

THE WORLD'S LEADING TRAVEL MAGAZINE

# TRAVEL + LEISURE

SOUTHEAST ASIA

NOVEMBER 2010

## SAMUI'S *high style*

THE COOLEST NEW HOTELS,  
THE HOTTEST ISLAND FASHION

## SECRET 30 PARIS

NEW WAYS  
TO STAY, SHOP,  
EAT & PLAY

## SHANGHAI

Your complete guide,  
+23 essential stops

## CHEJU ISLAND

REDISCOVER SOUTH  
KOREA'S LOST WORLD

## KUALA LUMPUR

The T+L guide to the city's  
rocking new music scene

## INTO THE WILD

WADING THROUGH  
FLORIDA'S GREEN  
EVERGLADES

## Packing Made Easy

PLAN LIKE A PRO,  
AND SAVE MONEY!

## FOR HIM

### OUR TOP FIVE DIVE WATCHES

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054554 004302 111A  
EML  
M1483047  
2555 0431 10509552

SINGAPORE S\$7.90 • HONG KONG HK\$43 • THAILAND TH฿75 • INDONESIA IDR50,000  
MALAYSIA MYR17 • VIETNAM VND85,000 • MACAU MOP44 • PHILIPPINES PHP240  
TAIWAN NT\$35 • CAMBODIA KHR22,000 • BRUNEI BND7.90 • LAOS LAK52,000



CHINA

**Hong Kong.** T+L puts two design hotels head-to-head and shows a stylish urban stay can be had on any budget—it just depends on what you're looking for. *By LARA DAY*



HK\$3,000  
PER NIGHT

**THE UPPER HOUSE**

• **Location** A 117-room hotel overlooking mountains and harbor, hidden atop the JW Marriott. • **First Impressions** The arrival, like the property, is understated yet stunning, from the Bedonia sandstone-clad entrance to the blond-wood-paneled elevators that whisk you up to your floor. In-room check-in takes place via iPad, followed by a pot of green tea. • **Rooms** Starting from 68 square meters, rooms feel luxuriously spacious. Natural-toned furnishings, plush king-size beds, ultra-fluffy bathrobes, and a generous free mini-bar and Nespresso machine keep the vibe homey, while jaw-dropping views and cutting-edge conveniences—room service is summoned with an iPod Touch—create the effect of a lofty cocoon. • **Pedigree** Swire Hotels' second venture, after The Opposite House in Beijing. Local wunderkind André Fu, a protégé of minimalist icon John Pawson, designed the sleek, subtly Asian interiors. • **Drawbacks** The hotel's former life as serviced residences means there's no pool or spa, but the expansive, sumptuous bathrooms—think standalone limestone tubs, panoramic vistas and Ren products—arguably make up for both. **DON'T MISS** Brunch at the swish 49th-floor Café Gray Deluxe, by executive chef Gray Kunz—try the 10-grain cereal with stewed raspberries and agave nectar. • **Value Factor** Space and seclusion—and those bathrooms—are rare commodities in this hectic financial hub. *Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty; 852/2918-1838; upperhouse.com.*

HK\$1,600  
PER NIGHT



**THE MIRA**

• **Location** A 492-room hotel amid the shopping-and-dining frenzy of Tsim Sha Tsui, with leafy Kowloon Park close by. • **First Impressions** A sculptural waved façade conceals a high-gloss lobby abuzz with a restaurant, a bar-lounge, a DJ booth and VIP seating area, a chic café-pâtisserie—oh, and check-in counters. • **Rooms** All room types score high on both style and function, with red, purple, silver or green color accents, Egg chairs by Arne Jacobsen and high-tech gadgetry like Bluetooth wireless keyboards linked to a 40-inch flat-screen TV (hello, giant Facebook wall). Our favorite touch: use of a mobile phone, complete with local SIM card. • **Pedigree** The first and only Hong Kong member of the prestigious Design Hotels group, following a US\$65 million makeover last year. • **Drawbacks** The technological wizardry could prove hostile to Luddites, and the low-ceilinged hallways may be an issue for taller guests. Don't come expecting spectacular views—there are plenty of other distractions. **DON'T MISS** A dip in the sexy 25-meter, LED-lit indoor infinity pool—check out the underwater sound system—capped with a treatment at the award-winning MiraSpa. • **Value Factor** Both hip and supremely convenient, this is a destination in itself. *118 Nathan Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui; 852/2386-1111; themirahotel.com. +*