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## STAR POWER

From the jungle to the city, six new hotels that will light up your nights. BY JULIE H. CASE

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## STRAIGHT FROM THE TOP

Three of the hotel world's major players discuss the state of highend stays.

## YOUR CRUISE ATLAS

When, where, and how to set sail on seagoing cruises around the world.

BY MARGARET LOFTUS

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## WHAT TO MAKE OF MONTENEGRO

Croatia without the crowds? One traveler ventures to the Mediterranean's newest hot spot to find out.

BY ROBERT DRAPER

## SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Patagonia's rugged, unspoiled nature will blow you away.

BY AARON GULLEY

## THE SHORT AND WINDING ROAD

Sweet interludes along Maui's famed Road to Hana.

BY KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI

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## ON THE COVER

Ilot spot: Positivo Sand Bar at Puerto Rico's brand-new Dorado Beach, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve.

### PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOE SCHMELZER/TREASURBITE STUDIO

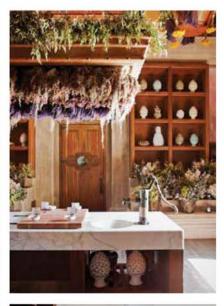
Wardrobe styling: Claudia Madrid. Model: Solimar/Element Model & Talent Management. San Juan. Hair and makeup: Leslie Aviles/Spa Botánico, Dorado Beach, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve. Wardrobe courtesy of Marella Boutique, Olivia Boutique, Ferragamo, Oui, and Marcia Moran Jewelry, Puerto Rico.

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Clockwise from top: Positivo Sand Bar, Spa Botánico's apothecary entrance, a guest room bath and outdoor shower, and José Andrés' golden touch.

### **BEACHY KEEN**

## DORADO BEACH. A RITZ-CARLTON RESERVE

**PUERTO RICO** 

>> "Sanctuary" defines this former coconut and citrus plantation, once owned by Laurance Rockefeller. Bordered by three miles of beaches, the new resort has buildings no taller than the surrounding trees and protected lagoons and coral reefs for swimming and snorkeling. HIGHLIGHTS: Each of the 100 rooms and 14 suites grants beachfront access with floorto-ceiling doors and patios or balconies. Of its 1,400 acres, the resort dedicates five to its botanical spa, where facilities

include ten glass-walled pavilions and private outdoor gardens with deep soaking tubs and showers coyly concealed behind lush foliage. Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ambassadors of the Environment program provides eco-adventures for adults, teens, and children.

THE EXPERIENCE: Purify in hot and cold pools, then ascend to a tree house for a massage at the open-air spa, where treatments inspired by Puerto Rican healers, the Mano Santos, employ natural, local ingredients.

ROOM TO BOOK: Most of the ground-floor rooms have a private walkway and infinity pool, but Su Casa, the estate's original 1920s hacienda, comes with an infinity pool and an embajador (ambassador) who stays at the four-bedroom villa on request to handle everything from bringing coffee and a paper in the morning to arranging outings or escorting guests to the spa. Doubles from \$1,499, including breakfast daily and a \$150 resort credit. Su Casa from \$25,000.

## STYLE IN RESERVE

Ritz-Carlton introduced its Reserve resorts at Thailand's Phulay Bay in 2009, followed by Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico, and is developing outposts in Mexico, Morocco, Oman, and Turks and Caicos. A primer on what sets the resorts apart with the hotel company's president and chief operations officer, Hervé Humler:

### **Ritz-Carlton Reserves** in four words:

Exotic, luxurious, natural sanctuary.

## What distinguishes a Reserve from traditional **Ritz-Carlton resorts?**

Reserves are boutique-style properties, with fewer rooms for a more intimate experience. Architecturally, these are low-density, low-rise retreats with large rooms.

### Is a beach a requirement?

It's not a requirement but frequently an ocean backdrop is the foremost contributor to a magnificent destination. Sometimes the most desirable getaway experience is simply lounging on a pristine beach.

## Your favorite elements of the Dorado Beach property:

Its rich history and legacy. And since we built on the foundation of the former Rockefeller hotel, the rooms sit much closer to the ocean than what's permitted today due to building restrictions. Simply saying "room with a view" doesn't do it justice.