

Travel News & Great Getaways

words MELISSA LORRAINE CHUA



COTTON DREAMS

Lovingly refurbished to retain as much of the original grandeur of its neoclassical 19th century façade as possible, the **Cotton House Hotel**, Autograph Collection in the heart of Barcelona's Eixample district is a fine example of the region's great Catalan bourgeoisie. Once the headquarters of the city's prestigious Fundació Textil Algodonera (Cotton Textile Foundation), the building's imposing marble staircases, delicate parquet, and elaborate boiserie-embellished ceilings and walls are showcased alongside modern elements such as a metal frame-suspended spiral staircase and contemporary art pieces.

The hotel's cocktail bar and restaurant, Batuar, offers non-stop dining from 7 a.m. till midnight (something rarely seen in the city) amidst a lush colonial interior and spacious outdoor patio. The accommodations are expectedly refined and spacious, with a high emphasis on—you guessed it—cotton; décor is inspired by the natural palette of the cotton plant, a chromatic combination of white, black and sepia to evoke softness and organic comfort, while linens are made with 300-thread count mercerized Egyptian cotton.

**Gran Vía de les Corts Catalanes, 670, 08010
Barcelona, Spain
Tel: +34 934 50 50 45**



WAKE UP AMONG VINEYARDS

Nestled within the grounds of one of the finest independent boutique wineries in South Africa's Stellenbosch region, Oldenburg Vineyard's new luxury villa, **The Homestead**, was converted from the Cape Dutch original family home, and is surrounded by dramatic scenery and great food and wine. The residence comes complete with a glass-walled wine cellar housing the owner's personal collection, as well as a massive kitchen with marvellous views of the mountains. Award-winning restaurants, nature reserves, golf courses, and the region's best internationally recognised wineries such as Delaire and Tokara are just a short drive away.

Oldenburg Vineyards, Zevenrivieren Road, Banghoek Valley, Stellenbosch
Tel: +27 21 885 1618
Email: homestead@oldenburgvineyards.com



A FOODIE RETREAT IN PROVENCE

Known for its 300 days of sunshine per year and synonymous with Van Gogh himself, the once-sleepy town of Saint-Rémy-de-Provence is known has bloomed with the growth of world-class restaurants and designer boutiques. The exclusive seven-suite **Hôtel de Tourrel** housed within a charming 17th century manor is a sanctuary for gourmet lovers—the in-house Restaurant d'Almeran is helmed by the young but talented chef Benoit Fauci, who used to run the kitchen at Michelin-starred Les Chênes Verts in Tourtour.

The private dining space plates up an innovative menu of nouveau Mediterranean dishes, while the segregated wine boutique and bar is flanked by a floor-to-ceiling wine rack, and includes rare and vintage ambrosias.

5 Rue Carnot, 13210 Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, France
Phone: +33 4 84 35 07 20



MARRIOTT DEBUTS IN TAIPEI

The launch of **Taipei Marriott Hotel** last month marks Marriott International's first outpost in Taiwan, and boasts one of the largest integrated complexes in the city, consisting a hotel, shopping mall, luxury apartments, and convention centre. A beacon of eco-conscious modernity in the heart of the commercial district, over 60 percent of the hotel's foundation is covered in lush botanicals, most of which are indigenous to Taiwan, including the Green Maple, Camphora, Flamegold, Formosa Sweetgum, Taiwan Cherry, Red Ginger, Chinese Hibiscus and more.

Top floors offer 360 degree panoramic views of the Keelung River, the iconic Taipei 101 tower, and glittering cityscape views of the Xinyi district.

No. 199 Lequn 2nd Road, Zhongshan District, Taipei City, Taiwan 10462
Tel: +886 2 8502 9999

A SPECTACULAR STAYCATION

Beat the crowd without missing the celebrations of our nation's 50th birthday by checking into The Fullerton Hotel or The Fullerton Bay Hotel for the festive weekend.

THE GRAND DAME

The Fullerton Hotel was once a colonial building that housed the General Post Office, The Exchange, and the Singapore Club. One of Singapore's most magnificent icons with its grand neoclassical façade and legendary service, the hotel is offering a room package at \$500 per night for accommodation in the classically designed Courtyard Room, complete with buffet breakfast for two at the riverside Town Restaurant. Other perks include two Merlion mocktails at Post Bar, a complimentary one-way arrival or departure limousine transfer, \$50nett dining credit, and a limited edition Fullerton Merlion Plush Bear.

The icing on the cake—the hotel offers great views of the upcoming National Day Parade 2015 at the Padang. This momentous Golden Jubilee celebration will be our most extravagant, and at The Fullerton Hotel you'll have front row seats to the spectacular fireworks and colourful displays.

WATERFRONT CHIC

The only hotel built on the waters of Marina Bay, The Fullerton Bay Hotel is a stunning beacon of our city's heritage and modernity. Chill out at the much talked-about Lantern rooftop bar, or share a hearty meal at The Clifford Pier, which will offer a special 'Singapore's Culinary Grand Dames Menu' during the month of August, showcasing Peranakan favourites such as Babi Chin with White Rice & Nonya Achar and Chicken Almond-Cashew Curry served with Nasi Kuning.

The S\$650 per night accommodation package includes a stay in its luxurious Deluxe Room with floor-to-ceiling glass windows and a private balcony offering marvellous views of the waterfront and Marina Bay Light Show in the evenings. Guests will also enjoy breakfast for two at La Brasserie, two Merlion mocktails at The Landing Point lounge, a complimentary one-way arrival or departure limousine transfer, \$50nett dining credit, and a limited edition Fullerton Merlion Plush Bear.

Book the room packages on the hotels' websites at www.fullertonhotel.com and www.fullertonbayhotel.com and receive an additional \$50nett dining credit. SG50 room packages valid till 30 December 2015.

A CELEBRATION OF OUR HERITAGE

Every night from 1 August to 9 August 2015

Both visitors and Singapore residents alike will be treated to a spectacular light show that will be projected onto the façade of The Fullerton Hotel.

Watch history unfold in 3D detail as the light show traces the early days of the Fullerton building as the General Post office, through a 50-year walk down memory lane as told through postage stamps, before culminating in a grand finish to mark the nation's 50th birthday.

