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## PRESS RELEASE

### WHAT IS NEW FOR 2023

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2022 marked the return of travel post pandemic with pent up demand, record weeks and months for leading luxury tour operator Elegant Resorts. While the cost-of-living crisis deepens there is no sign of its impact on the luxury travel sector so far and 2023 is looking promising with new destinations, tours and hotels and resorts opening around the globe.

Here is what the Elegant Resorts' team is looking forward to this year:

#### **New destinations:**

**Saudi Arabia's Red Sea** – A brand-new luxury regenerative destination on the West Coast of Saudi Arabi. Surrounded by the world's fourth largest barrier reef system it is home to over 90 islands, stunning beaches, dormant volcanoes, desert dunes, canyons and cultural sites. The Red Sea will welcome its first guests this year with 12 hotels opening including the Ritz-Carlton Reserve Nujuma and Jumeirah Red Sea.

**Turkey** – Elegant Resorts will be adding the city of Istanbul and Cappadocia to its programme and more accommodation choices in Bodrum. In Istanbul Mandarin Oriental and Six Senses Kocatas Mansions Hotel are two of the most recent additions.

**Zimbabwe** – A new safari destination with dramatic landscapes and diverse wildlife, ideal for nature lovers. Highlights includes Hwange National Park with its amazing range of wildlife, excellent guiding and the mighty Victoria Falls. There are great accommodation options such as the grandest and oldest hotel, Victoria Falls Hotel, and Victoria Falls River Lodge with its luxury tents, treehouse suites and private villa. Both are ideally situated to go river rafting, experience safari trips and travel on the Bushtracks Express.

**Finland** – A winter wonderland offering an incredible choice of experiences from reindeer sledding to snow shoeing with a good chance of experiencing the elusive Northern Lights. Elegant Resorts will be adding a great choice of hotels including Wilderness Hotel Nangu for remote arctic wilderness including the environmentally friendly Aurora rooms on Lake Inari. Also added to the programme is Aurora Village and its incredible glass roof cabins or "igloos".

## New itineraries

**Italian journeys** – New itineraries to launch later in 2023 to discover the best of Italy in style, from the Amalfi Coast to Puglia, around Sicily, or Lake Garda and the Dolomites and more.

**South Africa** – With the pound to rand exchange rate as it is, 2023 is a great year to visit. Elegant Resorts is about to launch an epic itinerary packed with unforgettable experiences and tours. Highlights include an excursion to Cape Point Peninsula with its stunning beaches and penguins, helicopter transfers to Franschhoek, winelands tour, safaris in Kruger National Park and a stay by the Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe including a helicopter flight over the falls. The choice of hotel is equally special with intimate and stylish Ellerman House in Cape Town, foodie heaven Babylonstoren in the Winelands and the Victoria Falls River Lodge Island Treehouse Suites on private Kandahar Island with stunning views of the Zambezi.

## What's new worldwide

### Europe: Hot destination of the year

#### Mallorca

**Virgin Limited Edition Son Bunyola Hotel:** Opening on 16 June, the hotel is set in the Tramuntana region of Mallorca in a 15<sup>th</sup> century restored Finca surrounded by vines, citrus fruit and olive trees. It is part of the 810-acre Son Bunyola Estate, home to three stand-alone luxury villas.

**Hotel Son Net by Finca Cortesin:** Due to open in April, the 17<sup>th</sup> century estate with its own vineyard and citrus orchards is set in the foothills of the Tramuntana Mountains just 15 minutes from Palma. The stylishly understated property has been carefully restored by the team behind Finca Cortesin in Andalusia and is filled with art. The property will feature a 1,000 square metre spa and multiple pools.

**Ikos Porto Petro** - Ikos Porto Petro will open in Mallorca in June between Calo dets Homes Morts and Calo de Sa Torre coves with 319 rooms, suites and bungalows while cliff-hanging three and four bedroom suites will open in 2024. The resort will offer the usual Ikos all-inclusive concept including the Ikos Dine-Out experience allowing guests to eat at selected local restaurants.

### Greece expansion

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**Ikos Odisia** – Ikos Odisia is opening in May in Corfu in the secluded and protected Dassia Bay on 60 acres of land. With five restaurants and 10 swimming pools as well as a kids club and spa, this is the ideal place for a fun family holiday. The resort will offer the usual Ikos all-inclusive concept including the Ikos Dine-Out experience allowing guests to eat at selected local restaurants.

**Mandarin Oriental Costa Navarino** – Located in the Southwest of the Peloponnese in the Bay of Navarino, this is the first Mandarin Oriental in Greece. The resort will open in Spring 2023 and its unique contemporary design is aligned with Costa Navarino's sustainable principles with its use of local materials and planted roofs. There will also be an expansive spa with an indoor pool with magnificent bay views.

**One&Only Aesthesis and One&Only Kea Island** – Both resorts are opening their doors early Summer and will offer the perfect Greek twin-centre holiday. One&Only Aesthesis is located on the Athenian Riviera sprawling over 50 hectares of beachfront. The resort channels the glamour of 1960's Athens and is inspired by azure waters and the natural surroundings while keeping the One&Only approach to intimacy and seclusion. The resort will feature a Chenot Spa with tailored treatments and pioneering programmes. One&Only Kea Island will be just a one-hour boat away in a 65-hectare beachfront site. Kea Island offers breath-taking natural beauty with landscapes peppered with vineyards, olive groves, trails and pretty villages as well as unspoilt beaches and hidden coves.

**Cosme Paros** – The property opened in June 2022 and is set in a quiet bay beside the village of Naoussa on Paros. Cosme is built like a traditional whitewashed village complete with its own square fountain. The stargazing deck on its rooftop is not to be missed.

## Rest of Europe

**Six Senses Rome, Italy** - The first Six Senses property in Italy will open in March this year. The property is set in a palazzo being restored by interior designer Patricia Urquiola. It will have a stunning roof terrace with panoramic views of the Eternal City.

**Six Senses Crans Montana, Switzerland** – “Swiss Chalet architecture and Alpine sophistication”, the hotel is to open in February 2023 with 78 rooms including one-to-three-bedroom suites, three restaurants and 21,500 square feet spa with treatment rooms, a yoga studio, an indoor and a rooftop pool and more.

**Domes Lake Algarve, Portugal** – The resort opening in April 2023 and is part of the fastest growing hotel group in the Mediterranean. Near Vilamoura, the hotel is inspired by its eco-protected landscape and offers a hyper luxury Haute Living

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section. Domes Lake Algarve has its own private saltwater lake and private access to Praia de Falesia beach as well as four swimming pools. It is the ideal location to try on a host of activities including clam and oyster picking and sailing. It has a spa combining ancient Greek methods with contemporary healing techniques.

## Caribbean

### Grenada

**Six Senses at La Sagesse** – This resort will be the brand's debut in the Caribbean. Located in the southern part of the island, it is designed to resemble a Caribbean village and will offer a variety of indoor and outdoor restaurants and bars using fresh ingredients grown nearby and seafood from local fishermen. Six Senses at La Sagesse is expected to open towards the end of the year.

**Beach House by Silversands** – Scheduled to open in Summer 2023, this small luxury boutique hotel is nestled behind and atop a protective cliff on Portici Beach. It will feature both standalone one-bedroom villas and two two-bedroom suites.

## United States and Canada

**The Ritz-Carlton New York, NoMad** – A brand new addition to the New York hotel offering, The Ritz-Carlton New York, NoMad opened in July 2022 and is one of a string of luxury properties to open in this revitalised area of the city. The hotel's restaurant, Zaytinya, with Michelin star chef Jose Andres at the helm is one of the most sought after in New York while the bar, Nubeluz, designed by Martin Brudnizki serves some of the best cocktails over floor to ceiling views from the 50<sup>th</sup> floor.

**1Hotel Hanalei Bay, Hawaii** – Opened on 15<sup>th</sup> February this year. A beachfront property overlooking one of the prettiest bays on the planet on an idyllic island. This sustainable resort has a swimmable beach, great restaurants and bars, a legendary surf break nearby, amazing hikes at its doorstep and a cutting-edge spa and medi spa.

**1Hotel West Hollywood, LA** – It opened in 2019 but is a brand-new addition to Elegant Resorts' offering in Los Angeles. The boutique eco-resort is on Sunset Boulevard and a hotspot for dining, shopping and hiking as well as people watching. The hotel has a rooftop pool and sweeping views from downtown to Santa Monica. Minimal understated furnishings, earthy tones and reclaimed and local materials, the hotel aims to capture the soul of South California.

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**Nimmo Bay Luxury Wilderness Retreat, Canada** – This hidden gem is in the heart of the Great Bear Forest in British Columbia, only accessible by plane or boat, and where guest experience an abundance of wilderness and wildlife. With cabins facing the ocean or the forest, a floating sauna, waterfall side hot tubs, wild adventures, food experiences that celebrate the wilderness, hiking, kayaking, mindfulness and transformative treatments that soothe the senses, this is the place to completely disconnect from the everyday.

**Echo Valley Ranch & Spa, Canada** – An eco-luxury ranch at the crossroads of four geographic regions in British Columbia offering access to diverse flora, fauna and wildlife as well as a host of soft adventure activities. The accommodation is spread across cosy cabins, stunning lodges and a fully restored Ranch House and guests can go fishing, hiking, biking as well as go on survival camps. Wellness in its every sense is part of the journey with Horse Harmony Experiences to connect to nature and the horses or Forest bathing in the Boreal Forest for an immersive and solitary moment.

## South America

### **Maroma a Belmond Hotel Mexico**

Reopening on 25<sup>th</sup> May, the Mexican Caribbean coast based hotel has been completely reimaged with Mayan Culture at its core. The resort will welcome 10 new waterfront villas, a nature focussed wellness experience with Guerlain and two new restaurants

## Middle East

### **Saudi Arabia**

**Banyan Tree AlUla** – The all-villa tented resort opened in October 2022 and is inspired by the nomadic nature of the Nabataean architecture and epitomises Banyan Tree's commitment to local culture. Guests at the resort will have a host of opportunities to experience the local culture through wellness, food and bespoke excursions.

### **Dubai**

**Atlantis The Royal** – This is a new level of luxury in Dubai, an instant landmark, crafted by the world's leading designers, architects and artists with 43 storeys and a 90 metre-long sky pool. The resort has 17 world class restaurants, sky high cocktail bars, the largest waterpark Aquaventure, an AWAKEN Spa and the most incredible views of the city skyline and Arabian Gulf.

## Indian Ocean

**Six Senses Kanuhura** – Opening in Summer 2023, the resort is being carefully enhanced with an upgrade of the overwater villas to include private pools, new family suites, new dining concepts and a pioneering wellness offering, all with Six Senses' brand sustainability ethos in mind.

## Africa

**Kisawa, Mozambique** – This 300-hectare sanctuary of forest, beach and dunes opened in 2021 during the pandemic and is a brand-new addition to the Elegant Resorts portfolio. The 11-bungalow all-inclusive property is in the southern tip of Benguerra Island and offers a wide variety of experiences from sunset boat trips to canoeing through mangroves. The owners have set up the Bazaruto Center for Scientific Studies focussing on multi-ecosystem research in Africa collecting data on marine life which guests can visit partake in some of the studies. The beautifully designed Natural Wellness Centre focusses on ayurvedic treatments.

**Future Found, South Africa** – Cape Town's only mountain retreat opened in 2021 and is a brand-new addition to the Elegant Resorts portfolio. With two private villas featuring local art and panoramic views that can be booked either by the room or on an exclusive basis, Future Found is ideally located to explore the region's wonders and have unforgettable experiences such as foraging for seaweed at Cape Point or hiking to waterfalls in Table Mountain National Park. A sensorium spa, steam room, sound healing studio, heated swimming pools and a private cinema can also be found on the seven-acre estate.

**Sala Beach House, South Africa** – A luxury boutique property located in the uber-chic area of Ballito on Thomson's Bay in KwaZulu Natal. It is a wonderful coastal property offering panoramic views of the Indian Ocean, barefoot elegance, and an impeccable service. The hotel has a private access to a tidal pool and swimming beach.

## Asia

**Jumeirah Bali** – This Javanese-Hindiy water palace inspired property opened in April 2022. The elegant all-villa resort stretches out towards the sea in southwestern Bali and offers unforgettable sunsets. With private pools, sumptuous furnishings, lavish bathrooms, villa butlers, a 1200 square metre spa for pure indulgence, the Jumeirah Bali is a heavenly Balinese escape.

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**Buahan, a Banyan Tree Escape** – Set in an off-the-beaten-track, untouched part of Ubud, this property opened in June 2022. It combines the Banyan Tree brand's vision to create immersive experiences combining deep nature and sustainable design. With a “no walls, no door” concept, the adult-only resort has an open kitchen and dining room at its heart with a zero-waste farm to table dining concept. The property's bales are designed to offer 180-degree panoramic views and only a thin veil separates guests from nature. The spa treatments honour the riches and local wisdom of the island.

**Rakxa Wellness and Medical Retreat, Thailand** – This revolutionary wellness retreat is a new addition to the Elegant Resorts portfolio. Rakxa opened in 2020 as an all-encompassing and immersive retreat set amongst the luxuriant Bang Krachao Island, just a short journey from Bangkok. The retreat offers a range of personalised treatments, specially crafted wellness services and optimised programmes that incorporate diagnostics, living, eating and resting well which will have a long-lasting impact.

**Six Senses Fort Barwara, India** - The resort opened in October 2021. Six Senses has sensitively restored 14th century Fort Barwara, a property originally owned by the Rajasthani Royal Family. The property is home to a real sanctuary of wellbeing with a 30,000 square foot Six Senses Spa and fitness centre offering an extensive menu of signature massages, ayurvedic treatments and mindfulness practices amongst others. Fort Barwara is also within striking distance of Ranthambore National Park, renowned for its local tiger population.

## New journeys

### Cruise

**Heritage Line, Asia:** Heritage line is launching a new luxury cruise on the Upper Mekong due to set sail on 27th August. This will be the first of its standard on the Upper Mekong and will depart from Huay Xai in Laos, on the border with Thailand with three-night, seven-night and nine-night itineraries to Luang Prabang or Vientiane.

**Scenic Eclipse II:** The new ship combines innovative design and state of the art technology. Enhanced ultra-luxury places, new culinary experiences, helicopter rides and submarine exploration in the custom built Scenic Neptune, the ship will first set sail from Valparaiso to explore the Chilean Fjords and Cape Horn before reaching Ushuaia.

**Explora Journeys:** This new luxury cruise line is owned by MSC Group. The first ship, Explora I comes with suites, penthouses and residences, four pools and 18

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food and beverage options. There will be a wide range of activities and entertainment including music master classes and a monthly full-moon party. The Maiden Voyage will take place in Northern Europe in July and will sail from Southampton to Copenhagen.

**Silver Nova:** The Silver Nova is one of the most spacious cruise ships ever built but also Silversea's most environmentally friendly. It will be home to suites offering stunning 270° views, offer butler service and outstanding gastronomy. The first voyage will travel from Venice in Italy to Kotor in Croatia from 14th August 2023.

## Trains

### **Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, a Belmond Train:**

New Winter journeys to the French Alps will start in December 2023. The train will stop in Moûtiers, Albertville and Bourg Saint Maurice and guests will be able to access Megève and the Mont Blanc, Courchevel and the Three Valleys as well as Tignes-Val d'Isère in the most glamorous way possible. The train will also offer eight new suites debuting in June 2023 following the respectful restoration of two original carriages offering three cabin categories on board the train: Historic Cabins, Suites and Grand Suites.

**Orient Express, La Dolce Vita:** Accor is launching its first super-luxe all-en-suite train with 31 cabins, a restaurant and bar lounge cars. While departures are due to start in September 2024, bookings will open in March 2023. Itineraries will include a two-night journey from Rome to Portofino via Venice and a round trip Sicilian journey including Taormina, Agrigento and Palermo.

**-Ends-**

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