

THE BEST

THE BEST Private Swimming Pool

o many, so small. Your "private pool" is normally the size of a footbath. At Lux* South Ari Atoll, in the Temptation Pool Water Villa, you have a 14-metre infinity pool over the water with a glass floor. It's virtually Olympic, surpassing any showy-offy pool in HNW Berkshire, allowing you to swim naked with azure sea below, maybe turtles. There's a cabana on the wooden terrace for tanning and an air-conditioned room for dealing with emails and writing that novel. Just poddle down the steps into the lagoon, and you can, on expeditions, swim with benign whale sharks. hayesandjarvis.co.uk





PRIVATE ISLAND

We could be Pippa Middleton and cast away at The Brando on honeymoon, but Cambodia is the edgy place to be. Australians Rory and Melita Hunter threw heart and soul



into Sona Saa island in the Koh Rong archipelago, creating the Song Saa Foundation, a turtle preservation programme, and have done everything that appeals to the eco-spiritual soul. Jolly and jungly but

with private pool villas, nothing is over the top. The food is organic and the wellness centres are the way we want to live now. redsavannah.com



t Machu Picchu and Iguazu Falls, Belmond scores a right and a left. Why hang out with the hordes? For Machu Picchu in Peru, perfection is taking the Belmond Hiram Bingham Train to the Sanctuary Lodge. It is the only hotel, and right at the entrance to the sacred site, and you can come and go uninhib-

ited. Alfredo Mormontoy Atayupanqui, the former resident archaeologist, can give you a private tour. The Iguazu Falls is three kilometres of water thunder between Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay. "Poor Niagara!" remarked Eleanor Roosevelt when she saw it. Stay at the Belmond Hotel das Cataratas. plansouthamerica.com



The Plaza Athénée, Pariswhere Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor lived for six months and Carrie Bradshaw moved for the final episode of Sex and the City-has a secret. Alain Ducasse has a private chef's table in his kitchen that is like an adorable foodie grotto. Steamed langoustine and caviar anyone? Perhaps a little Asian broth with lemongrass and ginger? Chef's tables became a bit ho-hum, but Ducasse's is different, charming, perfect, and the hotel has had a vivid restoration. Who could resist Ducasse's dishes, channelling Louis XV, and three flat-screen TVs showing you all the action from chickens with Moray mushrooms to a chef plucking

a dish with tweezers? dorchestercollection.com







THE BEST Private Cinema

The Whitby Hotel is the latest kid on the block of West 56th Street and 5th Avenue joining MoMA, the Park Hyatt, the divine bar at the Baccarat, Central Park, too much temptation from Uniqlo and the famed John Barrett's hair salon at Bergdorf Goodman. The Whitby is the latest baby grand from Tim and Kit Kemp of the divine Crosby Street Hotel. The Whitby Theater is a drop-dead Technicolor cinema with electric orange leather chairs and and bright blue fabric walls (never let it be said Kim Kemp is afraid of colour). The Kemps perfected private cinemas at their London hotels in Covent Garden and Charlotte Street—super-civilized when every other screening room in Soho looked like a brothel. firmdalehotels.com