

Date



FAIRYTALE Judge not the kitsch of this whitewashed Arabian palace festooned with fairy lights, for **Nimb** is the eccentric *ne plus ultra* of the boutique set. Antiques, rich fabrics, fresh flowers and modern Nordic design character its 13 rooms and suites; there's even an organic dairy and bakery below. Contemporary Danish cuisine plates at Michelin star restaurant Herman, while a post-prandial stroll in the adjoining Tivoli Gardens lets one view Nimb in a new light. (*nimb.dk*)



CHOCOLART Danish gourmet chocolate brand **Summerbird** is gaining a name for the quality and taste of its confectionery. Owner Mikael Grønlykke says success hails from an uncompromising approach to raw materials, innovative flavour combinations [white chocolate with plum-balsamic vinegar; chocolate sushi] and superior packaging. He sources marzipan made from Spanish Valencia almonds and creates his own Cru chocolate. (*summerbird.com*)



EASEL TO iPad David Hockney's discovery of the drawing application Brushes for iPhones and iPads has opened up a new world - electronic easel - to the British artist. Denmark's **Louisiana Museum of Modern Art** is running "David Hockney: Me Draw on iPad", with hundreds of the artist's digital works until August 28. Hockney even e-mails art for visitors to download on smartphones as the show progresses. (*louisiana.dk*)

“UNTITLED, 22 FEBRUARY 2011” iPad DRAWING © DAVID HOCKNEY

STARRY NIGHTS

Lung King Heen – “View of the Dragon” – commands dramatic harbour views from its Four Seasons Hotel location, and offers contemporary Cantonese cuisine at its best – so good it’s the world’s only Michelin three-star Chinese restaurant. Chef Chan Yan Tak, master behind this gastro galaxy, uses the freshest local ingredients for his intricately designed menu. For simpler fare select the daily dim sum lunch.



VIVE LA DIFFÉRENCE

Fed up with Hong Kong’s multi-brand shopping-mall mindset, Frenchman Arnault Castel created concept store **Kapok** in 2006 as its antidote, a thinking - and stylish - person’s alternative retail offering in the city. At first a tiny boutique in sleepy Tin Hau, Castel soon relocated to St Francis Yard in the gentrifying district of Wanchai. His ambition - and challenge - was to showcase younger brands combining creativity and craftsmanship. All of which he did and still does to great acclaim. The brand launched new store ‘sailor’ in Tsim Sha Tsui, showcasing a selection of brands related to the sea, evoking moods of navigation, exploration and cruising. All of which just goes to show; have Kapok, will travel. (ka-pok.com)



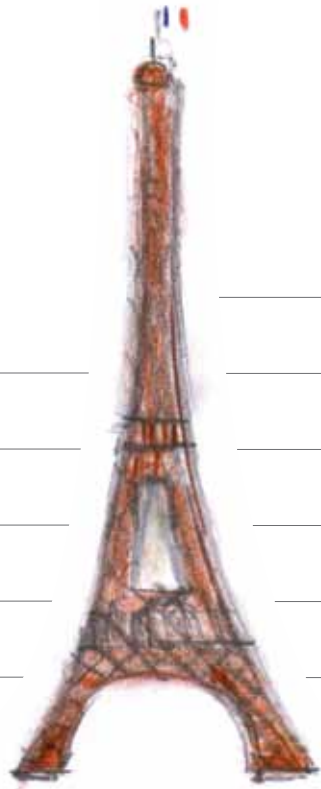
Date



SUITE DREAMS Stationed in the colonial white-stucco building that was formerly the Marine Police HQ at the southern tip of the Kowloon peninsula, **Hullett House**, a welcome change from Hong Kong’s high-end hotel homogeneity, is an atypical boutique hotel with 10 suites, five restaurants and a performance area. Each suite is individually designed and decorated, reflecting different periods in the city’s history, ranging from Chinese Imperial with Qing dynasty murals, to English pastoral and China Pop Art. Each boasts spacious balconies and stunning views of Hong Kong’s skyline. (hulletthouse.com)

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BOX OF DELIGHTS

For vintage style and decoration lovers, this is a must stop. **Tombées du camion** is a treasure trove, every box a dream to look into containing unique objects, from old dolls to brooches and key holders from the 1960's. A miscellany of eclectica. Small, but you'll stay for hours. (tombeesducamion.com)



RETAIL PHILANTHROPY

Merci, a 1,500-square-metre retail shrine at 111 boulevard Beaumarchais, is a concept store like no other; full-to-bursting with one-off, hard to find items of furniture and fashion, many created by French firms especially for the store. Profits support a foundation set up to help deprived children in poor countries. A florist, and cafe round out Merci's mission to create, innovate and donate. A retail benchmark. (merci-merci.com)



HABERDASHING Legendary sewing emporium **La Droguerie** at 9-11 rue du Jour is a Parisian institution. The HQ of creators, stylistas and artists who can source anything from jars of pearls, ribbons, buttons and beads to balls of wool, lace, yarn, pins, patches and patterns. A great way to personalise an accessory, find an alternative present or just to get lost in the wonder of it all. Fill your basket and feel the desire to create.

PARIS

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A CLASS ACT

Built in 1874 by Frenchman Régis Cadier, the Grand Hotel in Stockholm is Scandinavia's leading hotel and reads like a "Who's Who" of 20th-century history. Its been the home of Nobel Prize Laureates for more than a century - Martin Luther King Jr, Henry Kissinger and Nelson Mandela - who stay after claiming their accolades. Strindberg, Einstein, and Henry Ford visited, as did Eisenhower, Lyndon B Johnson and Nikita Khrushchev. Greta Garbo frequented the summer veranda during stays in the 1930's when she'd lock herself into the room. Prince Rainier of Monaco and Grace Kelly stayed in 1957, and Charlie Chaplin met Ingmar Bergman for the first time in 1964, indulging a 90-minute chat in Chaplin's suite. It's a class act. And with Raison d'Etre Spa and two-star Michelin Swedish chef Mathias Dahlgren offering a changing daily menu, what's to miss? (grandhotel.se)





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TOP TABLE Chef Moshe Aviv's dazzling white **Messa** on Ha'arbaa street is design mecca, from its Egyptian-cotton curtains and veneered communal tables to the Turkish marble floors and columns. Gourmet too; seafood couscous in crab and lemon thyme broth, egg-plant risotto with blue bavaria cream and tomato, taste as good as the place looks. (messa.co.il)



TEL AVIV



SCREENPLAY Elegant, unique, set in a Bauhaus building and only a short walk from Tel Aviv beach, this former cinema has been converted into **Cinema Hotel**, a suitably screen worthy destination. The hotel's design - complemented by a selection of the original projectors and film posters - preserves the legacy of the building. Classical films are screened in the lobby and popcorn is served to heighten the nostalgia. Sauna and jacuzzi are complimentary and a rooftop terrace overlooks Dizengoff Square. Action! (atlas.co.il)

LIVE THE FANTASY Under-known yet oft-imitated, Israeli-born artist and jeweller Michal Negrin is an unmissable stop for Tel Aviv's travelistas. For more than two decades her vintage-inspired pieces have included accessories, clothes, decorative arts and even dolls, evolving into an enchanting lifestyle. Negrin designs every piece that bears her name. Two years ago, the **Michal Negrin Visitors Centre** opened demonstrating all stages of studio design and factory production. (michalnegrin.com)

