



THE GALLIVANTER'S GUIDE[®]



Gallivanter's Guide
(Circulation 1,000; Points
12) - November 2019

(IMAGE 1 OF 2)

NOV 2019.VOL.29.No.11 SETTING THE BENCHMARK FOR HIGH-END TRAVELLERS



Another Algarve.

At Vila Monte Farm House, the lobby is the social hub of the resort, which includes the small À Terra food market (see below).

Beyond the large resorts that populate Portugal's sun-filled Algarve, an entirely different experience awaits the high-end traveller, miles away from the busy golf resorts of Vilamoura and Quinta do Lago. East of Faro airport lies a land of rolling hills covered with olive and orange trees, sleepy fishing villages and virtually deserted lagoons and beaches. Here development is



on a more human scale, nature is mostly preserved and crowds are relatively thin, even in the thick of summer.

Vila Monte Farm House.

Discovery Hotel Management, which owns and manages a handful of mostly 4-star properties across Portugal, took over the management of Vila Monte, in the hills

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READ BY THE WORLD'S TOP TRAVELLERS IN 42 COUNTRIES, SINCE 1991.

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GALLIVANTER'S Gossip



OPENING IN FEBRUARY 2020, is the very exciting **Paragon 700 Boutique Hotel & Spa** in **Puglia's** city of Ostuni; a welcome addition to this stunning area of Italy. With just 11 individually decorated rooms and suites, which combine beautifully restored interiors with modern design, the hotel is open all year round and is only 30 minute's drive from Brindisi airport. The hotel was created from a red brick palazzo, in stark contrast with Ostuni's whitewashed buildings. Inside, you discover a garden oasis and pool, together with locally sourced cuisine by Michelin-starred Chef, Paulo Airaud. paragon700.com



IN OMAN, MY FAVOURITE RESORT, **The Chedi Muscat**, celebrates its 16th anniversary with a major renovation of its rooms, together with six newly-done dining options. In Marrakech, **The Oberoi Marrakech** finally opens, a little earlier than expected, on December 1st, so we are, of course, going to stay; our review published in the February 2020 issue. In Spring 2020, watch out for the opening of the 14-room **Château de Versailles**, by the people who brought us La Bastide de Gordes and Les Airelles; a remarkable opportunity to stay by the Château itself. Due to cuts in State funding, three of the Château's crumbling buildings were put up for tender and are being restored and converted into a unique hotel. **Aman Kyoto** opens this month in northern Kyoto, at the foot of Mount Daimonji, near the Kinka-Kuji Temple, set on 80 acres, with 24 rooms. The US-based sustainability-driven **1 Hotels** brand is to come to **London** in 2022, with 184 rooms overlooking, appropriately, Green Park. On **Lombok**, Indonesia, **The Legian Sire** opens March 2020 on a pristine beach, with views of the Gili Islands. With just 46 suites and 14 Villas - all with pools - this sister property to The Legian Bali promises to be very special indeed, including a vegetarian restaurant and its own fruit and vegetable gardens lhm-hotels.com

MANDARIN ORIENTAL WILL RENOVATE and re-flag the 1906 Hotel Palace Luzern in Switzerland, to open at the end of 2020 as **Mandarin Oriental Palace Luzern**. The hotel is right on the edge of Lake Lucerne and will have 148 rooms and suites. Meanwhile, Mandarin's extensive renovation of **Mandarin Oriental Bangkok** is now complete. The River Wing reopens this month, with enlarged rooms and further suites, and on the culinary front, Lord Jim's, The Verandah and the Riverside Terrace have also been renovated, together with the Lobby. New this year is the Japanese Kaiseki-style restaurant, Kinu by Takagi.

YOUR LATEST FEEDBACK includes rave reports on **Six Senses Bhutan**, which currently has four lodges open and will launch its fifth final lodge in Bumthang, early 2020. You are also loving **Four Seasons Astir Palace, Athens** just as much as I did. **Soho House** is also receiving accolades for its Istanbul, Mumbai and Barcelona properties (we always did like Soho House Berlin), and **The Oberoi Al Zorah**, near Dubai, is proving to be just as excellent as I predicted. **The Beaumont** in London continues to receive rave feedback, especially after its recent Bar renovation, which you thoroughly approve of, and **Little Nell** in Aspen is thought by some to be one of North America's best.

OPENING AS I WRITE is **One&Only Gorilla's Nest in Rwanda**, set in the foothills of the Virunga volcano range, with just 21 lodges, surrounded by Eucalyptus trees.

Published monthly by 'The Gollivanter's Guide', Hill Crest, Malmesbury Road, Minety, Malmesbury, Wiltshire SN16 9QX, UK.

Fax: +44 (0)1666 860063. Email: mail@gollivanterguide.com Website: www.gollivanterguide.com

EDITOR/PUBLISHER LYN MIDDLEHURST. MANAGING DIRECTOR DAVID MASLIN. HOTEL CRITIC PHILIPPE SERVAIS.

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After June 2020, The Gollivanter's Guide will be replaced by the Gollivanter's 100 Club, by invitation only.

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