

COMPILED BY MICHAELA WILLIAMS

# SURFSIDE SOJOURNS

From Mexican siesta on the sand to blue Pacific Hawaiian heaven, the Indian Ocean bliss of the Maldives to riches of the Gold Coast, these seaside stays put stress to rest.



## HALEKULANI

Steering clear of the usual extra-aloha kitsch of Waikiki Beach, the Halekulani takes guests back to luxe basics – manicured lawns, the property's trademark “seven shades of white” design palette and attentive service so in tune that staff aren't noticed until needed for a mai tai top-up. The 453 newly renovated rooms make good use of the natural light streaming in from the lanais (verandahs) to give a spacious feel. Just shy of its 100th anniversary, this stalwart knows how to relax. From \$US465 (\$441).

2199 Kalia Road, Honolulu, Hawaii.  
(808) 923 2311. [www.halekulani.com](http://www.halekulani.com)

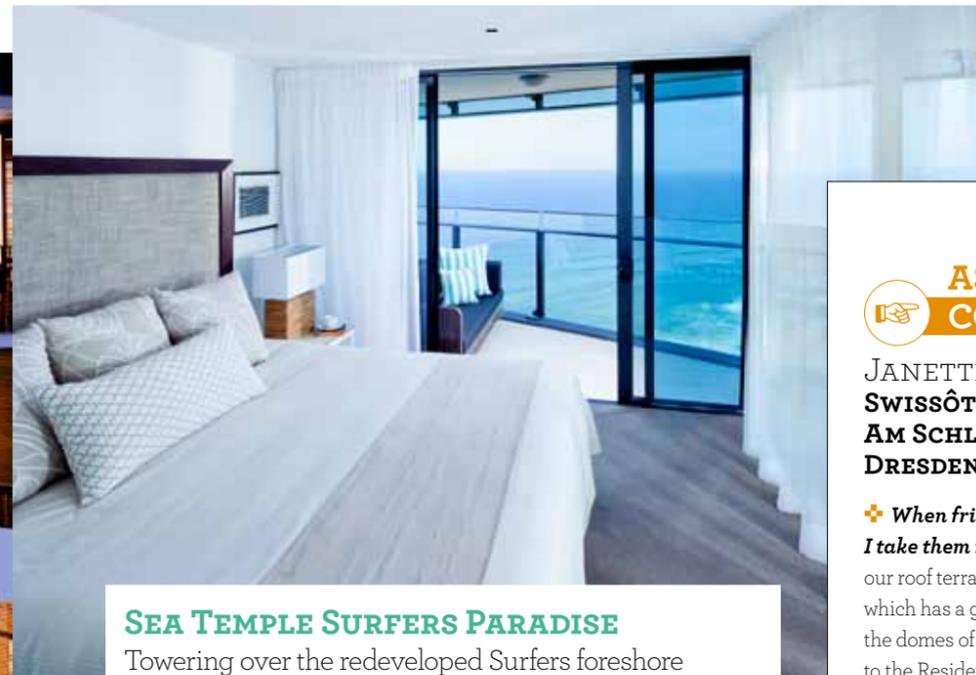


## WHERE I STAY

JOHN TSLAVIS  
PHOTOGRAPHER

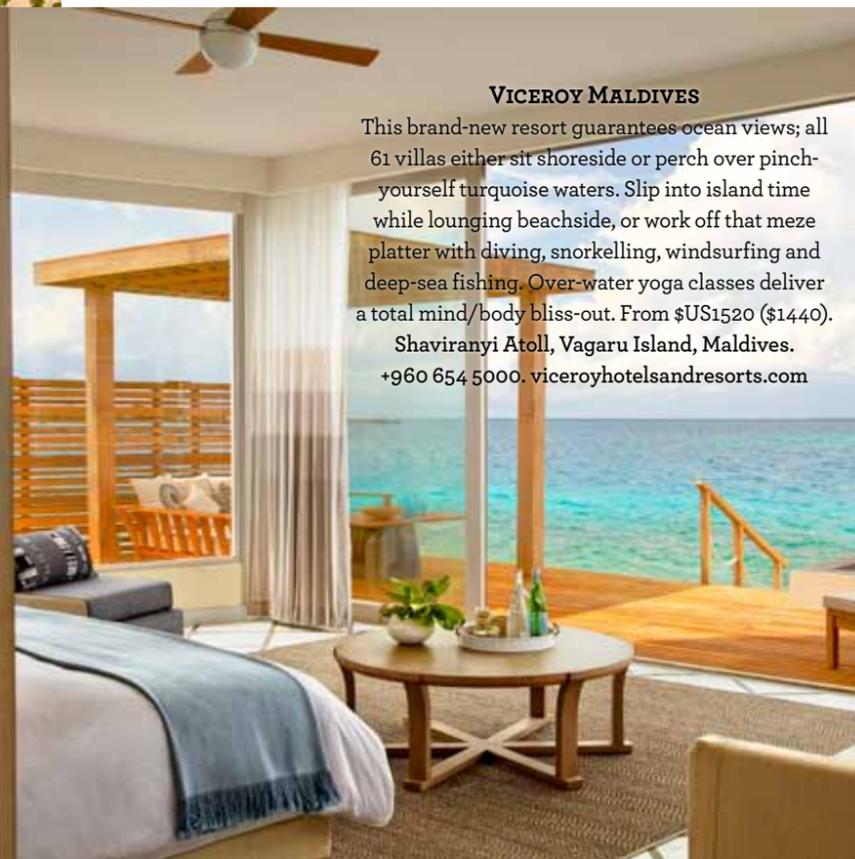
HACIENDA SAN ANGEL,  
PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO

“Hacienda San Angel is hands-down the most magical place I've ever had the pleasure to stay. Every detail is considered and perfect, from the antiques and artefacts decorating the beautiful rooms and gardens to the flawless hospitality of the staff. The hacienda was originally the home of Richard and Susan Burton. Take a boat ride to enjoy the beach at Yalepa or neighbouring Sayulita. At dusk the town comes alive, filled with the colour and movement one would expect of Mexico, with music, the locals and, best of all, the street food and tequila.”  
From \$US395 (\$374). 336 Miramar, El Centro, Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico. (322) 222 2692. [haciendasanangel.com](http://haciendasanangel.com)



## SEA TEMPLE SURFERS PARADISE

Towering over the redeveloped Surfers foreshore in the 245m, 77-level Soul complex, Sea Temple offers head-in-the-clouds luxury and spectacular, you-can-almost-see-New-Zealand views. Apartments feature home theatre, balconies for easy sea breeze entry and separate dining area, while floor-to-ceiling windows maximise the ocean panoramas. Seaduction, recently listed in the Top 50 Hottest Restaurants in Australia, does contemporary Australian cuisine under the direction of executive chef Steve Szabo. From \$479.  
8 The Esplanade, Surfers Paradise, Queensland.  
(07) 5635 5700. [www.mirvachotels.com](http://www.mirvachotels.com)



## VICEROY MALDIVES

This brand-new resort guarantees ocean views; all 61 villas either sit shoreside or perch over pinch-yourself turquoise waters. Slip into island time while lounging beachside, or work off that meze platter with diving, snorkelling, windsurfing and deep-sea fishing. Over-water yoga classes deliver a total mind/body bliss-out. From \$US1520 (\$1440).  
Shaviranyi Atoll, Vagaru Island, Maldives.  
+960 654 5000. [viceroyhotelsandresorts.com](http://viceroyhotelsandresorts.com)

## ASK THE CONCIERGE



JANETTE NEUMANN  
SWISSÔTEL DRESDEN  
AM SCHLOSS,  
DRESDEN, GERMANY

### ❖ When friends are in town I take them for a drink at...

our roof terrace Schlossbar, which has a great view across the domes of the Royal Chapel to the Residence Castle, or the Pinta Bar in the Neustadt district for cocktails.

❖ **The restaurant that best shows off Dresden is...** the Sophienkeller, offering typical Saxon dishes and an excellent variety of beers. The waitresses are in traditional costume and the ambience is rustic and candlelit under vaulted ceilings.

❖ **For designer fashion I steer guests towards...** boutiques in and around the Königstrasse. My favourite is Prüssing & Köll for their exquisite tailored suits.

❖ **For the perfect gift or memento I'd shop at...** the famous Meissen Porcelain shop at QF gallery, or buy handicrafts from shops in the old town.

❖ **Couples wanting a romantic dinner for two should consider...**

Kastenmeiers fish restaurant in the baroque Kurlander Palais.

❖ **For great art I'd go to...** the Old Masters Gallery to see Raphael's *Sistine Madonna* and the historic Green Vault for treasures of the Saxon kings.

❖ **The best flea markets can be found...** on Saturdays by the River Elbe on Käthe-Kollwitz-Ufer, where you can spend lots of time browsing for knick-knacks and souvenirs.

❖ **For vintage finds head to...** the second-hand bookshops in Hauptstrasse or the QF at New Market Square.

❖ **If it's raining...** I would visit the Albertinum Art Museum and the Military Historical Museum created by architect Daniel Libeskind. In the evening I would take in a concert at the Church of our Lady or Semper Opera House.

❖ **Dresden's best-kept secret is...** one of the few collections of Mayan texts, a manuscript known as the Dresden Codex, at the Saxon State Library.

❖ **If I were a visitor with a free day I would...** treat my tastebuds to the best of Dresden's local produce with a visit to the neo-renaissance Pfund's Molkerei (dairy) for a glass of Saxon wine, cheese and their signature buttermilk. Enjoy a coffee at the Lingnerschloss overlooking the River Elbe and the city before descending to one of the many beer-gardens along the river for a drink and hearty dinner.

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