

DestinAsian

FROM ASIA TO THE WORLD

(ULUWATU AND
THE MAKING OF
A SURF MECCA)

Bali's Magical Southern Shores

SIZING UP SAN DIEGO / NEPAL'S NATURAL APPEAL
ENGLISH COUNTRY RETREATS /
OFF THE GRID IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Inside The Chow Kit's ground-floor restaurant and bar, styled as a retro-chic kopitiam.



ALL FIRED UP

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Four Seasons Resort Chiang Mai is upping the wow factor in its barbecues thanks to the launch of grill-focused dining venue **Char by Four Seasons** (fourseasons.com). Designer extraordinaire Bill Bensley looked to the large lotus pond in front of the restaurant to create a whimsical lotus-like fire pit as its centerpiece. Beneath an impressive stainless steel, tin, and aluminum canopy made by Phuket-based Australian artist John Underwood, chefs grill and roast all manner of specialties—among them rack of lamb, steaks, and whole seabass—over an open flame. Smoked and flambéed desserts carry on the fiery theme, as do cocktails made with ingredients like charred local pineapple. —Daniel Hartanto



OUT OF THE WOODS

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Flanked by bamboo forests that were the backdrop for a pivotal fight scene in *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, the lakeside **Alila Anji** (alilahotels.com) recently introduced several new activities to immerse city-dwellers in the mountain scenery of China's Zhejiang Province. A sidecar ride through a tea plantation brings guests to a farmhouse, where local dishes like fish-head soup star on seasonal menus. Just as inviting is a lake cruise aboard the *Alila Fushi*, a 12-seater electric boat featuring a small bar, with the option of high-tea nibbles by the resort and Belgian chocolate brand Godiva. —JL

IRISH INSPIRATION

Marking the first foray of Malaysian airline mogul Tony Fernandes into the world of luxury hospitality, the December opening of **The Chow Kit - An Ormond Hotel** (thechowkit.com; doubles from US\$48) looks set to inject a dose of sophistication into the gritty, eponymous Kuala Lumpur neighborhood. It's the maiden property of the newly minted Ormond Hotels brand, which takes its name from a Victorian-era Dublin institution known for its literary connection to James Joyce that Fernandes and his partners are currently redeveloping. The ultimate aim is to bring the "Ormond spirit" to a collection of individually designed hotels in city-center districts around the world, each one inspired by stories of local heroes and misfits. So it

should come as no surprise that Brooklyn-based firm Studio Tack mined Chow Kit's colorful past and slightly seedy present to design both the architecture and interiors of the seven-story hotel. The 113 rooms and suites have been layered with nostalgic elements: think brass-and-porcelain vanity sinks and banquettes padded with the kind of patterned fabrics found at Chow Kit's markets in previous decades. Downstairs, a double-height restaurant and bar riffs off the classic *kopitiam*, serving à la carte breakfasts, "express lunches," and reimagined Malaysian fare by night. The space will also host pop-up dining events, but if it's no-frills street food you're after, you may want to sign up for The Chow Kit's guided walking tours. —James Louie