

elite traveler

RESPONSIBLE LUXURY LIFESTYLE

ANNUAL EDITION 2023

Hotels, Resorts & Spas



Step into an ethereal
world of tranquility at
Four Seasons Resort Lanai

Welcome



In the oft-quoted words of Hans Christian Andersen: “to roam the roads of lands remote, to travel is to live.”

While it is hard to pin down the exact date of this quote, it is a mantra that transcends time — and one that we can certainly agree

with here at *Elite Traveler*. In this issue, our annual Hotels, Resorts & Spas edition, we bring all that is fresh and exciting in the world of luxury travel, from modern new openings to reimaginings of historic buildings and everything in between.

You’ll find our expert, in-depth reviews on some of the world’s finest hotels categorized by location. In the Maldives, The Nautilus provides a seriously secluded getaway; the resort is located in the Baa Atoll, a Unesco Biosphere Reserve, and has just 26 beach and ocean houses (or you can take over the entire island if you wish). For a completely different vibe, head to The Tawny. A new opening in the heart of rural Staffordshire (around three hours from London), the hotel sits inside Consall Hall Estate, a 70-acre plot with a history that dates back to the 13th century.

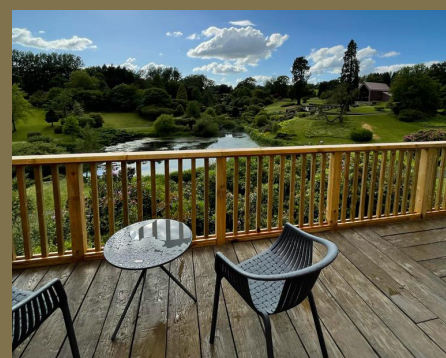
If you’re more of a seafarer, one of the world’s most exclusive — and most elusive — superyachts is available for charter. *Octopus*, the 414-ft megayacht that was owned by the late Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, is available for charter for the first time since her launch in 2003. With an ice-class hull, two helipads, a huge toy list including seven tenders and electric foils, the Espen Øino-designed *Octopus* facilitates adventure and tons of fun.

In this issue, we’re also shining a spotlight on a few of life’s other great pleasures: Alex Martin waxes lyrical about the top-notch distilleries found in the Inner Hebrides, Scotland. Emma Al-Mousawi speaks to four young chefs about their non-negotiable approaches to sustainability — each one of these celebrated chefs is under the age of 35 and at the helm of kitchens that have earned Michelin Green Stars. While a bottle of wine is always a good idea for a gift, Victoria Daskal thinks outside the box with the wine lover’s wish list — a curation of goodies from glassware that amplifies the wines’ aromas to a serum that incorporates grapeseed oil from Napa grapes.

Samantha Coles
 Editor
samantha.coles@elitetraveler.com

Elite Traveler around the world

For daily updates, follow us on Twitter @elite_traveler and on Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest @elitetraveler



Alex Martin heads to the British countryside to visit The Tawny with his family.



Samantha Coles enjoys a bird’s-eye view of The Nautilus Maldives via the resort’s cushy seaplane.



Kim Ayling gets cozy at the Four Seasons Megève.



The Nautilus

This private island resort is an intimate, idyllic hideaway with a classic boho beachy vibe. It has just 26 villas (or 'houses') — or you can book the entire island for yourself.

THE NAUTILUS

BAA ATOLL, MALDIVES

The Nautilus experience begins long before you even get close to the island. Rather, it begins a week or so before you are set to arrive when your 'house master' will get in touch to request your preferences on everything from favorite drinks to preferred pool temperature. Then, upon landing at Velana International Airport, you'll be met at your aircraft and whisked away to an executive lounge while immigration, baggage and customs are all taken care of for you. The Nautilus's violet-purple seaplane awaits (as frequent seaplane fliers know, they are not all created equal — and this one is particularly swanky), and a scenic 30-minute flight will bring you to the Baa Atoll Unesco Biosphere Reserve where the island is located.

The private island resort is an intimate, idyllic hideaway with a classic boho beachy vibe. It has just 26 villas (or 'houses') — or you can book the entire island for yourself.

STAY

Choose from either over-water or beachfront accommodations. The Mansion holds a crowning position on the island (it's the first thing you see as you approach from the water), and you'll be welcomed with a champagne sabrage. The three-bedroom, double-story abode comes with a private infinity pool, oodles of outdoor space and direct beach access. If you're after a quintessential Maldives overwater villa, opt for The Retreat. The 5,840-sq-ft, two-bedroom villa is found at the very end of an over-water wooden walkway and has the most sublime views from its curved deck — meaning you get both sunset and sunrise views. It can also be booked with the two neighboring over-water villas if you are visiting with family and friends and don't quite need the entire island.

DINE

There are four restaurants — Zeytoun (serving Mediterranean and Middle-Eastern cuisine on small decks that jut out into the ocean); Ocaso (toes-in-the-sand dining with sushi boats and juicy steaks);

Thyme (chill, all-day dining); Naiboli (poolside canapes brought to your chaise lounge). There is also an extensive gin collection and the resident mixologist, can create a new favorite cocktail especially for you.

RELAX

The spa is set on stilts over the ocean, and the treatment rooms have viewing windows on the wooden floor so you can keep your eyes peeled for any passing fish while you have a massage. But, you might find yourself nodding off, as the massages are incredible. I had a volcanic hot-stone massage and found myself fast asleep in under five minutes. The treatment rooms also have a steam room, plus a deck area with a daybed.

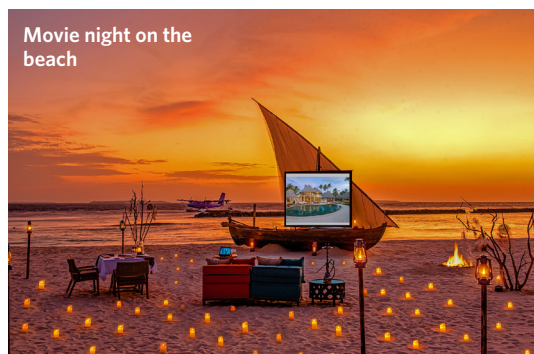
EXPLORE

While the Maldives has a reputation for being sublimely beautiful, it also has a bit of a rep for being a little bit on the dull side — there are only so many days you can spend languidly under the sun (apparently).

But there's plenty to do at The Nautilus — keen fishermen can wake up early and head out on a long deep-sea fishing expedition. Or for the more casual fisher (and any plus-ones who aren't quite as keen), an evening fishing voyage means you can soak up the spellbinding sunset while you fish. Anything you catch can be cooked up on a beach barbecue for the freshest catch of the day.

By Samantha Coles

From \$3,600 per night. Contact Gerrit Chng-Luchau, director of sales and marketing, hello@thenautilusmaldives.com, +960 660 0000, thenautilusmaldives.com



Movie night on the beach



The Nautilus seaplane