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From: ASMALLWORLD
Sent: Wed 8/31/2011 2:08:53 PM
Subject: ASW Travel Deals: End of Summer Getaways - New York, Las Vegas, London, Bangkok

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

The End of Summer

Summer is slowly slipping away (say it ain't so!), and to celebrate the close of our favorite season, we're presenting some of our favorite hotels in New York, Las Vegas, London, and Turkey. We're also featuring a Costa Rican surf school, a true African experience in Kenya, and even a Bikini Bootcamp in Mexico. It's going to be quite an autumn.

Glass and Steel Meet the LES

Hotel on Rivington - New York
Now Live

New York's Lower East Side has always been an immigrant neighborhood, offering a chance for reinvention to anyone bold enough to take it. It's a place that changes constantly, where downtown fashion, music and art now collide between old tenements and glass-and-steel towers. In recent years, it's shown up on tourist maps, thanks to the hip property that arrived here first: the Hotel on Rivington.

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Vegas Goes Venice

The Venetian - Las Vegas
Now Live

Italian romance meets Vegas glitz at the Strip's prized Venetian resort. The all-suite pampering palace buzzes with high rollers, L.A. socialites and suburban escapees, all seeking fabulous accommodations surrounded by endless action. With over 4,000 suites, 19 restaurants, 80 shops, a 120,000-square-foot mega-casino - and, of course, its own canals for gondola rides - the palatial Venetian somehow unites the opposing forces of quantity and quality.

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An Urban Sanctuary in a Bangkok Skyscraper

Anantara Bangkok Sathorn
Now Live

When this contemporary design hotel in twin 37-story skyscrapers opened, it received rave reviews for its on-site spa and fastidious, here-to-please staff - and that's saying something in a country known as "the land of smiles." In Bangkok's chaotic downtown heart, the Anantara Bangkok Sathorn is within easy

access of the financial and shopping districts, but it's also a great urban sanctuary to begin or end a Thai adventure.

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Classic Prep in New England

Basin Harbor Club - Vermont

Starting Thursday 1/9 at 5pm BST

Get fully immersed in old New England when you join this "club," which has been around for more than a century. On a winding road that ends at Lake Champlain, the resort is actually a sprawling collection of cottages and guesthouses with inn-type rooms clustered around a harbor. With tennis courts, a championship golf course and a private airstrip, it's a preppy scene; we're talking coats and ties each evening for guys 12 and older in the main dining room. That said, it's not stuffy. Visitors bring their dog, their kids or both. It's an only-in-Vermont air of refined chaos and downright cheerful surroundings.

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Atlantic Ocean Views in the Algarve

Cascade Wellness - Portugal

Now Live

The approach to Cascade Wellness and Lifestyle Resort is misleadingly urban, for once you climb the steep steps and enter through the beautifully designed portico, the view is of miles of open ocean. On a cliff edge above the Atlantic Ocean, this sport-and-spa-focused resort is just a few minutes from the historic town of Lagos and the golden beaches and natural parks of the still-pristine western Algarve.

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Bodrum's Hot Spot

Macakizi Hotel - Turkey

Now Live

"Maca Kizi" means "Queen of Spades" in Turkish, and this Bodrum hotel shimmers like a waterside palace, making guests feel like 21st-century royalty. All three parts of the resort - a hotel, a world-class restaurant, and a hip-happening beach club - recline on the side of the hill, covered with hot-pink bougainvillea and white-hot sunlight. The beautiful people come here, but so can everyone else.

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London's Restored Belle-Epoque Beauty

Corinthia Hotel London
Now Live

Corinthia Hotel London is one of the latest luxury hotels to (re-)open in the soon-to-be Olympic capital in the space of a year. Fresh from a major restoration and refurbishment, the Belle Epoque property houses 294 rooms, some on two levels in rooftop turrets, and a David Collins-designed bar and restaurant. But the showstopper is Espa Life, a four-story "next-generation" spa with an amphitheater sauna.

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The Ultimate All-Inclusive Castaway Vacation

Galley Bay - Antigua
Starting Thursday 1/9 at 8pm BST

Waves crashing along a three-quarter-mile sugar-sand beach, all-inclusive meals at three unique restaurants, beachfront rooms, private bungalows - this is the ultimate castaway vacation. Dive, surf or head to the spa, but regardless of how the days are spent at Galley Bay, the experience is more like staying at a friend's Caribbean estate than being a guest at a hotel.

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The Southern Belle on South Beach

Betsy Hotel - Miami
Starting Thursday 1/9 at 8pm BST

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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Surf, Spa and a VIP Concert in Costa Rica

Safari Surf School, Costa Rica
Starting Friday 2/9 at 8pm BST

Channel your inner surfer with this remote coastal retreat in Nosara, Costa Rica (about 155 miles west of San Jose), known for its wellness vibe and jungle surroundings. Nosara's beach offers a surfer haven that's great for learning, with shallow water and consistently curling swells. Included in the four-night package is a stay at the Balinese-inspired L'acqua Viva Resort & Spa, five surfing lessons with a local shredder, an ATV rental, spa credit and VIP

admission to see surf's favorite crooner, Donavan Frankenreiter, in concert.

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The Real-life "Out of Africa" Experience

Finch Hattons - Kenya

Starting Saturday 3/9 at 5pm BST

Karen Blixen's beloved Kenya is alive and kicking at Finch Hattons, a classic tented camp in the African bush that's as sexy as it is timeless. In Tsavo, Kenya's largest and least crowded national park, where volcanic rock and thorn trees meet sun-bleached grasslands, this rustic savannah hideaway offers a once-in-a-lifetime safari experience, reminiscent of a bygone era.

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The Best Island You've Never Heard Of

Angsana Bintan - Indonesia

Starting Sunday 4/9 at 8pm BST

Bintan Island, in the Riau archipelago, combines the natural beauty of Indonesia with the impeccable infrastructure of Singapore (an hour's ferry ride away). This is particularly true on the Tanjong Said Bay, a tropical escape for mainland urbanites. On the bay's north coast, the 109-room Angsana Bintan has all the things required in a beach vacation: thatched umbrellas and palm trees dotting a crescent of white sand, water and land sports, a waterfront restaurant and a relaxing spa.

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A Different Kind of Bootcamp...

Amansala Bikini Bootcamp

Starting Sunday 4/9 at 5pm BST

What better place to recharge than a secluded tropical setting once ruled by an ancient civilization that worshiped the sun. Centuries ago, Tulum was the center of Mayan culture. Today, it's still a magical place, where health-conscious sun-worshippers come to reconnect with nature and with their inner selves. For active travelers ready to refocus mentally and physically, Bikini Bootcamp offers the perfect fusion of organic meals, kick-butt exercise, yoga and meditation.

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Urban Luxury in Seoul

Banyan Tree Club & Spa Seoul
Starting Sunday 4/9 at 8pm BST

Seoul is an electrifying city, with elaborate temples right next to busy marquees that light up the night. This city's love of pop culture, fashion and nightlife can overwhelm even the savviest traveler. But with the power of the Banyan Tree brand behind it, the Club and Spa in Seoul acts as an urban oasis near the major tourist sights, soothing travelers with a stellar outdoor pool and a world-renowned spa.

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A Secret Retreat on Black Sand Beaches

Alila Manggis Resort - Bali
Starting Sunday 4/9 at 8pm BST

Serious hotel lovers across Asia think of this intimate refuge, in the shadow of holy Mount Agung, as a kind of secret handshake. Once you go, you're in the know, and most guests return to the black-sand beachfront on Bali's less developed eastern shore every year. Designed by Kerry Hill of Aman Resorts fame, two thatch-roofed Balinese wantilans (meeting hall-style buildings) house 55 sleek but homey guestrooms, all with bijou balconies or patios overlooking coconut groves and the Indian Ocean.

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