

Special Supplement

DEPARTURES

FINE HOTELS
& RESORTS
CELEBRATES
25 YEARS



If Only Know



NIHIWATU
is a surfer's
paradise
in Indonesia.



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While we love the tried-and-true, sometimes it's the unexpected that end up being the best places to stay.

Nihiwatu Resort

Sumba, Indonesia

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If the crowds and incessant traffic of current-day Bali are too much to bear, travel just a little farther to Sumba, less than an hour's flight east. Think of it as the Bali of 50 years ago, before the glut of nightclubs and package tourists arrived. Entrepreneur Chris Burch has reimagined a luxury surfer's dream on a stretch of utterly pristine coast with some of the best waves in Asia. Nonsurfers will have a lot to appreciate, too, from horseback riding and yoga to a "spa safari": a trek through the jungle and past rice fields that leads you to a private cliff-top bale for any number of therapeutic treatments. *Rooms from \$650; nihiwatu.com*

The Shilla Seoul

South Korea

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Since opening in 2005, the Park Hyatt has been the standard bearer for luxury hotels in frenetic, fast-paced Seoul. But there's been increasing competition of late. Most westerners don't know about the Shilla (all the brand's hotels are in Korea), but it's quietly become the top choice for in-the-know visitors to the city. That's because the 464 rooms of this high-rise act as a foil to Seoul's hyperactive energy, with clean lines, wood floors, and a soft, muted palette of cream and beige that—rather than coming off as bland—has a calming effect as soon as you walk through the door. To chill out even more, head to the Guerlain spa for a treatment or relax at one of the two swimming pools (there are both indoor and outdoor versions) or grab a drink on the outdoor terrace while taking in the peaceful views of nearby Namsan Mountain. *Rooms from \$210; shillahotels.com*