

HOTELS *by* DESIGN

*A guide
to the most
beautifully
designed
hotels in the
world*

HOUSE
& GARDEN

Asia and Australasia

INDIA

In Rajasthan, equidistant between Udaipur and Jodhpur, the new **Jawal Leopard Camp** (below) has eight opulent tents decked out with chic, predominantly black-and-white interiors. Game drives reveal wolves, crocodiles, antelope and, of course, leopards. The camp can also be rented on an exclusive basis. In the foothills of the Himalayas a new resort, **Vana**, is tipped to become one of the world's leading well-being retreats. Describing itself as 'an asram of the contemporary world', Vana brings together Ayurveda, yoga, Tibetan and natural healing, spa and fitness, and is set in a 21-acre estate perched on a hillside plateau amid forests and orchards.



CHINA/JAPAN

The Temple Hotel (right) – part art gallery, part restaurant, part bar, part event space and part hotel (eight rooms were opened last year) – is a haven of peace in the heart of Beijing. An exquisite, 400-year-old Chinese Buddhist temple, now restored, forms the centrepiece around which the rest of the complex operates. Go for a room in the old monks' quarters. The Opposite House, also in Beijing, and The Upper House in Hong Kong await the arrival of sister hotel **The Temple House** in Chengdu, due to open later this year. New to Kyoto in Japan is **The Ritz-Carlton**, where much of the interior design, featuring traditional latticework and cloisonné, was inspired by the eleventh-century fictional story *The Tale of Genji*.



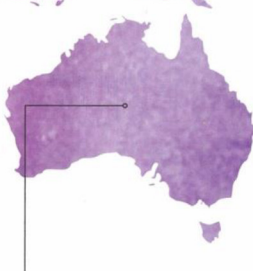
VIETNAM/CAMBODIA

Amano'i (left), the latest launch from Amanresorts, is a contemporary beach resort overlooking Vinh Hy Bay – considered one of the four most beautiful bays in Vietnam. The hotel has 31 pavilions and five Aman villas. This autumn, a floating five-star hotel, the **Aqua Mekong**, makes its inaugural journey along the Mekong River in Cambodia and Vietnam. Three-, four- and seven-night cruises will be available.



MALDIVES

Another busy year in the Maldives. Cheval Blanc Randheli arrived on the scene, followed by **Velaa Private Island**, positioning itself as the most sophisticated – and almost certainly one of the most expensive – in the archipelago. The design is gorgeous, but its quirkiest USP is the two-man submarine (above). Then there's **Maalifushi by Como**, opening soon as the first luxury resort in the Thaa Atoll. Finally, Tom McLoughlin – who brought us Huvafen Fushi – is working on two new hotels, **Amilla Fushi** and **Finolhu**, both in the Baa Atoll and slated to open later this year.



AUSTRALIA

Longitude 131° (right), the iconic, tented camp near Ayers Rock, has been taken over by Baillie Lodges – the team that manages Southern Ocean Lodge and Capella Lodge. All three are members of Luxury Lodges of Australia – worth checking out if you're off Down Under. Also under new management is **Hayman Island**, which opens after a refurbishment in July as a One & Only resort.



SINGAPORE/THAILAND

Sofitel teamed up with fashion designer Kenzo for So Mauritius; now the company has employed Karl Lagerfeld to provide design flair and a little *je ne sais quoi* at the new **So Singapore**, which launches in May. At the lavish 10-room **Iniala Beach House** (left) on Phuket, a collection of the world's top designers has been brought together to create an extraordinary showcase of contemporary design. Check out Eggarat Wongcharit's astonishing 'floating' rattan bedroom.



NEW ZEALAND/FRENCH POLYNESIA

On Banks Peninsula, on the east coast of South Island, the working farm **Annandale** has launched four private houses for rent, scattered throughout the 4,000-acre estate. Homestead, the grandest, has five bedrooms; then there's adorable Shepherd's Cottage, sleeping two; Scrubby Bay (below), on the outer reaches of the property, sleeping 14; and Seascape, a romantic retreat for two. Private hideaways don't come more remote or exclusive than **The Brando**, opening in July on Tetiaroa Island, Polynesia – once owned by Marlon Brando. Accessible only by private plane, it has impressive eco credentials. >

