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THE UPGRADE

IT USED TO BE ALL ABOUT AMAN. NOW
NEW GAME-CHANGERS HAVE OTHER IDEAS

Choosing where to check in was more straightforward two decades ago. Four Seasons and Mandarin Oriental were global bywords in smart, reliable places to stay, Singita was starting to trailblaze the safari scene, people got their winter sun at Le Touessrok in Mauritius, Chiva-Som was the be-all and end-all of spa retreats and Soho House's Babington was shaking the dust off the chintzy country-house weekend escape. While

these extraordinary hotels are still going strong, a gang of newcomers are not only at the top of their game, but also making a difference. Song Saa in Cambodia and Sri Lanka's Resplendent Ceylon with their philanthropic mantras, for instance. Elsewhere, 1Hotels is leading the way with eco-savvy buildings in city hotspots. Liz Lambert's Bunkhouse Group and Mama Shelter are bringing high design and low prices to the streets of Paris, LA and Austin. And cult hotelier/perfumier Coqui Coqui is branching out to Bora Bora. Here are four more forward-thinking names we've got our eye on. ISSY VON SIMSON



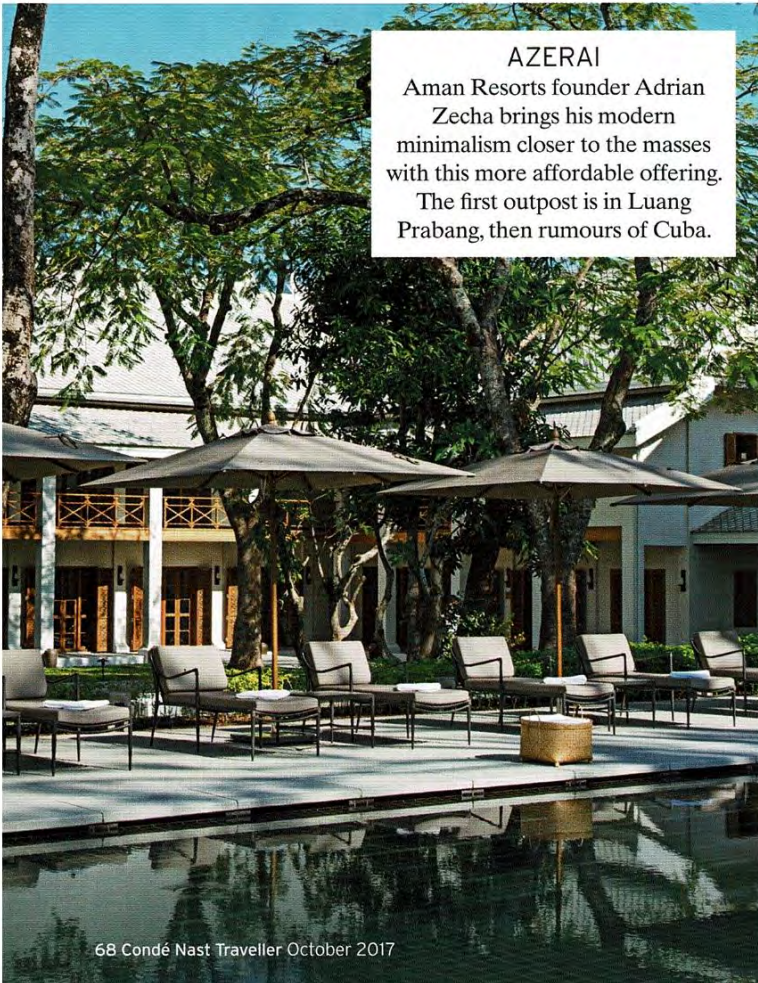
NIHI HOTELS

Nihiwatu – now Nihi Sumba Island – is right up there with North Island as a next-level, off-grid escape with a humanitarian twist, channelling its profits into the local community. Fiji to follow.



AZERAI

Aman Resorts founder Adrian Zecha brings his modern minimalism closer to the masses with this more affordable offering. The first outpost is in Luang Prabang, then rumours of Cuba.



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