

PRIVILEGE

HONG KONG

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Exclusive Interview

MACY GRAY'S REDEMPTION SONGS

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Plus

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PLANTATION PARADISE

Imagine paradise – an exclusive, private island retreat in the middle of the north Fijian sea, teeming with wildlife. With powder-sand beaches, rooms perched atop dramatic cliffs and an 18-hole golf course, Laucala is a dream come true. Previously a coconut plantation, the island is now home to more than 100 hectares of farmland, providing the hotel and its guests with fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs. Villas include private pools, outdoor showers and either deep stone or wooden baths, and the resort's centrepiece is a 25-metre-long lap pool.

laucala.com

Price: from US\$3,800 a night, full-board, for a one-bedroom villa

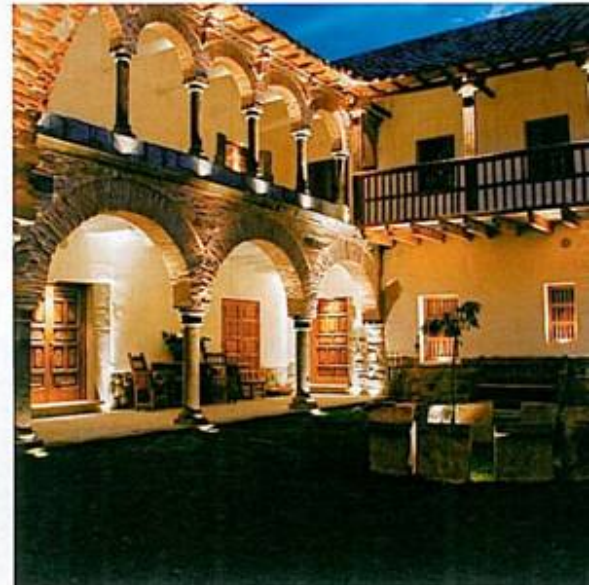


ANDEAN ESCAPE

Once the capital of the Inca empire, the charming Peruvian city of Cusco is home to a host of historic buildings and sites. Formerly a colonial manor house, Inkaterra's La Casona is an intimate hotel with 11 suites set around a beautiful internal courtyard. Inside, rustic furnishings meet contemporary mod cons, including under-floor heating to keep the winter chill away. Inkaterra is a leading eco operator and one of the first of its kind in Peru, whose hotels combine luxury with oodles of charm.

inkaterra.com

Price: from US\$720 a night, including breakfast



A NIZAM FOR A NIGHT

An opulent mix of classic Italian and English Tudor architecture, and the former home of the *nizams* (local royalty) of Hyderabad, the Taj Falaknuma Palace has been lovingly restored by the Taj Group over a 10-year period, yet retains strong undercurrents of the past. Set in some 13 hectares of land, this classic palace hotel houses just 60 rooms, with original decor that includes tapestries, frescos and furniture, all exquisitely restored. The Palace Library contains almost 6,000 volumes, while the Mughal, Rajasthani and Japanese gardens – originally designed by a *nizam* – have been replanted and nurtured back to their former splendour.

tajhotels.com

Price: luxury rooms from 16,500 rupees (about HK\$2,800) a night



SUITE SAFARI

African art, unusual decor, sun-drenched rooms and infinity pools that appear to drop off into the wilderness – the five-suite, ultra-exclusive Molori Safari Lodge in South Africa offers discerning guests a spectacular safari experience. Enjoy guided game drives, bush walks and stargazing in the Madikwe Game Reserve, 400km northwest of Johannesburg. The floor-to-ceiling glass walls in each suite fold away to bring the stunning views even closer.

molori.co.za

Price: suites from 20,000 rand (about HK\$21,000) a night, including drinks, food and two game drives daily