between 1972 and 1991, it was from Palace Hotel that 284 ambassadors traveled to the Imperial Palace to present their credentials to the emperor. Following a three-year reconstruction and a May 2012 re-opening, the all new Palace Hotel Tokyo landed on all the top travel lists from Conde Nast Traveler's Hot List 2013 to Travel + Leisure's 'World's Greatest Hotels' in the same year. In February of this year, the hotel scored a coveted spot on the 2016 Forbes Travel Guide, the only Japanese-branded hotel to ever achieve five stars. Its setting is like something out of a storybook, the hotel snuggling up so close to the imperial palace gardens that it actually shares a moat with this incredible East Asian complex. Eating breakfast moatside at Grand Kitchen is definitely one for the bucket list. As is a dinner at Crown, where Japan's appreciation for fine wine began 51 years ago, and thrives today.



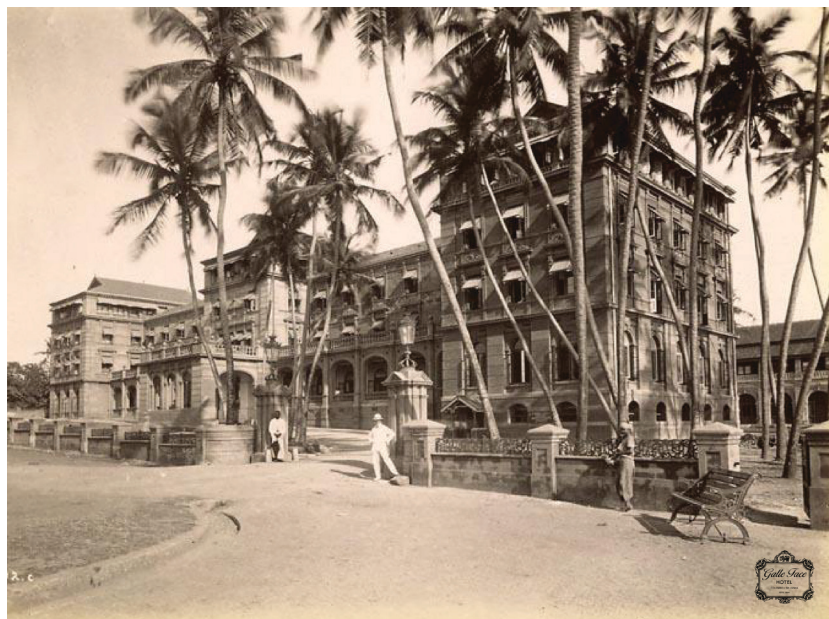


# GALLE FACE HOTEL

SRI LANKA

## GALLE FACE HOTEL (SRI LANKA)

Opened in 1864 by four British entrepreneurs, the Galle Face Hotel may very well stand as the oldest hotel east of the Suez. This was where Vivien Leigh stayed when she went East; where Sir Arthur C. Clarke penned *3001: The Final Odyssey*; and where the Duke of Edinburgh Prince Philip's first personal car, a 1935 model Standard Nine, still stands on prominent display today. Last year, the hotel emerged from a 30-month restoration that brought the rooms and suites, restaurants and bars, and lobby and ballrooms of the North Wing back to their original grandeur. A recently-added carriage porch has returned the facade to its early design whilst creating a 60 square metre (645 square feet) private balcony for the Empress Suite, one of the hotel's eight one-of-a-kind luxury suites--which comes with a private butler. A croquet lawn now beckons aficionados of the 19th century game and other Edwardian pursuits have been revamped for a modern era.





# LA RESIDENCE HOTEL & SPA

VIETNAM







Back in the day, Hue was the capital of French Indochina, and home to a colonial French governor who built the art deco marvel as an annex to his residence. This is where his guests put up, and where local expats listened to the likes of Benny Goodman and Billie Holliday when it was time to party. One fascinating picture from the colonial era pictures guests at annual masquerade party.

What could top that! Well, **LA RESIDENCE HUE HOTEL & SPA**. Today, 10 years after renovation and reintroduction, this hotel is one of Vietnam's most quintessential stops. Condé Nast Traveler recognized it on its Hot List in 2007, and today the hotel is a mainstay on the awards lists conferred by both CNT and Travel + Leisure. The hotel's facade retains its Jazz Era chops, with a bowed facade, long horizontal lines and nautical flourishes that are hallmarks of the streamline school of art deco. Its saltwater pool fronts a stretch of the city's famed Perfume River, and its ample terraces rank as one of the most inspiring places to breakfast in SE Asia.



# GRAND HYATT

## Taipei



### GRAND HYATT TAIPEI

Opened in 1990, the Grand Hyatt Taipei was the first, true luxury hotel to be built in the Taiwanese capital. Taiwan had just emerged from 38 years of martial law and the Xinyi district, where the hotel is located, consisted of a handful of government buildings and conference halls. Today, the bustling area is home to the world's second tallest skyscraper, Taipei 101, a string of new office buildings, retail destinations, luxury properties, and of course the Grand Hyatt Taipei. Last year, the iconic hotel underwent a US\$100 million refurbishment that saw all of its 853 guestrooms and suites, restaurants, Club Lounge and lobby stripped bare, redesigned, and rebuilt in a contemporary Taiwanese style. The revitalized hotel now sports a new bakery, Baguette, as well as two new restaurants, Café and Yun Jin, exuding a classic elegance that only a property that has stood the test of time can.



And another two for the Road...

The glories of yesterday are so seductive in Asia that even new hotels are coming online today with architectural references to a past they never really had. Here are two remarkable examples.



*The Sanchaya Bintan (Indonesia)*



#### **THE SANCHAYA BINTAN (INDONESIA).**

The European colonization of Indonesia didn't get very far on Bintan Island, a mere 45 minutes by ferry from Singapore, but The Sanchaya Bintan plays with the trappings of yesterday as a powerful elixir today. From its pristine seaside croquet court, to a bar that looks as if it were removed wholesale from a gentleman's club in Mayfair, The Sanchaya is doing for Bintan Island today what the Hamptons did for New York yesterday.

#### **SANCTUM INLE RESORT (MYANMAR)**

If watching Intha fishermen maneuver boats around Inle Lake in a precarious one-legged paddling stance doesn't make you feel like

you've pushed the button on the most remarkable of time machines, then checking into the new Sanctum Inle Resort should. For it's here, on the shores of that lake dotted by half-sunken stupas and surrounded by jungled hummocks of ancient

flora, that France's Brigitte Dumont de Chassart designed a 96-room boutique hotel with architectural flourishes that invoke European monastic traditions of the 16th Century.