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THE PRIVATE JET LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

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Winter Escapes

WE PRESENT OUR ANNUAL
TOP 100 SUITES AROUND THE
WORLD — AND THE BEST JETS
TO TAKE YOU THERE

A beautiful new château in the French countryside amazes, and the Four Seasons' first property in Los Cabos unites you with nature.
by Becca Hensley and Emma Reynolds

New HOTELS

The hotel's grand exterior

Hotel Château du Grand-Lucé

GRAND-LUCÉ, LOIRE VALLEY, FRANCE

Picnicking on a blanket atop a grassy knoll shaded by trees, steps from a medieval wall, within sight of centuries-old, Greek-themed statues gifted by King Louis XV, guests at the newly opened Hotel Château du Grand-Lucé in France's Loire Valley may lose perspective. So timeless are the rose and apple-blossom-scented gardens, so captivating the view of the white 18th-century Neoclassical masterpiece, so lullaby-like the serenade of geese on the lake, vacationers might imagine themselves blissfully lost in another century. The château was built beginning in 1760 by Baron Jacques Pineau de Viennay, a favored advisor to Louis XV, with no expense spared in order to embody the best design elements of its era. Since then, it has served as salon space for the Age of Enlightenment's literati (including Voltaire and

Rousseau), been a hidden cache for the Louvre's art during the Nazi occupation, served a stint as a war hospital and was the private home of world-famous interior designer Timothy Corrigan. Today, its storied legacy lives on thanks to a meticulous restoration of the property and its gardens. In June 2019, the castle re-emerged as the Hotel Château, with 17 rooms and suites, reimagined, refurbished and redecorated by Pilot Hotels to its former grandeur, but with modern élan — just as the baron himself surely would have wanted.

FRENCH STYLE

A 45,000-sq-ft haven that lords over 80 acres of manicured gardens and forest, the château is a destination itself. It lies in the heart of an idyllic Loire Valley village, just an hour's train ride from Paris. Inside is a haven of curated antiques with bushels of velvet, silk and damask; gold gilt and sterling silver; crystal chandeliers; custom wallpaper; local limestone; original flooring; snow-white marble; and the occasional exposed rough-hewn beam. With such a bounty of extravagant materials and charm,

Hotel Château enchants inside and out. Outside, a pool in the Exotic Garden occupies a former fountain, a bevy of garden paths and mazes beckon, nooks inspire (think: passionate conversations fueled by fabulous local wine) and a ballroom, once the estate's stables, invites waltzing. The restaurant, Le Lucé, serves regional French food with seasonal daily menus and products harvested from the château's gardens. Intimate service ensures "your wish is my command" staff interaction on every level.

STAY

Opt for the Baron's Suite. Extravagant with 17-ft-tall ceilings, Versailles-patterned oak floors, and abundant sumptuous fabrics and furnishings, it encompasses a library, three entrances, huge windows and a marbled bath. Most astonishing is its separate Salon Chinois that boasts original canvas-flanked walls with Chinoiserie paintings by artist Jean-Baptiste Pillement. It is one of only two such works in the world — the other is in Versailles.

EXPLORE

A majestic home base to discover the famed castles and family-owned wineries of the Loire Valley, Hotel Château excels at arranging bespoke itineraries, sharing historical anecdotes and deftly handling support details like arranging rental cars and picnic lunches. Don't miss the chance to drive through local villages, alongside farms and sunflower fields, to visit such famous châteaux as Chenonceau (Catherine de Medici's home) and Clos Lucé (the domain of Leonardo da Vinci). Other activities? Go antiquing at Le Chartre-sur-le-Loir, a village that brims with ateliers and shops. Bike or horseback ride through the Bercé Forest — or hover above the valley in a hot-air balloon. Culture aficionados should definitely see the cathedral's labyrinth in Chartres and the walled city of Le Mans.

The Baron's Suite from \$15,000. Contact Michael Gregory, managing director, info@chateaugrandluce.com, +33 255 484 040, chateaugrandluce.com





From top
The hotel's indoor-outdoor lobby; your adventure concierge will organize an outdoor excursion

Four Seasons Los Cabos at Costa Palmas

BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR, MEXICO

Once a private hideaway in the mid- to late-20th century for famous authors like John Steinbeck, and rock stars needing to escape, the East Cape region of Los Cabos is the next luxury destination for those seeking a quieter alternative to Cabo San Lucas. After years of development, the highly anticipated Four Seasons property is finally opening its oversized wooden doors in the Costa Palmas community — and the wait is well worth it. The hotel allows travelers easy access to the best of Mexico: a tranquil, even-tempered oceanfront with two miles of white-sand beach (swimmable, shallow and absent of seaweed buildup), lush vegetation and, of course, the desert. In a departure from most hotels in the area, Four Seasons delivers a sleek, modern feel through minimalistic interior decor and exterior architecture, with nods to the region through woven textiles, pops of bold colors and natural materials. The hotel marries rich tradition with sports, adventure and wellness — the Oasis Spa Wellness Center offers traditional well-being rituals — all in a zen-like setting, and also has residences and a prime location next to the first Four Seasons marina (a haven for superyachts). What takes center stage, however, are the sparkling views over the Sea of Cortez and the looming Sierra de la Laguna Mountains. It is so private and remote that when you return home, you'll want to tell everyone and no one at the same time.

STAY

It's impossible to have a less-than-ideal room here, as all 141 rooms and suites face the ocean. But if you're



after something exceptional, the three-bedroom, 3,500-sq-ft Presidential Villa will amaze you. The beachfront space has a residential feel with a muted color palette and variety of artwork in its living spaces, bedrooms and bathrooms. There are floor-to-ceiling windows in nearly every room, which perfectly highlight the bright-blue water. Ideal for families, the villa also comes with a kitchen, multiple living spaces, many outdoor terraces for lounging in the sun and three private plunge pools (because one is never enough). Of course, the hotel's pool is just a stone's throw away, as is the ocean.

DINE

Fresh fare abounds at the seaside hotel. At its five restaurants, nearly all of the vegetables and herbs are sourced from the property's 18 acres of organic farms and orchards. The seafood? Directly from the Sea of Cortez. You can be as involved in your personal dining experience as you like: Allow the hotel's farmers to give you a tour of the gardens and orchards and teach you about the sustainable farming methods on property. Or, head out to sea with the chef from the

hotel's Casa de Brasa restaurant to catch your own fish before he cooks it for you for lunch or dinner. If relaxing with wine or cocktails while your chef prepares your dinner is more your speed, El Puesto has ceviche made from fresh local fish, while fine-dining Mediterranean restaurant, Estiatorio Milos from chef Costas Spiliadis, is inspired by several global cuisines. Alfresco meals are best enjoyed beachside at the farm-to-table, Limón, near a lemon tree grove.

ADVENTURE

The East Cape region of Los Cabos beckons both adventure-seeking and relaxed travelers alike, thanks to its remote location situated far from Los Cabos' tourist traps. The area is bursting at the seams with activities, so it's possible a week might not be enough to experience them all. When the options become too overwhelming, the hotel's Adventure Concierge will put together the perfect itinerary for the duration of your stay — and your level of bravery. They can help organize everything from a diving excursion at the Unesco Marine Heritage Site, Cabo Pulmo Marine Park; a hiking trip at Sol de Mayo; ATV tours through the Sierra de la Laguna Mountains; private boat cruises; zip lining; sport fishing; swimming with fish and whale sharks; and quieter adventures to nearby museums, galleries and cultural landmarks. Thanks to the calm water and swimmable beach (a rarity in Los Cabos), you can partake in plenty of water sports, such as stand-up paddleboarding, windsurfing and kayaking. Sport aficionados will love the Robert Trent Jones Jr. Costa Palmas Golf Course, two tennis courts, basketball and volleyball courts, and four pools.

Presidential Villa from \$8,000 per night. Contact Niamh Hartel, travel industry sales manager, niamh.hartel@fourseasons.com, +52 624 869 0292, fourseasons.com