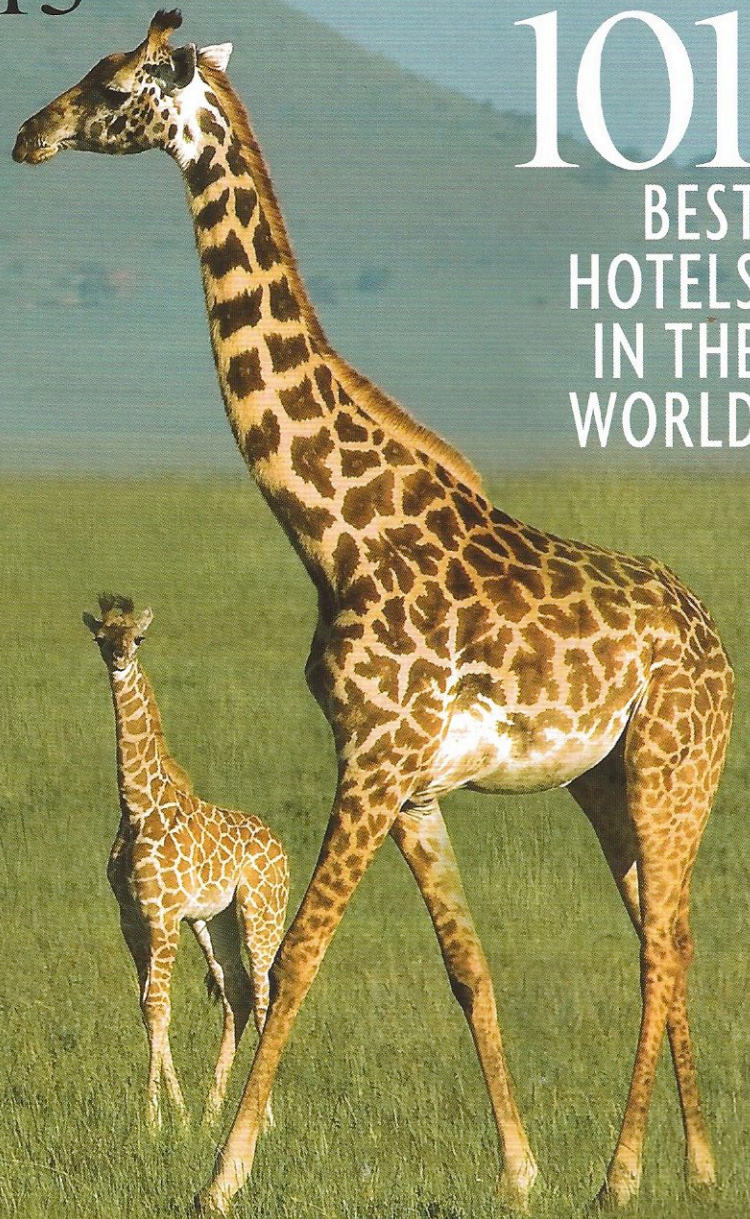


FAT TALKER

TRAVEL GUIDE
2013

101
BEST
HOTELS
IN THE
WORLD



SADDLE UP

*Get set for the ride
of your life*

BY ZEUS!

*Greece's grooviest secret
—the epic Peloponnese*

CAST AWAY...

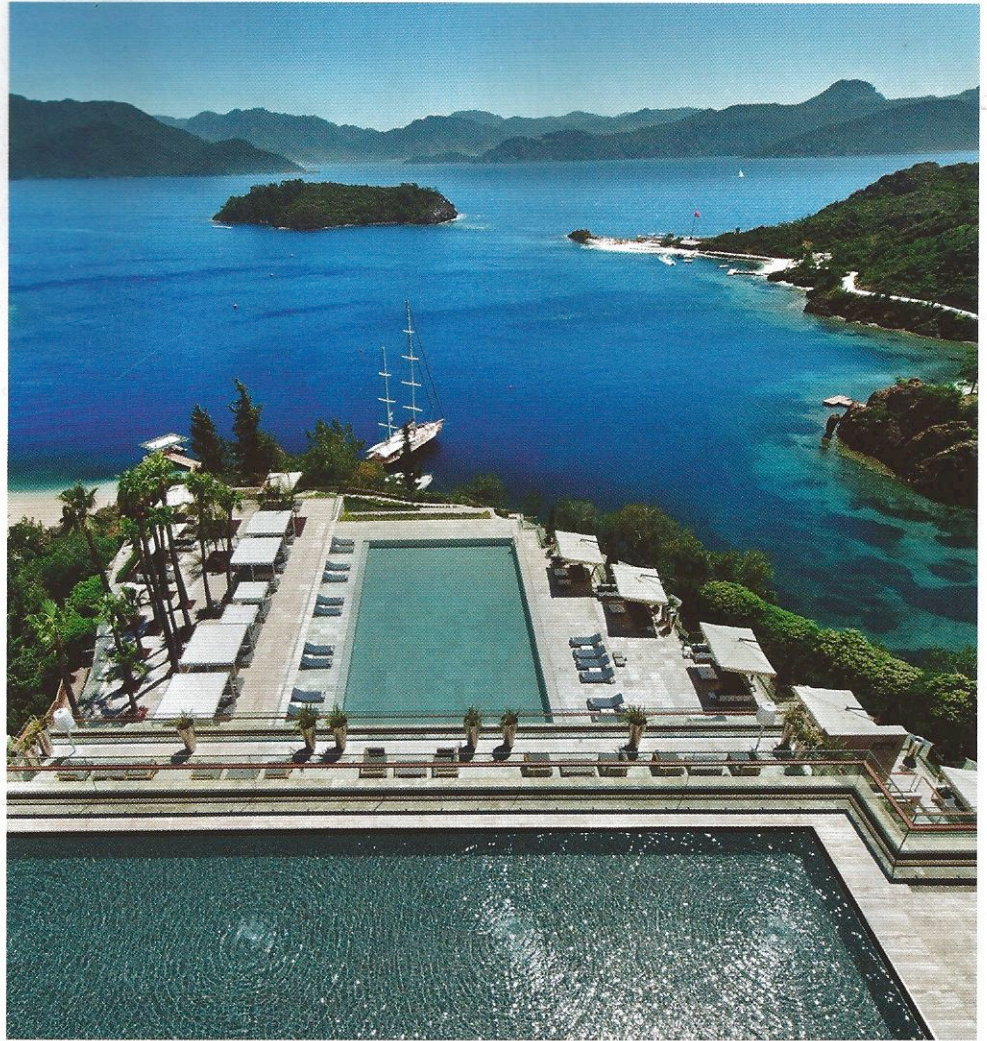
*Emma Freud falls
for the Philippines*

IN ASSOCIATION
WITH AFRICA TRAVEL

D-HOTEL

MARIS, TURKEY

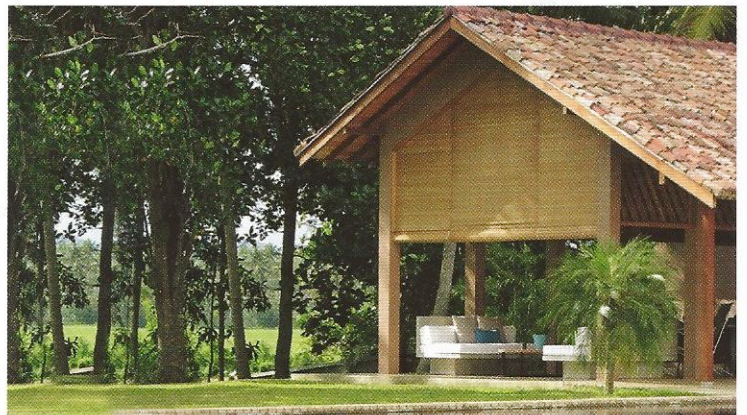
Holy moly, this place is big. In every sense. And big in a hotel context rarely means better. With 200 rooms, five beaches, its own desert island, umpteen restaurants and an endless stream of smiling, joyful staff who all tell you they work in paradise (not kidding, they actually say this), on paper it's not brilliant. But wait till you get there. Yes, you have to ignore the fact that it looks like a vast golf resort with its Audi-branded show cars in the drive, but once inside you won't give a fig. You really won't. It's immaculate. And awesome. From every single window you can see tree-covered hills that drop off into pristine bays. And this hotel made sure those bays were faultless, importing 250,000 tons of white Egyptian sand to fluff up the already pretty lovely stretches. There's a cavernous basement spa with a proper Turkish hammam and intoxicating facial massages that will make you feel all loopy and slightly stoned. The Spice restaurant serves up by far the best food here, with sticky slow-roasted lamb and fiery Turkish mezze. In the bedrooms, the vibe is cool, modernist, angular – everything's touchscreen controlled, but don't loiter around pressing buttons. Get out and grab one of the Sunseekers to pootle along the coast – it's beautiful and the bath-warm sea is so clear you'll do a double take. **Website** dhotel.com.tr
Book it Red Savannah (01242 787800) offers seven nights from £845, including flights, transfers and breakfast.



PALACIO NAZARENAS

CUZCO, PERU

Here we are, right on top of the world, in a hotel where the bedrooms are flushed with extra oxygen (through the air con) so you can breathe deep. Mattresses are thick, duvets are feathery and after a soak in an Andean herb-scented bath, you'll sleep deep too. Large terraces overlook the blue, blue swimming pool – Cuzco's first – and multitiered red-roofed houses beyond. In the kitchen, crazy-cute chef of the moment Virgilio Martinez (also found in Lima – the London restaurant, not the city) whips up fresh, clean local dishes such as grilled alpaca or raw vegetables with mustard leaves and tree tomatoes. The spa has a wicked sense of place too, using all sorts of aromatic plant poultices and oils and the treatment rooms have glass floors that expose Inca remains beneath. If you have ever yearned to go to Cuzco and Machu Picchu – go now and stay here. **Website** palacionazarenas.com **Book it** Cox & Kings (020 7873 5000) offers two nights as part of a 10-day trip from £2,895, including flights, transfers and breakfast.



MAYA

TANGALLE, SRI LANKA

Take the seaplane from Colombo and head south, past the literary festivals of Galle and the expat partying at Wijaya. If Aman hotels had babies (indeed if Amanwella, just round the corner, got frisky with Amangalla), this would be their squidgy newborn. Owner and interior designer Niki Fairchild has nailed that pared-back-but-smart look. So you are inland (only by 15 mins) but the payoff for no beach is a glorious indigo-dark pool and two acres of magical gardens. Aromatic cinnamon-oil burners are lit in the evening while you tuck into phenomenal Sri Lankan curries. **Website** mayatangallesrilanka.com **Book it** Ampersand Travel (020 7289 6100) offers seven nights from £1,240, including flights, transfers and breakfast. ▷