

COUNTRY & TOWN HOUSE

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

SEPTEMBER 2017

A DOG'S DINNER

*Truffle hunting
in Tuscany*

COUNTRY SPORTS

THE BRIEF SHEET ON SHOOTING

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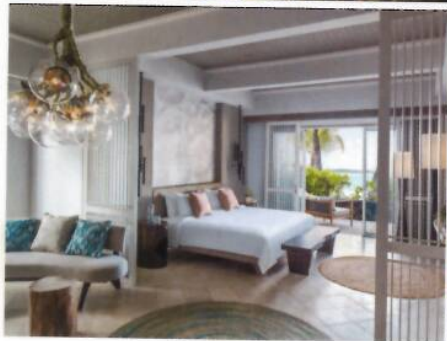
*Dresses for
countryside*

THE PHANTOM RETURN

*Rolls-Royce goes
beyond bespoke*

UP, UP & AWAY
AIR BALLOON
OVER
ATACAMA





2 SHANGRI-LA LE TOUESSROK, *Mauritius*

Mauritius is the remedy for winter blues – especially after Shangri-La's \$48m overhaul – the sun is shining and the beaches are classic brochure. Hop on that flight (yes, it's 12 hours but it's direct) and leave behind London's grimy streets. There are beaches everywhere you look, plus two islands reached by the hotel boat – one is just for guests, and the other one has an 18-hole golf course. Staff go zipping along the sand on Segways delivering fruit platters and drinks to beached guests. There are two pools – one is blissfully child-free – and a bells-and-whistles kids' club. At dinner you see how this island is a melting pot of Asia, India, Africa and Europe – the five restaurants include Indian, Japanese, a couple of beach-front grills and an international buffet. You can get out and explore colonial plantations and national parks, but this Indian Ocean gem is really made for spoiling relaxation in picture-postcard surrounds. Between eating, beaching, water sports and trying that Mauritian coconut massage in the spa, you may find time just slips through your fingers.

BOOK IT: Susie Freeman Travel offers seven nights half board from £1,500pp, including flights and transfers. susiefreemantravel.com

3 KATA ROCKS, *Phuket, Thailand*

There can be no better place for a sundowner and a sunset view than this chic white gleaming resort, perched on the southern tip of Phuket in Kata on the rocks (the name's a bit of a giveaway). Only three years old, its sophisticated vibe – there are 34 sky lodges with one to four bedrooms, all coming with snazzy kitchens, living areas, private pools, everything controlled by iPad and your own 'rock star' (a naff name but basically a personal butler) – is most apparent come evening when a smart crowd arrives to drink lemongrass-infused cocktails by the infinity pool to a cool soundtrack before feasting on sizzling chilli tiger prawns or a killer Thai beef salad. And there's nowhere more comforting to retreat to after an afternoon's shopping in Patong (ten-minute vaginal lifts, tattoo parlours and the Tiger Night Club are non-essentials) than the award-winning spa with its sumptuous Ila product-based treatments. The Thais can't be faulted when it comes to massage – they're just naturals and with all the superb stretching, strong hands and unctuous oils – you leave smelling like an oriental herb garden and feeling at least two inches taller.

BOOK IT: Ocean Front Sky Villas from £560 B&B. katarocks.com

