

**BOUTIQUE CAMBODIA**

If you want to stay in a private villa that reflects traditional Cambodian style choose Phum Baitang, a five-star 'green village' that quietly opened near Siem Reap in September.

Forty-five suites are dotted among lemongrass plantations and guests can participate in cookery lessons and yoga classes, and enjoy two restaurants and a cocktail bar during their stay. Siem Reap itself is the gateway to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Angkor, the base for the Khmer kingdom between the 9th and 15th centuries and home to intricate stone temples. Naturally a tourist draw, Phum Baitang offers contrasting tranquility.

from \$560 (approximately £381) per night, [phumbaitang.com](http://phumbaitang.com)



WORDS: ALICE PARKS

# TRAVEL NEWS

**VALENTINE'S IN THE MOUNTAINS**

Its Alpine timber might not set it apart from other mountain-top chalets, but El Lodge is the only ski-in/ski-out five-star property in Sierra Nevada, Spain. Cosy rooms with outdoor hot tubs and scenic views are supplemented by a spa with open-air pool and fine dining restaurant The Grill that serves caviar de riofrio – the world's only organic variety – as part of its menu.

The Valentine's in the Mountains package includes two nights' accommodation, a romantic dinner for two, breakfast and a one-hour massage treatment, and is available in the first two weeks of this month. El Lodge also boasts a games lounge with roaring fire, while Sierra Nevada offers ski runs for all levels. from £1,570 per couple, [ellodge.com](http://ellodge.com)



Long haul

**HILLTOP HIDEAWAY IN SRI LANKA**

Tri Sri Lanka opens this month, an eagerly awaited boutique hotel overlooking the country's largest lake. The eleven suite hotel focuses on health and wellness and Ayurveda principles, and includes menus compiled with local farmers and producers, 360-degree viewing platforms and a treetop yoga shala.

The suites are set on the hilltop offering uninterrupted views of the surrounding area and the feel of a retreat – yet the beach is only 15 minutes away for those keen on whale-watching and snorkeling. The hotel was the vision of British photographer Rob Drummond, who has lived in and loved the area for 12 years.

Rooms from \$250 (approximately £170) per night on a half board basis, [trilanka.com](http://trilanka.com)

Short haul



Image © Reto Guntli

**PERFECTLY AMSTERDAM**

If there's anywhere where you want to see bookcases stuffed with tomes, walls of vintage mirrors, an oak writing desk, and a bike repair kit in your guest room, its Amsterdam – a city known for its quirks and culture. Following the restoration of the Pulitzer hotel, its 25 interlinked canal houses have been given a new charm and eccentricity by creative director Jacu Strauss, a senior from the interior design team of Tom Dixon's Design Research Studio.

The hotel reopened this month with 80 guest rooms and four suites, the latter themed around the passions of an idiosyncratic collector and entitled Antique Collector's Suite, Music Collector's Suite, Art Collector's Suite and Book Collector's Suite, accordingly. If you can't get a room, visit the Pulitzer's Bar or have dinner at Jansz, its new look restaurant. On business? There's meeting rooms too. A second wing will open in autumn. Rooms from £235 per night, [pulitzeramsterdam.com](http://pulitzeramsterdam.com)

**NEW YEAR, NEW ADDRESS: CHINA**

In time for Chinese New Year, St Regis has opened the largest hotel in its portfolio, The St Regis Macao in Macao, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The hotel has 400 bedrooms and offers a 24-hour butler service to guests as standard, as well as a range of facilities. These include restaurant with five themed offerings and the Iridium Spa on its 38th floor, as well as an outdoor pool with nearly 2,500 sq/m of deck space. For events, the hotel also has a 350-capacity ballroom and meeting rooms.

Sixty minutes from Hong Kong, Macao highlights include its Grand Prix each November. Rooms from £226 per night, [stregis.com/macao](http://stregis.com/macao)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY BADRUTT'S PALACE**

Badrutt's Palace Hotel, the 120-year-old landmark on Lake St Moritz is hosting the ultimate birthday celebration this year – but you'll need a spare £81,000 to join in. For the sum of CHF 120,000, guests are flown by private jet transfer for a three-night stay in the Beau Rivage suite (complete with steam sauna and views of the lake), a helicopter tour of the area and a 12-course dinner. The finishing touch is a cocktail to toast the experience, that contains a 1.2 carat Graff diamond. Badrutt's Palace has built a clientele of the great and the good since its opening in 1896. Guests through its doors have included Audrey Hepburn and Alfred Hitchcock. 120 CHF package including accommodation and private jet transfers, CHF 120,000 (approximately £81,240) [badruttspalace.com](http://badruttspalace.com)