

DEPARTURE INFO

This month's hot openings, from island idylls in Bali and Greece to sleek city slickers in Mexico, Shanghai and Lisbon



Home advantage

MANDALA THE BAY, BALI

In just a few years, M Development has become something of a byword for luxury accommodation in Bali. The Singapore-based group recently unveiled its fourth property, this time on the bijou island of Nusa Lembongan. The MO remains reassuringly familiar: the creature comforts and consistency of a five-star hotel hitched to the exclusivity of a private home. On a rocky promontory looking out over the sea, the group's in-house studio Superlative teamed up with James Brown, of the Adelaide-based UFO Agencies, to channel a light Hamptons vibe into the five-bedroom house. The interiors are a soothing mix of pastel hues, cool terrazzo and furniture carved out of recycled Javanese timber, the ensemble anchored by a cliffside firepit and Picasso-esque murals by Brown. It takes two hours to hike around the island, but we're more sold on the snorkelling and surfing in the island's waters, which are pleasingly undisturbed by the mainland's tourist hordes. **Daven Wu** Sandy Bay, Nusa Lembongan, Bali, tel: 62.811 3853 733, mandala.house. Rates: from \$640



■ BED ROCK

Top, The Bay is a five-bedroom, five-bathroom waterfront villa overlooking Sandy Bay

■ CUBE ROUTE

Above, living spaces feature Picasso-esque murals by James Brown of UFO Agencies



Street smart

KIKI NOODLE HOUSE, SHANGHAI ←

Already established in Taiwan, the KiKi restaurant group made its first foray into mainland China this summer with the launch of Kiki Noodle House in Shanghai. This newest addition to the family, designed by the Beijing-based Golucci Interior Architects, might also be its most stylish. An old Taiwanese street food cart welcomes diners into a room sporting a neutral palette of greys and beige, clean lines, and an abundance of oak and concrete. The ceiling mirrors the eaves of classic Taiwanese buildings, as does the outdoor 'courtyard' layout. A curvilinear wall bearing a forest mural is matched by the rock-like formations and topiary that sit in the centre of tables, and the serenity is interrupted only by the reassuringly loud slurps of patrons dining on dan dan noodles. **Ella Marshall**
South Tower, Hong Kong Plaza, 283 Huaihai Road, Shanghai, tel: 86.21 6126 9378, kiki1991.com

■ SHANGHAI SURPRISE

Left, the Kiki Noodle House offers a minimal blend of classic details and contemporary style

■ MOODY BLUES

Below, roomy suites at the Umbral come with additional sofa bed for snoring bedfellows

Shadow play

UMBRAL, MEXICO CITY →

Housed in a heritage pile dating back to 1924, the 59-room Umbral makes the most of the original high ceilings, long corridors and tall windows to create a sequence of grand moodily-lit spaces that local architect and designer Javier Sánchez has devised to unfold like cinematic set pieces. This sense of drama is especially evident in the guest rooms, each preceded by a shadowy threshold, the titular umbral, that leads through a gold-lined arch into a lofty space dressed in blonde timber, modular furniture and pendant lamps. An on-site art gallery showing work by local artists is paired with a library and mini-cinema, and there's also a sunlit rooftop terrace with heated pool, wellness bar and city views. **DW**
Calle de Venustiano Carranza 69, Centro Historico, Mexico City, Mexico, tel: 52.55 1203 2600, umbral.curiocollection.com. Rates: from \$169





Greek hero

ANDRONIS ARCADIA, SANTORINI ←

In Santorini, luxury hotels are expected to secure a dramatic perch on the caldera's edge, but the 52-suite Andronis Arcadia instead sits downhill from the pretty-but-crammed Oia village. The pay-offs are unobstructed sunset views and masses of space, which local architect firm Kapsimalis has put to good use creating the island's largest spa, a rooftop restaurant, and the six-room Eden Villa, where a private fitness centre and two pools are spread over three storeys. The rest of the suites are not lacking either. With their cooling forged-cement walls, neutral colour palette and custom-made low-slung furniture, they make for a calming, shady retreat from the Greek island heat. **John O'Ceallaigh** *Oia, Santorini, Greece, tel: 30.22860 27392, andronisarcadia.com. Rates: from €660*

Art and soul

ESQINA COSMOPOLITAN LODGE, LISBON →

This 35-room, five-storey hideout, located between the more touristy Baixo-Chiado and the historic Alfama quarter, is the work of Inês Moura, who has carved the interiors of the 100-year-old building into a series of richly textured spaces. The Gastro & Cocktail Bar is a particular draw for young Argentine chef Nicolas López's modern menu, the local seasonal produce treated lightly and with imagination, with dishes such as fresh oysters with lemon, chilli and leek oil, and brunoised onion, and tiger prawns sautéed with kimchi and white garlic. The hotel will also host curated art events, concerts and cooking classes. **DW** *Rua da Madalena 195, Lisbon, Portugal, tel: 351.210 522 735, esqinacosmopolitanlodge.com. Rates: from €120*



Heaven and earth

LOST VILLA, ZHONGWEI ←

Ningxia may not loom large on most people's itineraries, but the region features some of China's most spectacular countryside, and the Lost Villa hotel is a convenient base from which to explore it. On a patch of land flanked by river bank and forest, Shanghai-based studio DAS Lab has fashioned a series of villas, their pleasingly symmetrical cement profiles treated to resemble the rammed earth of local architecture. Oversized vitrine windows are oriented to catch the winter sun, the light warming the minimalist interiors. Diversions are mostly off-property (sand skiing is de rigueur), but it pays to be back in time for sunset cocktails and grilled local lamb with sautéed wild Mongolian onions. **DW** *Shapotou, Zhongwei, Ningxia, China, tel: 86.158 5721 0919. Rates: from CNY1,480 (\$208)*