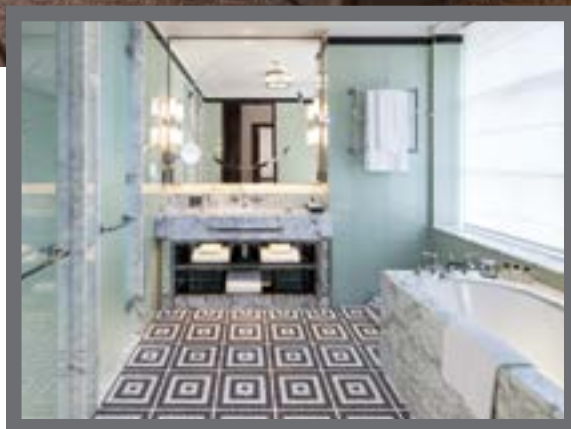
**INSIDE APPEAL**

The Beaumont's club-like spaces suit the hotel's quiet but convenient location in Mayfair.

**GRAND OPENING**

London Confidential

THE LONDON restaurateurs Jeremy King and Chris Corbin are best known for the Wolseley, their grandiose and wildly popular Viennese-style café on Piccadilly. For their first hotel, however, the partners of more than 30 years veered from the high-profile path, selecting a tucked-away location on a quiet lane off Oxford Street in Mayfair. **The Beaumont** (thebeaumont.com), which opened last October, is suitably low-key for its setting yet confidently luxurious, the kind of place where regular visitors to London might store a couple of Savile Row suits for future stays. The hotel's 73 guest rooms include 23 private-club-like suites, each of which unfolds as a collection of distinct spaces rather than a multipurpose box. The New York-style Colony Grill Room and American Bar are hidden behind discreet doors off the lobby, while the Cub Room—a bar reserved for Beaumont “residents”—is secreted away farther still. All this exclusivity, of course, need not shut out guests from the liveliness that is London. Despite their covert location, the public bar and restaurant have become popular with locals. And just out from the Beaumont's front entrance, guests can glimpse the grand facade of Selfridges—the bustling heart of the Oxford Street shopping scene—a half block away. —BRUCE WALLIN

GRAND
OPENING

Perfect Zen

LOCATED WITHIN THE top six floors of the financial district's Otemachi Tower, the **Aman Tokyo** (amantokyo.com) is a rare retreat amid the Japanese capital's vast and vibrant urban sprawl. Guests arriving at the hotel, which opened in December, can pass through Otemachi Forest, a 38,750-square-foot ground-floor garden thick with konara oaks and ginkgo. An ascent to the 33rd floor leads to a lobby with a reception desk carved from an ancient camphor tree. Washi paper screens, chestnut floors lined with tatami mats, and *furo*-style soaking tubs bring traditional Japanese minimalism to the 84 guest rooms and suites, many of which offer a glimpse of Mount Fuji beyond the booming metropolis. In the 26,900-square-foot spa, patrons don kimono-style robes and choose from a variety of Western and Japanese treatments; a similar East-meets-West mix is found in the restaurant, which serves pan-Asian and Mediterranean cuisines. For a purely local experience, the hotel's concierge can arrange a trip to the historic Miyasaka sake brewery or a visit to the Tsukiji fish market. —JILL NEWMAN



MAP QUEST

Rare atlases and travel manuscripts go to auction.

A collection of historic books, manuscripts, prints, and photographs from around the world will hit the block on April 30 at Sotheby's London. **Travel, Atlases, Maps, and Natural History** (sothebys.com) will

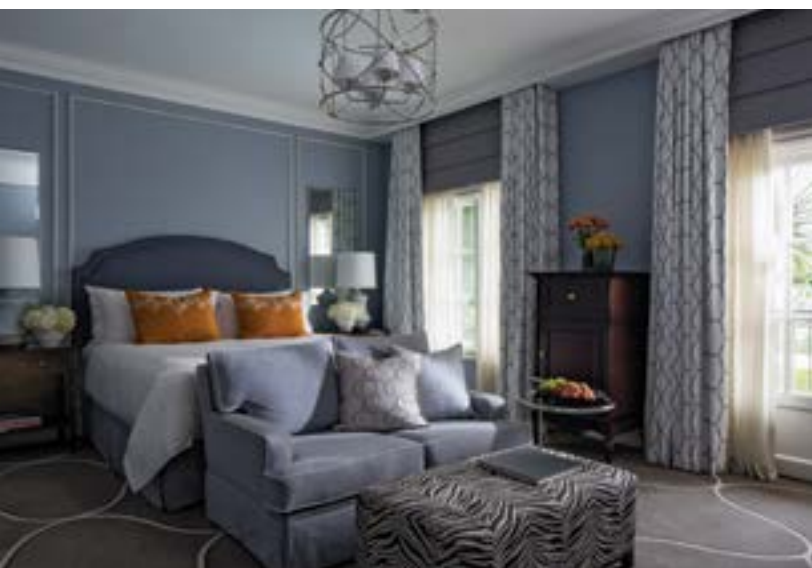
include a large assemblage of early photographs from Singapore, China, and Cambodia, along with rare tomes on the Middle East and manuscript maps of Sri Lanka. Expected to fetch upwards of \$40,000 is *The History of*

Travayle in the West and East Indies, a 16th-century account in English outlining the voyages of the Spanish conquistadors Francisco Hernández de Córdoba, Juan de Grijalva, and Hernán Cortés. —JACKIE CARADONIO

GRAND
OPENING

PINK PALACE

IN DECEMBER, JOHANNESBURG'S beloved Westcliff Hotel—known since 1998 for its rosy facade and African-inspired interiors—emerged from an 18-month renovation by Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts. The resulting **Four Seasons Hotel the Westcliff, Johannesburg** (fourseasons.com), is a sleek and modern rendering of its treasured predecessor, featuring 117 rooms adorned with chrome chandeliers and custom-made zebra-print wallpaper. Four Seasons' contemporary spin also elevated the hotel's culinary offerings, which—led by the German chef Dirk Gieselmann (formerly of the Michelin-three-star Auberge de l'ill in Illhaeusern, France)—include a fine-dining restaurant and a casual venue serving classic South African braai. Remaining resolutely unchanged through the flurry of upgrades is the Westcliff's magnificent hilltop perch overlooking the capital's surprisingly verdant cityscape. —SARAH KAHN



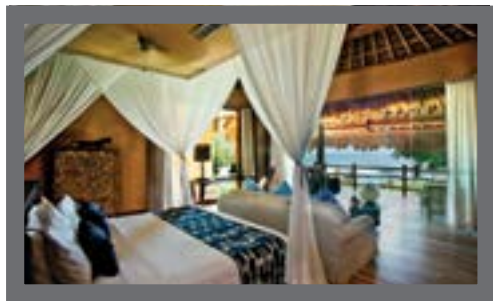
BOTTOM: RICHARD WATTE

TEXAS THREE STEP



PROVING THAT EVERYTHING is bigger in Texas, the new 34-story **JW Marriott Austin** (jwmarriottaustin.com) opened in February as the luxury brand's largest North American hotel, towering over nearly an entire block of the capital city's fast-growing downtown area. The 1,012-room property offers appropriately bold amenities, including a food truck-style restaurant and a sweeping rooftop pool terrace with views of Lady Bird Lake and the State Capitol. Nearby, in the bucolic Hill Country just west of the city, the **Lake Austin Spa Resort** (lakeaustin.com) has debuted 10 renovated garden suites. Completed in October, the new-look accommodations at the lakeside retreat feature 12-foot-high wooden ceilings, opulent fabrics, and custom-made furnishings. **The Inn at Dos Brisas** (dosbrisas.com)—a Relais & Châteaux resort set on a 313-acre ranch between Austin and Houston—will soon debut a new design of its own. In July, the property will begin renovations of four of its nine hacienda-style casitas. —BECCA HENSLEY

Making Waves



AREKNOWN SURFER'S retreat on Indonesia's Sumba Island, **Nihiwatu** (nihiwatu.com) has debuted a luxurious new look suitable for discerning vacationers and hard-core wave-chasers alike. Completed this spring, the \$15 million transformation of the 1,074-acre property included the addition of 12 villas with gauzy canopy beds, Sumbanese teak furnishings, and oversize terraces with private pools. The villas and the preexisting 21 accommodations (all of which underwent top-to-bottom renovations) are attended by *moriumas*, or butlers, who can arrange spa treatments, make reservations at the resort's new restaurant, and organize surfing excursions with a resident pro. —MARGIE GOLDSMITH



OFF THE HOOK

Cast away at a pair of new South American lodges.

UP RIVER ♦ Opened in October in the Chilean Lake District near Pucón, **Hacienda**



Hotel Vira Vira sits on a 100-acre parcel of riverfront parkland. Guests of the 21-room lodge can fish for king salmon on the tranquil Liucura River or venture to the nearby Trancura River for chinook.

ON THE FLY ♦ The outfitter Frontiers debuted the seven-room **Limay River Lodge** (frontierstravel.com) in Argentine Patagonia last December, offering convenient access to the trout-filled southern banks of the Middle Limay River. Following a day of angling, guests can retire by the living room's fireplace with a glass of local wine from the cellar. —J.C.