

# TATTLER<sup>®</sup>

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# Travel



# Guide

2007



## Como Estate at Begawan Giri

Ubud, Bali

A Balinese favourite (people coo when you mention it) has just had a refurb. Christina Ong has always had serious flair when it comes to spas, but this one, with treatment rooms in the forest, is her queen bee. The location is bonkers: slap-bang in Tarzan Central, a gleaming, cawing rainforest with freshwater pools for swimming, a waterfall and daybeds dotted about under the trees. The only issue is having to share your super-stylish, boho plot with four other suites. If you're Roman Abramovich, hire it all for yourself. If you're not, go for a Garden Villa. Heavenly, spiritual, a no-brainer – which we mean in the best possible way.

**Website** begawan.com. **UK reservations** Seasons in Style (tel: 01244 202000). **Rates** Double, from €420, including breakfast. Fly with Thai Airways (tel: 0870 606 0911).

## Mandarin Oriental Bangkok

Thailand

My heart belongs to this Oriental. Not because the most famous general manager in the world, Kurt Wachtveitl, also happens to be the most attractive. Not because the Garden Wing rooms are the prettiest around. Not because the views over the Chao Phya River, junks rolling in the waves, are the only views you should ever have in Bangkok. Not because the staff bend over backwards for you. But because it has class running through its corridors, and class has no equal. **Website** mandarinoriental.com. **UK reservations** Abercrombie & Kent (tel: 0845 070 0600). **Rates** Double, from £184.



# Panorama queens

Vistas are doing it for themselves



## ● Palazzo Vendramin at the Cipriani

Venice, Italy

Formerly a 15th-century aristocratic residence, the Palazzo Vendramin is on the other side of the island from the main part of the Cipriani, the world's most evocative hotel, and is its newly acquired beating heart. The seven suites and three doubles have all the atmosphere you demand from this Venetian legend. Then there's the picture-perfect, hold-your-heart-or-it's-going-to-leap-out-of-your-chest views straight across the Grand Canal to St Mark's Square. Be sure to make a reservation at Cip's, the divine little restaurant floating on the waves just outside the Palazzo which serves up classic seafood. This is Canaletto's Venice, in all its peachy majesty. **Website** hotelcipriani.com. **UK reservations** Kuoni (tel: 01306 474008). **Rates** Suite, from £1,054. ▷