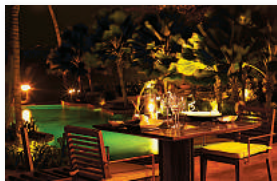


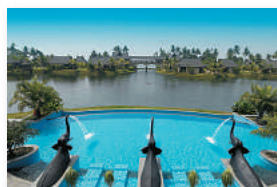
HOT 3
ROMANTIC BREAKS



1 The Anantara Bophut resort, Koh Samui, has pulled out all the stops to make your Valentine's day experience memorable, whether it's a sunset cruise on a private yacht, pampering massages or a candle-lit dinner under the stars combined with in-room floral baths, flowers and chocolates. From Dh1,150, www.anantara.com.



2 Break away from the tourist trail to discover West Bali, a dramatic landscape of volcanic mountains, black-sand beaches and paddy fields. At the new Alila Villas Soori, you will be ensconced in luxurious privacy at a pool villa, stepping out to indulge in natural spa treatments or to take tailor-made trips into the community. From Dh1,100, www.alilahotels.com.



3 Experience luxe lakeside living at the award-winning Zuri Kumarakom Resort & Spa in Kerala, India. Indulge in complete wellness at the Maya Spa with couple's ayurveda treatments, while enjoying views of the stunning lagoon. Valentine's packages with yoga breakfast, cultural shows, and a boat trip cost from Dh1,050, www.thezurihotels.com.

TRAVEL DIARY

Dream getaways, luxe escapes and hot deals... take a break from it all! By Sudeshna Ghosh.



THIS MONTH, ESCAPE TO...

The stunning new Joia Das Dunas resort in Portugal, which opens on February 14. This intimate eco-resort has just ten beachfront suites – aside from 18 privately owned villas – overlooking sand dunes, majestic cliffs, waterfalls and a gorgeous beach. The property has been built using local, sustainable materials and contains features such as geothermal heating, recycled water sources and a zero-waste policy. Room rates from Dh1,850, www.quintessentiallystates.com.



OFF THE RADAR: MANDA ISLAND

Discover a land which time forgot, Manda island, a part of the Lamu archipelago in Kenya. Lamu is a UNESCO world heritage site, with just two cars on the tiny island – donkeys are the chosen means of transport – and a rich, intricate history.

At the privately owned Majlis resort in Manda, you can enjoy boutique luxury while soaking in experiences such as exploring the scenic islands by foot, sailing on dhows and trying out adventure and water sports. Visit www.chiccollection.travel for more.

2,000
The number of authentic Arabian artefacts, some dating back to the 1800s, on display at the Al Maha resort.



LUXE LUGGAGE

We love the way the Louis Vuitton Spring/Summer collection heralds the season with its injection of bright colours into the brand's signature neutral shades of brown and grey. A touch of blue and orange here, and a splash of green there, makes them oh-so-of-the-moment, while keeping it classically LV at the same time. The Tuareg tote (Dh11,300) from the Monogram Cheche range is the perfect weekend break companion, while the Gypsy PM backpack (Dh12,700) makes us want to hop on a plane right now! Available at Louis Vuitton. Definitely one for the wish list.

“My life is so full of travel that when I get to be in the comfort of my home, I take advantage of it.”

– Singer Christina Aguilera