

VIRTUOSO LIFE

\$5.95



Stellar
109 HOTELS
WHERE YOU'RE A STAR
THE BEST OF BEVERLY HILLS VILLA STAYS ULTIMATE ESCAPES



AWAY FROM IT ALL

A PRIVATE PENINSULA ON THE MED, A FAR-FLUNG FIVE-BUNGALOW SAFARI LODGE, LUXE TENTS ON AN INDONESIAN NATURE RESERVE: AT THESE **15** ULTIMATE-ESCAPE RESORTS, SOLITUDE IS LUXURY NUMBER ONE.

BY JENNI AVINS

Just you and the view at Molori Safari Lodge.

THE HOOK:

Rice paper-rolled prawns served alongside your private infinity pool.

56 rooms

The only way to arrive at **Six Senses Yao Noi** is by motorboat or helicopter – which is to say, quickly and noisily. But once guests set foot on the lush jungle island in Phang Nga Bay, they acclimate to a quieter pace. The resort’s eco-luxe trappings include thatched-roof villas that blend with the surrounding mangrove forests, private infinity pools with seamless views of the turquoise sea, and local specialties such as rice paper-rolled prawns with fresh mint and sweet chili. The main house boasts sunken bars, pools, and a wine cellar. And a personal butler will deliver a Champagne breakfast or barbecue beneath the stars for those who prefer seclusion and the sounds of the jungle. *Doubles from \$915, including breakfast daily and one 60-minute massage per person.*

THAILAND
UTTER SECLUSION



Padding around at Six Senses Yao Noi’s spa.

THE HOOK:

Seek relaxation in steaming natural hot spring waters.

77 rooms

At Japan’s **Hoshinoya Karuizawa** spa and resort, in a rural village alongside a river of healing hot springs, cultural immersion takes on a literal, delectable definition. Since 1914, the site has attracted Japan’s poets, priests, and emperors. The area was spared damage during the recent earthquake, and today you can continue the tradition of solace seekers in the valley, about 90 miles northwest of Tokyo. Sink into your villa’s private tub of steaming spring water, or alternate between the spa’s warm and cool meditation pools. Raised riverside walkways connecting private villas to Hoshinoya’s teahouse and library also lead into town, where galleries feature local crafts and creameries scoop Japanese-style gelato. *Doubles from \$550, including breakfast daily and one tea service or guided nature tour.*



Rich history: Laucala formerly belonged to Malcolm Forbes.

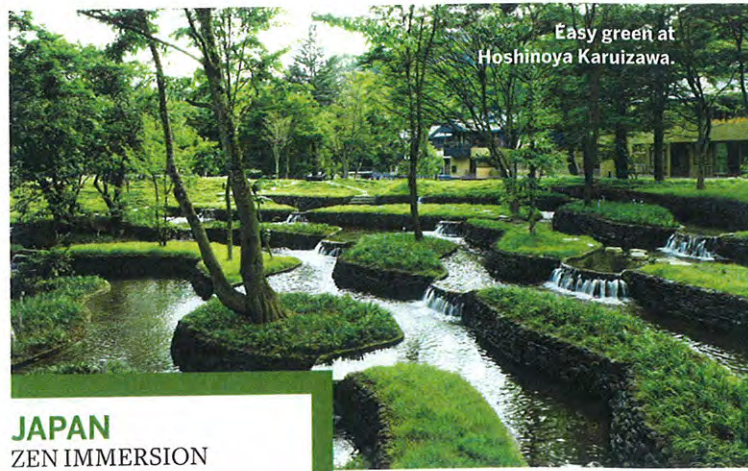
FIJI
SOUTH SEAS STORYBOOK

THE HOOK:

Wake up in your overwater villa and take a dip in the South Pacific.

25 villas

Peter Pan’s Neverland, a jungle island with “astonishing splashes of color here and there, and coral reefs and rakish-looking craft in the offing,” exists only in the imagination. But 25-room **Laucala Island**, in the Fiji archipelago, sounds pretty close, right down to that “rakish-looking craft” – actually a private terraced villa on stilts over the island’s emerald lagoon. There, wake up with tropical fruits, coffee, and honey from Laucala’s 240-acre farm and slide straight into the South Pacific to explore soft coral reefs and rocky outcroppings. In the storybook version, growing up meant exile for a Lost Boy. Anyone feel a bout of Peter Pan syndrome coming on? *Doubles from \$3,800, including all meals, beverages, and activities; daily laundry and dry cleaning; a spa day; and one lesson with a golf pro.*



Easy green at Hoshinoya Karuizawa.

JAPAN
ZEN IMMERSION