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OCCASION TIME



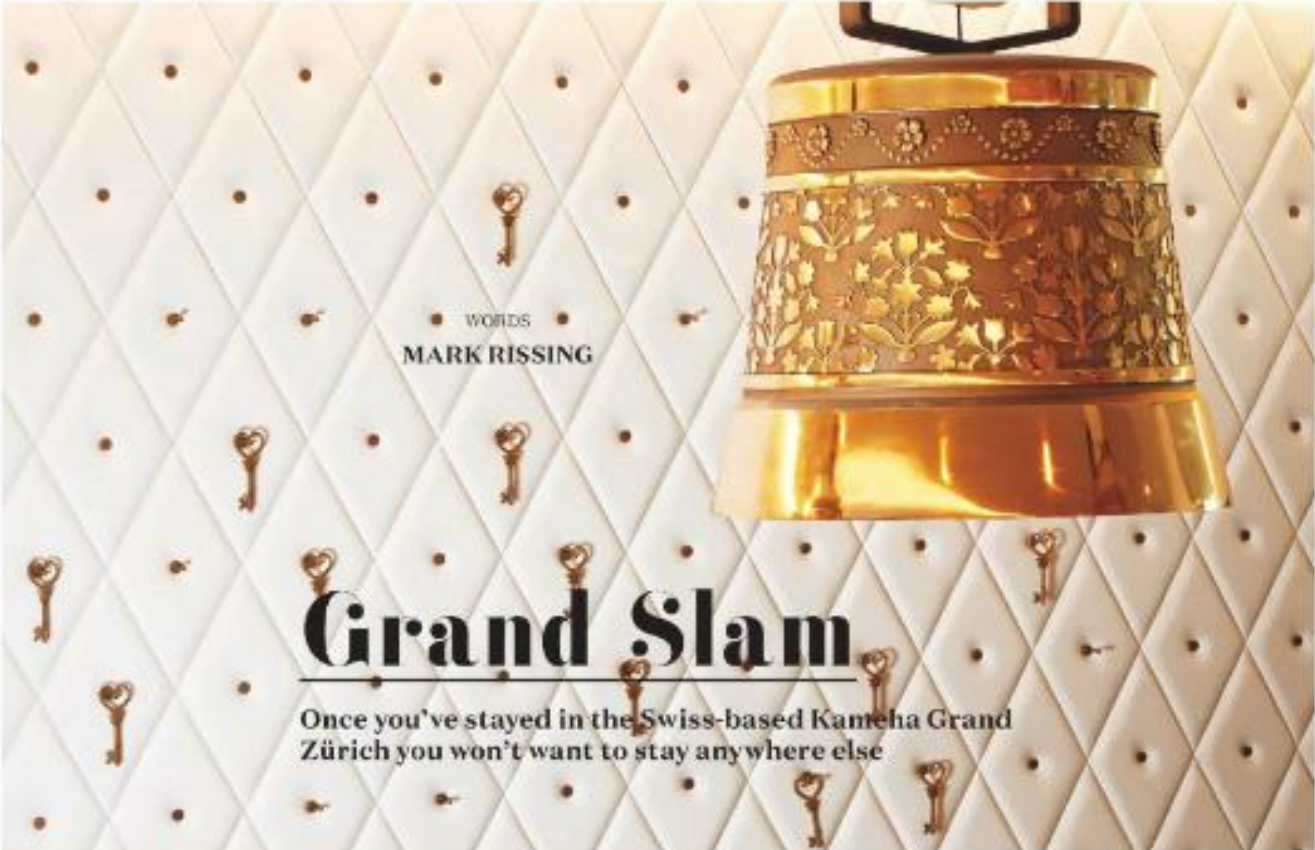
THE TRAIL-BLAZING

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Valentine's Gift Guide

— SUPERYACHTS • BENTLEY • STYLE —

\$5,975



WORDS
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Grand Slam

Once you've stayed in the Swiss-based Kamaha Grand Zürich you won't want to stay anywhere else



KAMEHA GRAND ZÜRICH

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» When the hotel sends a driver in a Maserati Quattroporte GTS to collect you from the airport, your expectations certainly rise. It was the perfect start to my stay at the Kameha Grand Zürich, Marriott's first Autograph Collection hotel to open in Switzerland. Perfectly placed, it sits at the heart of the rapidly-developing Glattpark business district, just moments from forests, lakes and meadows and only 15 minutes from Zürich city centre.

Billed as one of Europe's hottest new design hotels, its unique architecture and neo-Baroque interior are the work of world-renowned Dutch designer Marcel Wanders, who was dubbed the 'Lady Gaga of Design' by *The New York Times*. The innovative techniques and playful elements of Wanders' design concept pays homage to Swiss culture. You'll notice little entertaining and quirky touches found throughout the entire hotel - leather wall panelling imitating bars of Swiss chocolate, oversized cowbell lamps, sofas shaped like Toblerone chocolates, doors and mini bars replicating bank safes and even a wall in the lobby that pays tribute to Omega.

For a truly unique experience head for one of the 11 themed suites. There's the Poker Face Suite, gaming themed with authentic poker style furnishings and its own roulette table and Kameha-themed poker cards. An in-room treadmill is included in the Workout Suite, the Serenity Suite comes with scented candles, yoga and accessories, while the sporty Fairplay suite includes table football, board games and even a punch bag. If you have ever dreamed of being an astronaut, then the Kameha Space Suite may be as close as you get - immersing guests into the atmosphere of a space station, there's a floating bed and hovering astronaut to watch over you as you sleep. I had the pleasure of staying in the 007-styled Gentleman's Suite, which would be a great choice for the discerning gentleman's stag weekend. A globe whiskey bar, roulette table, rifle-style 007 lamp and 360° rotating LG TV were all debonair accessories that suited the mood perfectly.

The Kameha hosts many events throughout the year, including the White Sensation Kitchen Party that I attended on the first night. For one evening, charismatic Head Chef Igino Bruni opens the main kitchen and transforms it into a stylish (and lively) party location. Guests are spoilt with specialities from live cooking stations that can be enjoyed with fine wine and a selection of cocktails. You can then



Look out for design touches that nod towards the hotel's roots, such as Tolson-style sofas and cowbell lamps



“Faultless service, enthusiastic and attentive staff and a hotel full of character would charm the most demanding of guests”

retire to the Davidoff smoking area and the evening ends with a live DJ on the kitchen's dance floor.

Zürich itself is full of surprises. Widely known for its financial district, shopping and dining, it has become increasingly well recognised as an international art destination, offering more than 100 galleries – some of which can only be found when exploring the Old Town. It is a picturesque city with a vibrant culture, and there is an interesting mix of the charming historic architecture of the Old Town with the modern feel of Bahnhofstrasse, a shopping street that rivals Bond Street. For food and drink you are spoilt for choice; the

bars and restaurants that stretch along the Limmat River leading to Lake Zurich are pretty special. We chose the Kronenhalle Restaurant for lunch, which I am reliably told is a regular spot for the rich and famous.

Dinner at the Kameha also didn't disappoint. The hotel has two main options for fine dining: Restaurant L'Unico, featuring fresh homemade pasta and Italian specialities prepared in an open show-kitchen and Restaurant Yu Nijyo, French cuisine based on regional products with influences from Japan. Having recently been awarded a Michelin star, we had to try Yu Nijyo for ourselves. The seven course tasting menu was

fantastic, including delights like duck with kimchi, langoustine with avocado and curcuma and edamame and braised eel. The attention to detail was really admirable.

After dinner we retired to the Puregold Bar, a space named after the golden palettes that cover the walls. Smokers are well served with a private members' club-style cigar lounge and an exotic shisha parlour, just next door. Everyone would be kept happy here – faultless service, enthusiastic and attentive staff and a hotel full of character would charm the most demanding of guests.

