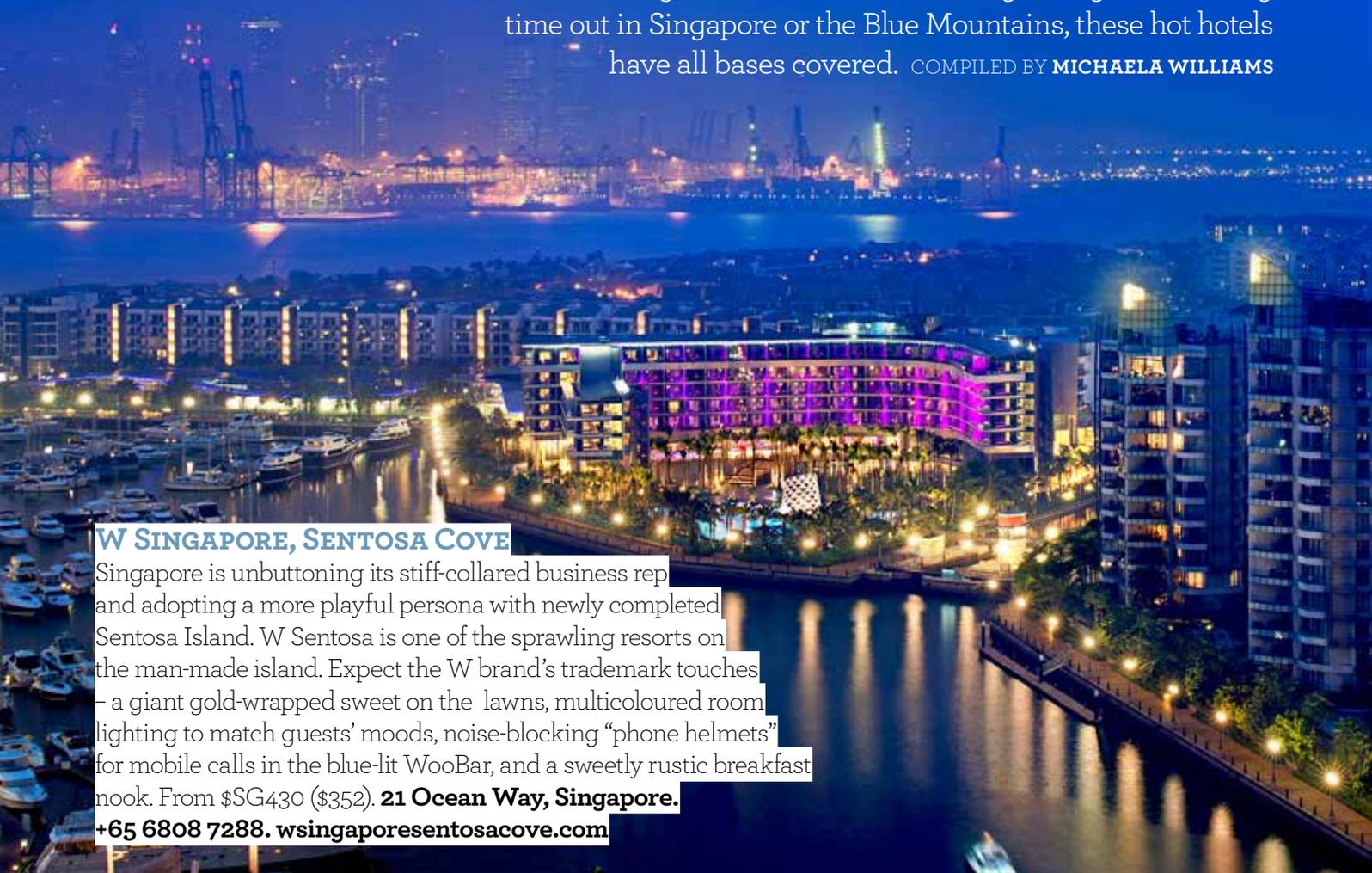




OVERNIGHT SUCCESS

Whether taking care of business in Jo'burg or Zagreb, or taking time out in Singapore or the Blue Mountains, these hot hotels have all bases covered. COMPILED BY MICHAELA WILLIAMS



W SINGAPORE, SENTOSA COVE

Singapore is unbuttoning its stiff-collared business rep and adopting a more playful persona with newly completed Sentosa Island. W Sentosa is one of the sprawling resorts on the man-made island. Expect the W brand's trademark touches – a giant gold-wrapped sweet on the lawns, multicoloured room lighting to match guests' moods, noise-blocking "phone helmets" for mobile calls in the blue-lit WooBar, and a sweetly rustic breakfast nook. From \$SG430 (\$352). **21 Ocean Way, Singapore.** +65 6808 7288. wsingaporementosacove.com



WHERE I STAY

DEBORAH CHEETHAM
SOPRANO/COMPOSER/ACADEMIC



ESPLANADE ZAGREB HOTEL, CROATIA

"Opened in 1925, this elegant and cosmopolitan hotel was designed to accommodate passengers alighting from the Orient Express. The opulent art deco interiors transport you back to a time when train travel was king. In the corridors on each floor is a photographic history of travellers who have come before. A jewel in the crown of this fascinating hotel is the Emerald Ballroom. With its whispering-wall acoustics, our recital there became quite the interactive experience. When dining, ask for the *struckli* [cottage cheese-filled pastry topped with cream], a plate of Croatian *baba's* [grandmother] love!" From €140 (\$188). 1 Mihanoviceva, Zagreb, Croatia. +385 (0)1 456 6666. esplanade.hr



Lilianfels Resort & Spa, Katoomba

LILIANFELS RESORT & SPA Overlooking the primeval splendour of the Blue Mountains' Jamison Valley and near the spectacular Three Sisters rock formation, Lilianfels is somewhat spoiled in the scenic attraction stakes. Which presents a dilemma. The hotel's Victorian ambience is an inducement to postpone the bush walkabout, as is the spa, heated indoor pool and the hatted, award-winning Darleys restaurant in the original (1888) Lilianfels House. Only 90 minutes' drive from Sydney and you could be indulging in high tea or sipping a red by a roaring log fire. Bring your walking shoes, just in case. From \$329. **Lilianfels Avenue, Katoomba, NSW. (02) 4780 1200. lilianfels.com.au**



The Maslow, Johannesburg

THE MASLOW

It's clear the newly opened Maslow means business, from the 13 meeting rooms named after famous entrepreneurs from Astor to Vanderbilt, the conference centre with its multi-divisible ballroom and 50-seat auditorium, to the 24-hour business centre and the "power showers" in each of the 281 guestrooms, designed to energise even the most sluggish of mornings. Located in Sandton's central business district, guests will find the Maslow convenient for both suiting up then winding down in the hotel's Africology Spa or Lacuna Bistro. From R1726 (\$186). **Grayston Drive & Rivonia Road, Sandton, Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa. +27 10 226 4600. www.suninternational.co/maslow/**



ASK THE CONCIERGE

GEORGE LADAW, **MAMILLA HOTEL, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL**



- ✦ **When friends are in town I take them for a drink at** the Mirror Bar at Mamilla Hotel. Thursday and Saturday nights are liveliest.
- ✦ **The restaurant that best shows off my city is** Mahneyuda at the Mahane Yehuda market. It has an energetic atmosphere. Eucalyptus near the Jaffa Gate offers "biblical cuisine" using spices mentioned in the Bible.
- ✦ **For designer fashion I steer guests towards** Alrov Mamilla Avenue where global designers are located in restored 19th-century stone buildings.

- ✦ **For the perfect gift or memento shop at** the Old City or the Nahalat Shiv'a quarter for Judaica or ceramics.
- ✦ **Couples wanting a romantic dinner for two should consider** the open-air Rooftop at the Mamilla. With the Old City at twilight as a backdrop and a delicious bistro menu, nothing could be more romantic.
- ✦ **To see great art head to** the galleries in the Mamilla quarter such as Eden and Arta, or visit the renovated Israel Museum.
- ✦ **The best markets are at** Mahane Yehuda. This market is

- at its busiest right before the weekend and closes after the Friday afternoon horn sounds for Sabbath. Stock up on spices, fresh fruit and pastries, or grab falafel from one of the many stalls.
- ✦ **For vintage finds** stroll along Yoel Moshe Salomon Street in Nahalat Shiv'a for rustic crafts and Bedouin jewellery.
- ✦ **If it's raining** see a movie at the Jerusalem Cinematheque and dine at Lavan in the cinema

- complex with its wonderful views of the Old City.
- ✦ **Jerusalem's best-kept secret is** the Old City views from the rooftops of the Austrian Hospice and the Maronite Guest House.
- ✦ **If I were a visitor with a free day I would** visit the wineries and vineyards in the Judean Hills. From its boiled and sweet K kosher wine origins, the region has built a thriving wine industry.



For vintage finds, stroll along Yoel Moshe Salomon Street in Nahalat Shiv'a