

SPECIAL
DOUBLE
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THE GOLD LIST 2020

THE EDITORS' ALL-TIME FAVOURITE PLACES TO STAY

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HONEYMOON GUIDE

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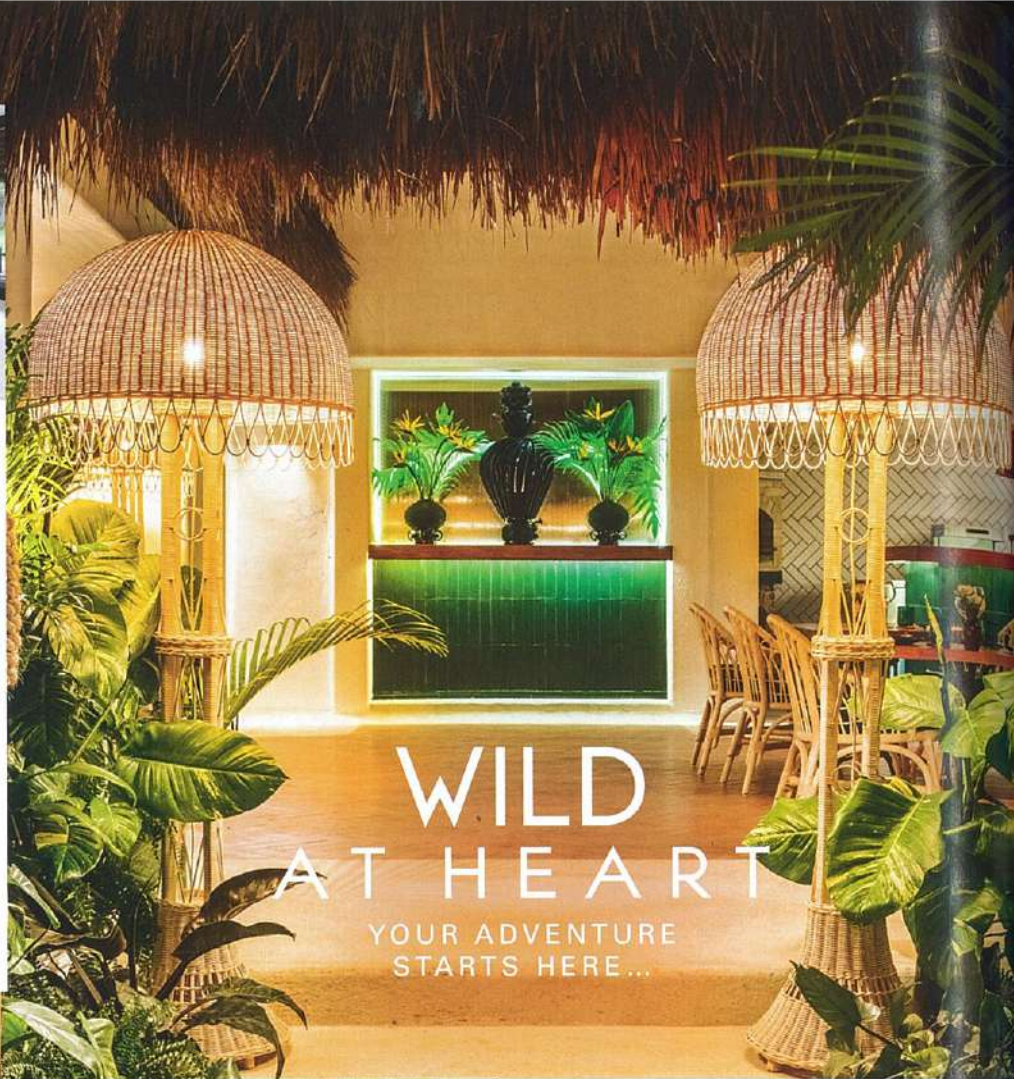
Travel
CREATIVE IDEAS



HOTEL ESENCIA, MEXICO

Originally built as the private home of an Italian duchess, this 50-acre estate sits halfway between Tulum and Playa del Carmen – and yet, miraculously, it still feels like a hush-hush secret hideaway. Here on one of the only remaining undeveloped shores of the Riviera Maya, the Yucatán jungle meets the white sand of Xpu-Há beach, where each year sea turtles make their nests. Splash out on one of the new, all-white penthouse suites (one comes with its own private section of beach; another, a heated plunge pool and Champagne bar) and spend go-slow days drifting between a hammock, the spa and sensational snorkelling on the barrier reef, a five-minute catamaran ride away (there are Mayan ruins nearby, too). After a seafood supper at Mistura restaurant, the beach bar is a romantic spot for a few Oaxacan daiquiris.

hotelesencia.com



**WILD
AT HEART**
YOUR ADVENTURE
STARTS HERE...



**CONSTANCE EPHELIA,
SEYCHELLES**

Overlooking Port Launay Marine National Park from its headland perch on the island of Mahé, this resort tumbles down onto two white-sand beaches. Everything feels supersized, from the spacious palm-thatched suites and secluded hillside villas to the U Spa by Constance – the largest in the Indian Ocean – which has a steam room and sauna, yoga pavilion and treatment huts dotted among the trees for a relaxing couple's massage. Not to mention the dizzying number of bars and restaurants; book ahead for dinner at the smartest, Cyann, where chefs fuse French cooking techniques with Asian influences. There are all kinds of sports, from tennis, squash and diving to zip-lining and rock climbing, or simply flop by one of the pools, sip refreshing juices and soak up the surroundings. *constancehotels.com*

**SHANGRI-LA'S RASA RIA RESORT
& SPA, BORNEO**

Set within a 400-acre patch of dense tropical forest with pristine Pantai Dalit Beach to the front and the sun rising over majestic Mount Kinabalu in the distance, this hotel is geared up for thrilling nature-based adventure: galloping along the sand on horseback, deep-sea fishing, zip-lining high above the jungle canopy. There are also after-dark walks with night-vision goggles to spot nocturnal creatures in the on-site nature reserve, water sports and an 18-hole championship golf course where you can practise your swing with the resident pro. You'll be spoilt for choice at the six restaurants, too, which include Japanese teppanyaki dishes at Kozan, Malaysian street food at Tepi Laut and Indian dishes at Naan. *shangri-la.com*

