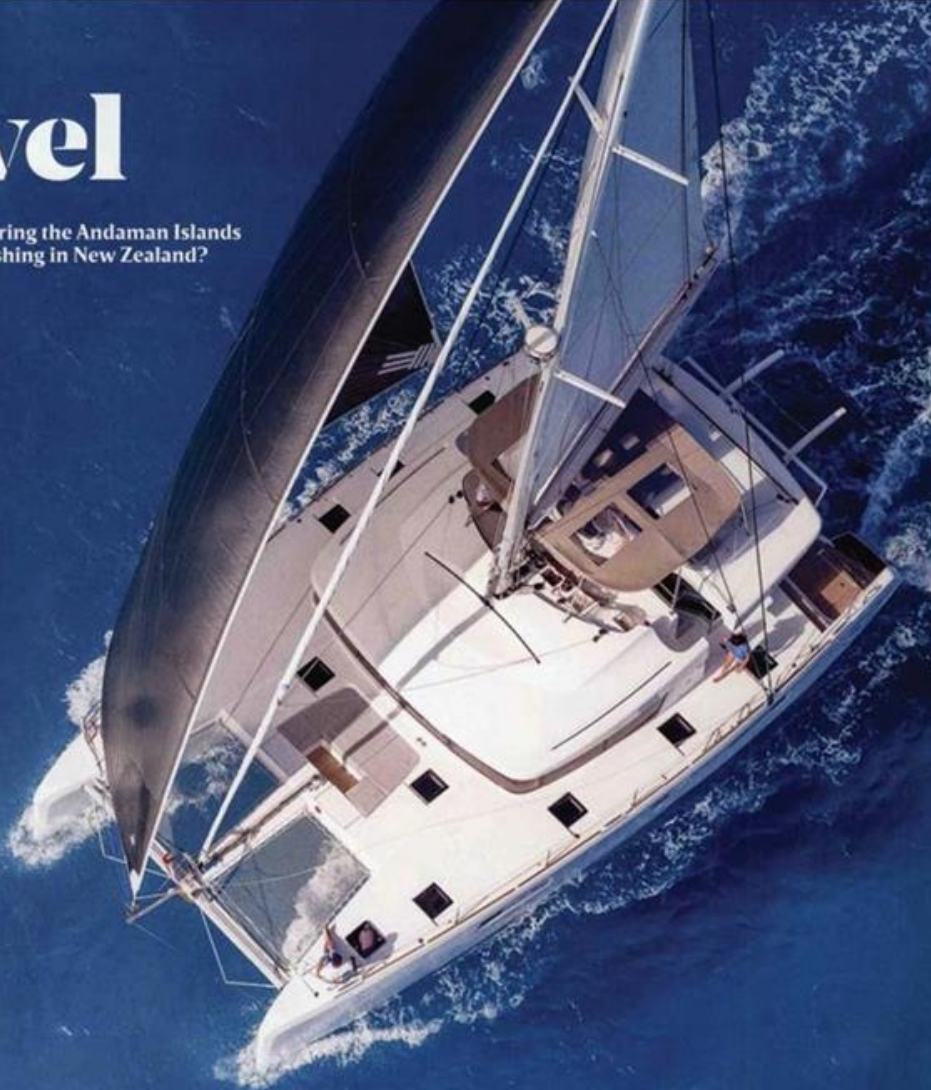


Guide to 2017

Travel

This year, will you be touring the Andaman Islands
in a catamaran or heli-fishing in New Zealand?



» The luxurious new Oberoi adds a key stepping stone, reopening an historic trail to the Himalayas »

The quest for the extraordinary and exceptional is an ongoing global trend in luxury travel. In New Zealand, 2017 sees the opening of several fine new lodges. Two standouts: just 45 minutes from Auckland by helicopter, Helena Bay in the Northland has villas with vast grounds and pristine beaches ([helenabay.com](#)). The Marlborough in (you guessed it) the wine country offers heli-fishing and heli-hunting as well as wine tours – and access to the area's celebrated gourmet scene ([marlboroughlodge.co.nz](#)). Also of note, Fiordland Discovery launches overnight cruises up Milford Sound.

While we're on the water, **Scott Dunn** will sail up to 14 guests in comfort from Lombok to Timor and Komodo in the *Lamima*, the world's largest timber sailing yacht; or through the Dalmatian Islands in a five-cabin catamaran ([scottdunn.com](#)), while the Andaman Islands are the setting for Catamaran Meltemi's new tour, launching February ([redsavannah.com](#)).

By air, BA's new direct route to Santiago makes your Chilean wine/ski/hiking tour so much more do-able ([ba.com](#)) especially when your trip is sorted by curated travel experts **Seventy Ten Travel** ([seventytentravel.com](#)). In Africa, three private jet tours from & Beyond – of Eastern Africa, Southern, or East to Southern – make ambitious trips effortless, with great guides and camps all to yourself ([andbeyond.com](#)). In Zimbabwe, the newly improved aviation hub at Victoria Falls and Wilderness Travel's handy little planes will help you hop around and discover great lodges such as the new Little Ruckomechi and the refurbished Matseti River ([wildernesstravel.com](#)).

Two hotel openings will make your Cambodian holiday that bit more swish: the new Rosewood in Phnom Penh, launching this spring ([rosewood.com](#)) and Six Senses Krabey Island, later in the year ([sixsenses.com](#)). Oetker Collection's Palácio



Tanagará opens in a stunning setting in São Paulo. And for luxury-on-the-beach, Como's Echo Beach in Bali should be top notch, as it's from the people behind Parrot Cay and Cocoa Island.

If you're heading out to India in search of spiritual insight, you could commune with the Dalai Lama in the pastoral setting of The Ultimate Travel Camp's Thiksey camp in Ladakh ([tut.com](#)). On a more worldly note, Le Corbusier's stunning Capitol complex has long drawn fans of modernism to Chandigarh. But now they can stay in comfort at the luxurious new **Oberoi Sukhvilas Resort & Spa**. This also adds one of those stepping stones so vital for travel in India – thus reopening an historic trail from the Punjab to the Himalayas via Shimla. Those old India hands at **Greaves** offer a tour including the Oberoi Cecil, Shimla and Wildflower Hall ([greavesindia.com](#)). If Oberoi's luxe hotel vibe is your thing, look out for the Oberoi, Marrakech and the Oberoi Beach Resort, Al Zorah, tucked away among forests and lagoons in Dubai – a reminder that there's more to the place than high-rises and high-end shopping, though needless to say, there's plenty of that ([oberoihotels.com](#)).

Closer to home, the Cadogan Estate is setting out to do for the Cadogan Square neighbourhood what the Portman Estate and Chiltern Firehouse did for Marylebone, with the opening of two hotels: the new Belmond Cadogan and a London outpost of Paris's celebrated **Hôtel Costes**. Design guru Martin Brudnizki presides over the makeover of the Bloomsbury – including the restoration of its beautiful art deco pool ([doylecollection.com](#)). Up in Manchester we expect great things from the new Principal, while for fans of the various Pig hotels and their take on low-key, bucolic luxury, we hear there's soon to be a new Pig on the South Downs ([thepighotel.com](#)). The more the merrier, we say. **James Collard**



Clockwise from far left: Catamaran Meltemi sails around the Andaman Islands; Teardrop Hotel's newly renovated Fort Bazaar in Sri Lanka; the new Palácio Tanagará, opening in São Paulo's famous Burle Marx Park



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