

By Daniel Scheffler

# Global eye

## Things to do, buy, see and try



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**1. PARIS, FRANCE** La Maison Champs-Élysées has always added a distinctive aesthetic to the French capital. The hotel, designed by Maison Martin Margiela, now also presents the “blind bar”, with designer Philippe di Méo at the helm. The dark, shadowy space – in which bottles and their ingredients are obscured, compelling patrons to guess which drink is which – adds a whole new edge to Happy Hour! ☞ [www.lamaisonchampselysees.com/the-blind-bar.html](http://www.lamaisonchampselysees.com/the-blind-bar.html)



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**2. DALLAS, TEXAS, USA** The recently-revamped Joule Hotel has opened, featuring a flagship ESPA Spa designed by Adam T Tihany, a rooftop garden terrace with a climate-controlled pavilion and some very exciting retail offerings, like Traffic

Play (featuring the Comme des Garçons Play range). ☞ [www.thejouledallas.com](http://www.thejouledallas.com)



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**3. HONG KONG** St George used to be a place where senior English civil servants and *tai-pans* would kick back after a busy day, with fine fare, vintage port and choice cigars. Today the restaurant is still the most intimate setting in town. ☞ <http://hulletthouse.com/dining/st-george>



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**4. VENICE, ITALY** Few places are as relaxing as Palladio's Spa, close to St Mark's Square. From the Dr Vitalis steam cocoon to the open-air massages, the establishment offers a well-deserved escape from the waterways and tiny streets. ☞ [www.palladiohotelspa.com](http://www.palladiohotelspa.com)

**5. SINGAPORE** The much-awarded Pollen at Gardens by the Bay is the acme of fine dining in the city. The culinary direction taken by British chef Jason Atherton means the food's Mediterranean, just the way we like it – all about the ingredients. The ambience is warm and welcoming. ☞ [www.pollen.com.sg](http://www.pollen.com.sg)



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**6. COPENHAGEN, DENMARK** Although liquorice was traditionally seen as a sweetmeat, that perception is now changing, thanks to Danish brand Lakrids. It promotes the use of the anise plant (which is actually a legume) as a spice, in the tradition of the salty version, beloved by northern Europeans. ☞ <http://liquorice.nu>



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**7. BROOKLYN, USA** Found Object, owned by South African siblings Judith Sakinofsky and Salvo Stoch, is a decor and jewellery business at the Brooklyn docks and is filled with great gifting items. From textiles to jewellery, rugs and tableware, the business now ships globally. ☞ [www.foundobject.co](http://www.foundobject.co)

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**8. GUANACASTE, COSTA RICA**

Not only has the Andaz Peninsula Papagayo – a Hyatt hotel – just opened its doors but Cultural Insiders (experts on local attractions), brothers and surfing aficionados Alex and Mike Faherty are providing guests with their own *How to Surf Costa Rica* guidelines. ☑ <http://papagayo.andaz.hyatt.com>

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**9. AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS** Since its launch in 1867, the Amstel Hotel has been the ultimate grand Dutch residence. Now, with its Dom Perignon Suite, it's taken luxury and exclusivity to a whole new level – and, naturally, guests are greeted with a glass of the bubbly itself. ☑ <http://amsterdam.intercontinental.com>



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