

going places



APRIL 2013

+ EUROPE'S EXCITING NEW GASTRONOMY DIRECTION
+ CHEF SOMER SIVRIOGLU'S FOOD TOUR OF ISTANBUL




ANTARTICA
An icy safari

Billed as the most remote camp on the planet, Whichaway Camp's seven ecologically sensitive pods sit on the edge of Antarctica. Niceties include heating, ensuite bathrooms and gourmet meals, although the real draw awaits outside: White Desert guided trips to visit a 6,000-strong colony of emperor penguins and flights over the South Pole. white-desert.com – NATASHA DRAGUN

MOSCOW
Russian reinvention

For a hotel, location is everything, and the Hotel Nikol'skaya Kempinski, which opens in the second quarter of the year, is at the centre of it all in Moscow: Overlooking Lubyanka Square, it's within walking distance of the Kremlin, Red Square and the Bolshoi Theatre. Befitting its premise – in a complex of historical buildings – the hotel's 211 rooms and suites are dressed in Belle Epoque-style opulence. – SHEILA AMBROSE

St Nikolskaya 12, Moscow Tel +74 95 967 7776
www.kempinski.com

MALAYSIA
Heritage chic

A century-old whitewashed mansion that sits on a main road, both named in colonial era governor Colonel Norman Macalister's honour, in George Town is now Malaysia's first entry into Design Hotels' carefully curated list. Over the years, this former home of a wealthy Penang family had taken on various incarnations before local couple Dato' Sean and Datin Karen H'ng – restaurateurs, art collectors and jetsetters – transformed it into a showcase of tasteful design, chic interior décor, fine art and whimsical sculptures.

Macalister Mansion offers just eight rooms, each a different experience that varies in size and features. A natural, earthy palette is used in all the rooms,

with some touches of 'bling' – such as the shimmering wall decal in the wash area of Room 8. The largest, Room 3, is the only one with a balcony, framed by the building's original wrought-iron rails. And while it's a small detail, design buffs will appreciate the Muji stationery provided.

Quirky is another word that comes to mind as you explore the rest of the mansion – from the chilli-infused welcome drink to the painted deer statues in the Dining Room and the sculptured animals that 'roam' the back garden. A gigantic bust of Colonel Macalister sits at the end of the driveway, welcoming guests into this playful home. – VIVIAN CHONG

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 George Town, Penang
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