

INSPIRE
TOP 100 HOTELS
EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA



&BEYOND BENGUERRA ISLAND

BAZARUTO ARCHIPELAGO, MOZAMBIQUE

Casuarina pines, palm trees and white-sand beaches form the backdrop for this island resort. Benguerra, in a Marine National Park, is one of six islands in the Bazaruto Archipelago (off the southern coast of Mozambique), a chain celebrated for its abundance of wildlife. Head out on a diving or snorkeling excursion, *dhow* or catamaran cruise, or castaway picnic. The lodge itself is breathtakingly luxurious, with stylish casinhas and cabanas clustered around communal areas. Savor fresh seafood and cocktails at the beach bar, which is modeled on a traditional *dhow*, cool down in the seaweave infinity pool and unwind in the resort's boutique spa. **Casinha from \$1,250 per person per night. Contact Johan van der Merwe, lodge manager, enquiries@andbeyond.com, +27 118 094 300, andbeyond.com/benguerra-island**



CHEVAL BLANC RANDHELI

NOONU ATOLL, MALDIVES

Eight years after the astounding success of the first LVMH Cheval Blanc, in Courchevel, the luxury brand unveiled its second resort, Cheval Blanc Randheli. Designed by Jean-Michel Gathy, the hotel is one of the most elegant in the Maldives, thanks to its striking loft-style architecture. It's no surprise that the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, William and Kate, stayed here for a romantic getaway in 2014. If the peaceful swaying palm trees, white sands and turquoise sea don't make you feel totally Zen, head to the Guerlain spa. It's set on its very own island away from the main resort, accessible by a traditional *dhoni*. Castaway-style relaxation awaits. **Owner's Villa price on request. Contact Renato Chizzola, general manager, info.randheli@chevalblanc.com, +960 656 1 515, chevalblanc.com/randheli**



FREGATE ISLAND PRIVATE

SEYCHELLES

One of the Seychelles' forested inner islands, Fregate is a lush sanctuary for around 2,200 Aldabra giant tortoises, thousands of tropical birds and hawksbill turtles. The private island resort has just 16 villas, including the hilltop Banyan Hill Estate, which accommodates up to six adults and three children. Each residence comes with spacious sun terrace, large infinity pool, Jacuzzi, butler service and personal island buggy. Excursions from the island's yacht club and Padi dive center inevitably focus on wildlife, but that doesn't take away from the sheer luxury; two restaurants, two bars, a wine cellar and the award-winning Rock Spa make a stay here a deeply indulgent journey into the wilderness. **Private Pool Residence from \$3,788 per night. Contact Elena Freitag, reservations supervisor, reservations@fregate.com, +248 467 0100, fregate.com**



ONE&ONLY LE SAINT GÉRAN

POSTE DE FLACQ, MAURITIUS

One&Only Le Saint Géran is flanked by the azure waters of the Indian Ocean and a sheltered lagoon. Having reopened in December 2017 after a multimillion-dollar face-lift, the resort has new two- and three-bedroom suites, new restaurants and renovated spa. The design has been elegantly updated while maintaining the resort's traditional Mauritian lifestyle and architecture, drawing inspiration from local plantation manor houses, sugarcane kilns and soft palm-thatched roofs. Go on a diving trip with Michele Giraudo, Padi divemaster and SSI Shark Ecology specialist, to Fosse aux Requins (Shark Pit) to get close to up to 50 grey reef and white tip sharks. **Villa One from \$4,580 per night. Contact Vikram Iyacootee, reservations manager, reservations@oneandonlysaintgeran.com, +971 442 610 99, oneandonlyresorts.com/one-and-only-le-saint-geran-mauritius**



BURJ AL ARAB

DUBAI, UAE

Wild colors, vibrant patterns and lots of gold fill the iconic sail-shaped hotel, located on its own private island in the Persian Gulf. Many consider it to be the world's most luxurious hotel, and it's true that both the service and the opulence are exceptional. Everything you see that appears to be gold is actual gold: gold leaf, gold foil and gold paint fill the lavish spaces. The staff-to-suite ratio is 8 to 1, one of the highest in the world. The butlers offer 24-hour service and will do whatever it takes to ensure an unforgettable experience. The two identical Royal Suites feature an incredible series of rooms, each one vying to be the grandest and most richly decorated. **Royal Suite from \$9,000 per night. Contact Margaret Paul, general manager, baainfo@jumeirah.com, +971 430 174 00, burjalarab.com**