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THE HOTELS ISSUE

HOT NIGHTS, COOL ROOMS, STUNNING STAYS

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JULY/AUGUST 2006
WINTER ISSUE

TRAVEL + LEISURE

INSIDE: 24 PAGES OF FOOD, WINE AND RECIPES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Yau, of London's Hakkasan and Yanatcha, is set to open a ground-level boite with leafy views of the park across the street. **DON'T MISS** A stroll in Gramercy Park, Manhattan's only private park, and hotel guests are given the key. **THE FACTS** 2 Lexington Avenue; +1 212 920 3300; www.gramercyparkhotel.com; doubles from \$598.

THE LONDON NEW YORK CITY

PEDIGREE LXR Luxury Resorts is transforming Midtown's Ribiga Royal into a cross-branding nirvana, with a little help from its A-list friends. A master of urban glamour, designer David Collins will introduce the same sleek sensibility (glossy satin, leather, sexy mood lighting) that turned the Berkeley Hotel's Blue Bar into a red-hot scene for the coolest Britons in London. Bad-boy chef Gordon Ramsay gets a chance to play nice in a dining room patterned after his Chelsea restaurant, where he first gained attention for an aggressively contemporary menu. **WHAT TO EXPECT** The elite global concierge will handle guests' every whim (private jets, box seats, after-hours shopping) without blinking. And the Golden Door will bring its 24-carat fitness routines to a work-out studio with two private outdoor decks. **ROOM STATS** Some 500 rooms, including 10 suites and 40 studios. **COOL FACTOR** Waterworks will make a splash with its custom line of bath fixtures, apothecary products, towels and robes. **T+L TIP** Check out Ramsay's informal bar menu, which »

the planning. The lodge must be booked for exclusive use, with the room rate including breakfasts and four-course dinners. **T+L TIP** The master bedroom features a two-metre square bed, hand-built by Savoir in England, with adjustable mattress tensions, and its own ensuite; the other guests in the group will be sharing a bathroom. **DON'T MISS** Taking a helicopter flight over The Twelve Apostles. **THE FACTS** Parkers Access Road, Yuelong, Victoria; 03 5237 5208; www.moonlighthead.com. Doubles start at \$3000 and rise to \$3800 for eight people, two night minimum stay.

UNITED STATES GRAMERCY PARK HOTEL NEW YORK CITY

Could the Gramercy Park Hotel possibly have more panache? Apparently, yes. Long a favourite haunt of artists and rock stars, this shabbily genteel institution is getting a multimillion-dollar makeover under its new owner, Ian Schrager. The boutique-hotel impresario has enlisted artist Julian Schnabel to create its interior. **WHAT TO EXPECT** The hotel is bound to have an eclectic vibe with Schabel's input. "It's a completely new aesthetic for me—more original, individual, and bohemian," Schrager says. **ROOM STATS** Forty-six suites and 139 rooms. **T+L TIP** Michelin-starred chef Alan

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for his design of environmentally sensitive small-scale buildings, and the lodge at Moonlight Head is no exception. The long, single-storey structure in brick, steel and glass with its prominent vertical skylights has an almost industrial feel. But it is softened by the interior decor: furniture by B&B Italia, Pelton Frau and Cassina, Persian carpets and magnificent paintings of gardens and flowers by New Zealand artist Karl Maughan. **COOL FACTOR** Exclusivity is the key to Moonlight Head, at least until the hotel is completed, currently scheduled for late 2007. Two of the five lodges will be for private sale, providing a rare opportunity to buy a slice of Murcutt. Luxurious touches in the lodge include David Meller cutlery, Jasper Conran for Wedgwood china and an Aveo Villeroy & Boch bath. The in-house chef designs menus to suit guests' individual tastes. **ROOM STATS** The four-bedroom, two-bathroom lodge is the first of three destined for the site, with a 54-room hotel also in

HERE IS AN EXCLUSIVE LOOK AT THE COOLEST NEW (AND SOON-TO-OPEN) PROPERTIES AROUND THE GLOBE, FROM NEW YORK TO DUBAI

AUSTRALIA MOONLIGHT HEAD GREAT OCEAN ROAD, VICTORIA

PEDIGREE The Great Ocean Road is widely regarded as Australia's most beautiful coastal drive, featuring world-class surf beaches, laid-back coastal resorts and the spectacular Twelve Apostles rock formations. But until now it hasn't had any accommodation that could be labelled luxe. Moonlight Head, set on the highest headland on the Great Ocean Road north-west of Cape Orway, is about to change that. Australia's Pritzker Prize-winning architect Glenn Murcutt has designed a complex that includes five lodges (the first of which is opening as we go to print) and a hotel of around 54 rooms. **WHAT TO**

