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From: ASMALLWORLD
Sent: Wed 7/13/2011 2:08:12 PM
Subject: ASW Travel Deals: Paris, Greece, Italy, NYC, Las Vegas and More

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Island Hopping, Urban Escapes and More

We're into some serious island-hopping this week at Jetsetter, with stops at some of the most memorable seaside travel spots in the world: Santorini, Crete, Malta, Bermuda, Koh Samui in Thailand and more. And be sure to start the week off with a jaunt through some of our favorite cities (and some of their hippest hotels): the Aria in Las Vegas, the Ace in New York and the Hotel Jules in Paris.

Image: Gran Melia Crete - on sale Tues, July 12.

The New Center of the Vegas Strip

ARIA Resort - Las Vegas
Now Live

In Vegas, location isn't everything, but it doesn't hurt - and Aria, the centerpiece of the CityCenter complex, is in the middle of the action on The Strip. New Haven-based architecture firm Pelli Clarke Pelli is behind the sleek, curvilinear look of the 4,004-room tower, which is also the world's largest LEED Gold-certified building. Game on for the humming of slot machines and the thumping of nightclubs at one of Vegas's sleekest new additions.

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A Retro-Chic Gem in the 9th Arrondissement

Hotel Jules - Paris
Now Live

The 101-room Hotel Jules has eclectic, retro interiors by acclaimed French designer Tristan Auer. Imagine Dali-esque lips on the walls, optical illusion carpets, and, in the lobby, an oversize cream-hued leather banquette, which was inspired by the backseat of a '50s Cadillac. A sweet spot in the 9th Arrondissement means that in spite of the hotel's edgy vibe, all the classics - Montmartre, the Opera Garnier, the Louvre - are within walking distance.

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Even New Yorkers Hang Out Here

The Ace Hotel - New York
Now Live

Two blocks east of Penn Station, the 12-story Ace Hotel has the formula for cool

figured out. This hip hotel serves up a chill style with serious flea market finds and curious collectibles (stuffed badgers). Housing the Stumptown coffee shop, the Breslin restaurant and the No. 7 Sub Press shop, this eclectic hotel is constantly filled with locals and foreigners, with an NYC atmosphere that is unexpectedly unique.

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Fit for a Greek God in Santorini

Gold Suites - Santorini

Now Live

Off the beaten tourist path, this 15-suite hotel is in Imerovigli, offering an intimate atmosphere and sweeping Aegean views. With its dramatic location carved into the cliffs, the hotel has one of Santorini's best settings, with spacious and stylish gold-themed suites that embody Greek chic. Whether interested in lounging by the infinity pool with unobstructed views or sipping on a drink in the small bar, the Gold Suites will please anyone looking to channel their inner god or goddess.

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Private Pools and Sea Views on Crete

Gran Melia - Crete

Now Live

Opened in the spring of 2011, the all-new Gran Melia Luxury Resort and Villas Daios Cove brings laid-back luxury to Crete, along with a very long name. But that name has meaning here: Gran Melia is known for bringing high-end design to locations from Italy to Indonesia, while Daios Cove offers some of the most beautiful, crystalline Mediterranean views on the island.

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A Sleek Stay in the Nation's Capital

Park Hyatt Washington D.C.

Now Live

Sophistication meets modern cool in this Tony Chi-designed hotel, in D.C.'s fashionable West End neighborhood. The sleek lobby, where spare yet striking etched glass art echoes the city's signature cherry blossoms, sets the scene. Dine in the highly regarded Blue Duck Tavern, stroll to Georgetown or take the hotel's complimentary town car service to wheel and deal on Capitol Hill - the 216-room Park Hyatt Washington D.C. puts it all within reach.

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Art de Vivre in Chicago

Sofitel Chicago Water Tower
Now Live

French architect Jean-Paul Viguier and an attentive staff bring a touch of l'art de vivre to the Sofitel Chicago Water Tower hotel. Just a stone's throw from the Magnificent Mile's excellent shopping, dining, sightseeing and nightlife, the 32-floor hotel combines warm blond-wood accents, sleek midcentury-modern furnishings and a certain je ne sais quoi - not to mention stunning skyline views of the city's architectural gems - that will please discerning guests looking for an oasis from crowded downtown.

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Deluxe Glamour in South Beach

Betsy Hotel - Miami
Now Live

Within surf-spray distance of the turquoise Miami waters, the Betsy Hotel places you in the unequivocal heart of South Beach, right on Ocean Drive. But the hotel's quieter-end-of-the-strip location and its upscale, plantation-like design set it slightly apart from all the other hotels. The Betsy looks like a demure Southern belle set in a sea of flamboyant Art Deco divas.

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Sea, Spa and UNESCO Sites in Malta

Corinthia Palace Hotel - Malta
Now Live

From a distance, the 152-room Corinthia Palace Hotel and Spa in the small town of San Anton on Malta looks like the vast Mediterranean villa of a noble family. Although this 19th-century structure was converted from a private home long ago, it maintains a romantic and peaceful vibe, with a marble-clad lobby and restaurants, quiet silk and velvet rooms, a state-of-the-art spa and a setback location within reach of the area's coastal sea caverns and the UNESCO Heritage Site cities of Valletta and Mdina.

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The Romantic Life With Caribbean Views

Le Reve - Playa del Carmen
Starting Thursday 14/7 at Noon BST

Ready to relax, with just the sound of the Caribbean Sea for company? Le Reve

certainly lives up to the meaning of its name - French for "the dream." The romantic Riviera Maya resort is a favorite for couples, and while its remote coastal location makes for an intimate getaway, it's only 15 minutes north of lively Playa del Carmen - close enough that you can hit the tequila bars when you're in the mood, but far enough away that you can forget they exist when you're not.

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Paradise Imagined on Mexico's Pacific Coast

Costa Careyes - Mexico

Starting Thursday 14/7 at 8pm BST

Combine an Italian artist's vision of a chic Mediterranean jetset hideaway with the color and verve of authentic Mexican art and culture. Add a dedicated environmental philanthropist's concern for endangered ecosystems, an array of sporting options to satisfy the adrenaline-pumped international polo set and the rugged serenity of the Pacific coast between Puerto Vallarta and Manzanillo. Shake well. Now take a big drink, and you'll begin to get the full picture of Costa Careyes.

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Cottage Chic on Bermuda's Beaches

Pink Beach Club - Bermuda

Starting Thursday 14/7 at 8pm BST

Besides its sprawling pink-sand beaches, world-class golf courses and easy access (just two hours from most U.S. east coast gateways), Bermuda has long been known for its cottage colonies, freestanding white-roofed residences that are uniquely Bermudian in design and atmosphere. First opened in 1947, Pink Beach Club is the grand dame of the bunch, featuring 94 rooms, most with ocean views in tony Tucker's Town on the island's secluded east end.

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Classic Romance in Acapulco

Las Brisas Acapulco

Starting Thursday 14/7 at 8pm BST

Romance reigns at this pink-and-white hideaway stacked like a grand wedding cake in the hills above Acapulco Bay. The suites and casitas are tucked amid blooming hibiscus bushes and offer simple luxury -big cushy beds, marble baths and shuttered doors that open to private pools. Pink and white Jeeps ferry guests to the La Concha Beach Club's pools and open-air restaurant, while the Bellavista restaurant has stunning views around the bay that make it the perfect setting for question-popping.

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City-Meets-Countryside in Tuscany

Villa Olmi Resort - Tuscany

Starting Friday 15/7 at 8pm BST

A charming country estate on the road to Chianti wine country, but less than six miles from downtown Florence, Villa Olmi offers a chance to see the the Renaissance sights by day and soak up rural Tuscan hospitality and sublime cooking by night. The country estate is laid out in a number of buildings and shows off its rich history (the property dates to the late 1400s) in opulent public spaces and guestrooms dressed with period furnishings and original 18th-century frescos.

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A Five-Star Italian Spa Hotel

Abano Grand Hotel - Italy

Starting Friday 15/7 at 8pm BST

The only five-star luxury hotel in this corner of Italy, the Abano Grand keeps things as grand as the name promises. Situated in the spa town of Abano Terme, just a few miles away from the charming city of Padua, the hotel is a garden-filled space for relaxation. Nowhere is this more evident than the state-of-the-art spa, which offers three thermal pools and a steam-filled grotto for a truly blissed-out experience.

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Lake Como's Grande Dame

Grand Hotel di Como - Italy

Starting Friday 15/7 at 8pm BST

In a large park on the shores of Italy's most beautiful lake, the Grand Hotel di Como delivers a modern ambiance and some of the best beds in town. The rooms and suites are spacious and airy; done up with bright colors and an eclectic art collection. But it is the grounds here that really shine. Filled with indigenous trees and flowers, they are home to two alfresco restaurants and a wonderful swimming pool with killer mountain views.

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New England Style Near San Francisco

Casa Madrona Hotel & Spa - CA

Starting Saturday 16/7 at Noon BST

Just 15 minutes from downtown San Francisco, this 63-room hotel brings New England style to the city by the bay. First opened in 1885, Casa Madrona's location on the waterfront means access to the best of tony Sausalito's restaurants and shops. Now on the National Register of Historic Places, the offers thoroughly modern amenities: a brand-new, 3,000-square-foot spa and fitness center, free WiFi, and killer views of the bay and waterfront.

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Classic Lodge Living in Vail

The Lodge at Vail - Colorado

Starting Saturday 16/7 at Noon BST

The first hotel in Vail is still one of the tony village's best, and not just because of its prime location next to the lifts (you can't get any closer). Since taking over the Lodge a few years ago, RockResorts has done a superb job of maintaining the storied hotel's classic ski lodge vibe while making gradual updates. Today, it's just as much of a treat to modern-day visitors as it was to those first few ski bums back in the 1960s. With a new spa here and a new chef there, the Lodge has kept up with the times in style.

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Houston's Best Kept Secret

Alden Hotel - Houston

Starting Saturday 16/7 at Noon BST

Houston's downtown dwellers are definitely familiar with the award-winning 17 Restaurant and the Sam Houston Bar, known for its expertly crafted blueberry mojito and refreshing French 75, but few realize the two properties are part of the stately Alden Hotel, making this 97-room redbrick getaway one of the historic district's best kept secrets. Spacious rooms are packed with amenities such as Aveda bath products and 42-inch flat screen TVs, and many come with great views of the city's skyline.

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A Focus on Wellness in Pristine Koh Samui

Elements Resort - Thailand

Starting Sunday 17/7 at Noon BST

On pristine, virgin land on Thailand's third largest island, Koh Samui, the Elements Boutique Resort is set amid jungle and coconut farms, making for a secluded escape. Villas are designed to enhance the stunning natural beauty surrounding them, with private plunge pools. Focused on wellness, the resort offers everything from yoga to cooking classes, plus one-on-one personal fitness

attention and even training in massage. And after a day sweating it out, a dip in the freshwater swimming pool (inspired by a NASA-designed filtration technology, requiring no chlorine) will prepare you for the sunset of a lifetime.

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Pure Gold on Thailand's Mekong River

Anantara Golden Triangle

Starting Sunday 17/7 at 8pm BST

This 77-room hilltop hotel is perched on the Golden Triangle - where the borders of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand converge. The fortuitous location means panoramic views of not one but three countries, within striking distance of the nearby Mekong River (which also makes a stunning backdrop for the infinity pool). The 160 acres of Bill Bensley-designed gardens and a five-room spa round out this jungle oasis - and when you're ready to do a trek through the forest, the resort's 24 elephants are happy to oblige.

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Paradise, Served Warm

Anantara Si Kao - Thailand

Starting Sunday 17/7 at 8pm BST

This off-the-radar gem on Changlang Beach, south of Krabi on Thailand's west coast, delivers both prime beachfront and tropical rainforest. Rooms and suites are nestled among vibrant Bill Bensley-designed gardens, most with views of the Andaman Sea and offshore islands. Whether you spend the days venturing underwater to swim with dugong (a sea cow) or visiting the wellness center's naturopath to manage stress and practice yoga, the time at Anantara Si Kao is addictive - in the best possible way.

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Hilltop Design in Rio De Janeiro

Santa Teresa - Rio De Janeiro

Starting Monday 18/7 at 8pm BST

Set on a burst of tropical rain forest on a former coffee plantation, the Santa Teresa Hotel is a design-forward hotel paying homage to Brazil's multicultural roots. Its hillside location in the up-and-coming bohemian neighborhood of the same name gives it one prime advantage: unbeatable panoramic views. And the caipirinhas aren't bad, either.

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A Boutique in Brazil's Saint-Tropez

Insolito Hotel & Spa - Brazil

Starting Monday 18/7 at 8pm BST

East of Rio de Janeiro, the sleepy fishing village of Armacao de Buzios - aka Buzios - first awoke in 1964, when a bikini-clad Brigitte Bardot set foot on shore. Now this hip resort area is often called the Saint-Tropez of Brazil, and the stylish Insolito Boutique Hotel fits right in. Spilling down a rocky hillside to beautiful Ferradura Beach, this intimate 20-room getaway, once a private villa, has been transformed by a French-born owner, featuring lush tropical gardens, two infinity pools, a wellness center and sweeping vistas over a beach-studded peninsula and emerald sea.

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Barefoot Chic in Honduras

Palmetto Bay Plantation

Starting Monday 18/7 at 8pm BST

This remote all-villas stunner on a secluded bay is a celeb favorite with a private island feel. Settle into the barefoot-chic luxury of this tropical resort and let the smiling staff pamper you with gourmet food and in-villa spa services. Get down to the business of relaxation as waves gently lap an arc of white sand, or go see what's out there with the on-site dive company and other nearby eco-adventure tours.

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