

TRAVELER

TRAVEL GUIDE 2014



IN ASSOCIATION WITH
AFRICA TRAVEL

Mandarin Oriental Pudong, Shanghai

SHANGHAI, CHINA

It has taken the Mandarin Oriental all of five minutes to become the hottest address in the city. It's Shanghai incarnate – cutting-edge, confident, sparkly on the surface, but with a deep bow to tradition on the inside. Step out of the hotel's wi-fi-enabled BMW limo, with the glass towers of the Lujiazui business district looming above, and don't even look for your LV luggage (the only acceptable kind in China) – it will be transported to your golden room (gold means good fortune) beside a pot of steaming chrysanthemum tea before you've even clip-clopped across the marble lobby. The siren call of the spa is hard to resist – so don't. Doe-eyed therapists from Inner Mongolia will work you into a mussy-haired stupor. Drag a brush through your thatch and head to the terrace for a potent Missionary's Downfall cocktail and a gawp at some of Shanghai's 100,000-plus millionaires. Then slip into a white-lacquer booth at Yong Yi Ting for crispy chicken, dainty dim sum and plum sorbet – just the thing to welcome you to the new China. **WEBSITE** mandarinoriental.com **BOOK IT** Cleveland Collection (clevelandcollection.co.uk; 020 7843 3596) offers two nights from £1,975, as part of a seven-night trip, including British Airways flights, transfers and breakfast.



Red = good fortune and joy in China. These shoes = good fortune and joy anywhere.

Suede shoes, £780, by Manolo Blahnik (020 7352 8622)



**TAKE
TWO**
GET LUCKY



Wear this and you'll be everyone's lucky charm – the Chinese Year of the Horse starts in February. Gold-plated ring, £240, by Chloe (matchefashion.com)



WHICH WAY TO THE BEACH? THE COMO WAY. THE NEW METROPOLITAN BY COMO, MIAMI BEACH IS THE JEWEL IN THE CROWN OF THE ART DECO STRIP. WITH ITS MOD-MINT-GREEN AND PASTEL DECOR AND SUPER-SPA. **COMOHOTELS.COM**

JK Place Roma

ROME, ITALY

Oh JK, how we love you. Long the purveyors of cool opulence (Firenze! Capri!), those clever chaps have now scooted over to Roma. And they've outdone themselves. Walking into JK Place Roma is a bit like walking into the home of the chicest person you know – the one with the best collection of art and mid-century modern furniture – but where the staff are always bringing you little plates of freshly baked biscotti. The dining room is jade-coloured with velvet banquettes – an appropriately plush setting for the souped-up Roman staples that come out of the kitchen (homemade gnocchi, meltingly tender beef). The bathrooms are BIG and marble and there is a terrace on the roof for evening aperitivos. Of course there is. It's all hidden away down a narrow sidestreet, just moments from the thronging intersection of Via del Corso and Via Condotti. The perfect haven from the eternal bustle of the eternal city. **WEBSITE** jkroma.com **TEL** 00 39 06 982634 **BOOK IT** Double, from £510, including breakfast. Easyjet (easyjet.com) flies from Gatwick to Rome up to four times a day, from £75.