

TATLER[®]

Starring
the 101 best
hotels in
the world

Travel Guide 2010



In association with
Africa Travel

Tatler's 101 best hotels 2010

*The Atlas mountains,
as seen from Marrakesh*

Happy families

Giraffe Manor

Nairobi, Kenya
 There are now slicker hotels in Nairobi (the new Tribe, the House of Waine, even the Palacina). But there's nowhere your children will enjoy more – as a fantastically colonial, utterly nuts way to start or end a safari – than the recently refurbished Giraffe Manor: a Scottish-influenced, Thirties stone mansion plonked into the dusty African bush. Now taken over by old safari hands the Carr-Hartleys, it's lost some of its vintage pull but has much more polish. It's still very old school: wood-panelled hallways and sweeping staircases. But the food is thoroughly Kenyan: butternut, rocket and cashew salads, grilled snapper, wicked macadamia chocolate tart. And, best of all, the 140-acre gardens are inhabited by eight famous vertiginous beauties, which you can feed with your hands from your second-storey window. Or, if you're brave, with a pellet held in your lips... **Tel** 00 254 20 251 3166. **Website** giraffemanor.com. **Flight reservations** virgin-atlantic.com. **Rates** Double, from £400, half board.



Four Seasons Seychelles

Mahé, Seychelles
 Who says the Seychelles is just for honeymooners? All those butter-soft beaches, coconut-tree adventure zones and wildly crashing crazy-fun waves. The islands have really upped their high-end ante – remarkably untouched, remarkably beautiful. And this sparkling new arrival from one of the most reliable hotel chains out there crucially retains a real sense of place. Yes, some buggy action is needed to get about the grounds, but the bedrooms are spearmint-fresh and villas are like great little beach huts. There's a terrific (and terribly smart) children's club open from dawn till dusk, babysitters on call, glass-bottomed boat tours, crisp wood-fired pizzas and one of the most perfect crescent beaches you will ever see. **Website** fourseasons.com. **UK reservations** Africa Travel (tel: 0845 450 1533). **Rates** Double, from £500.

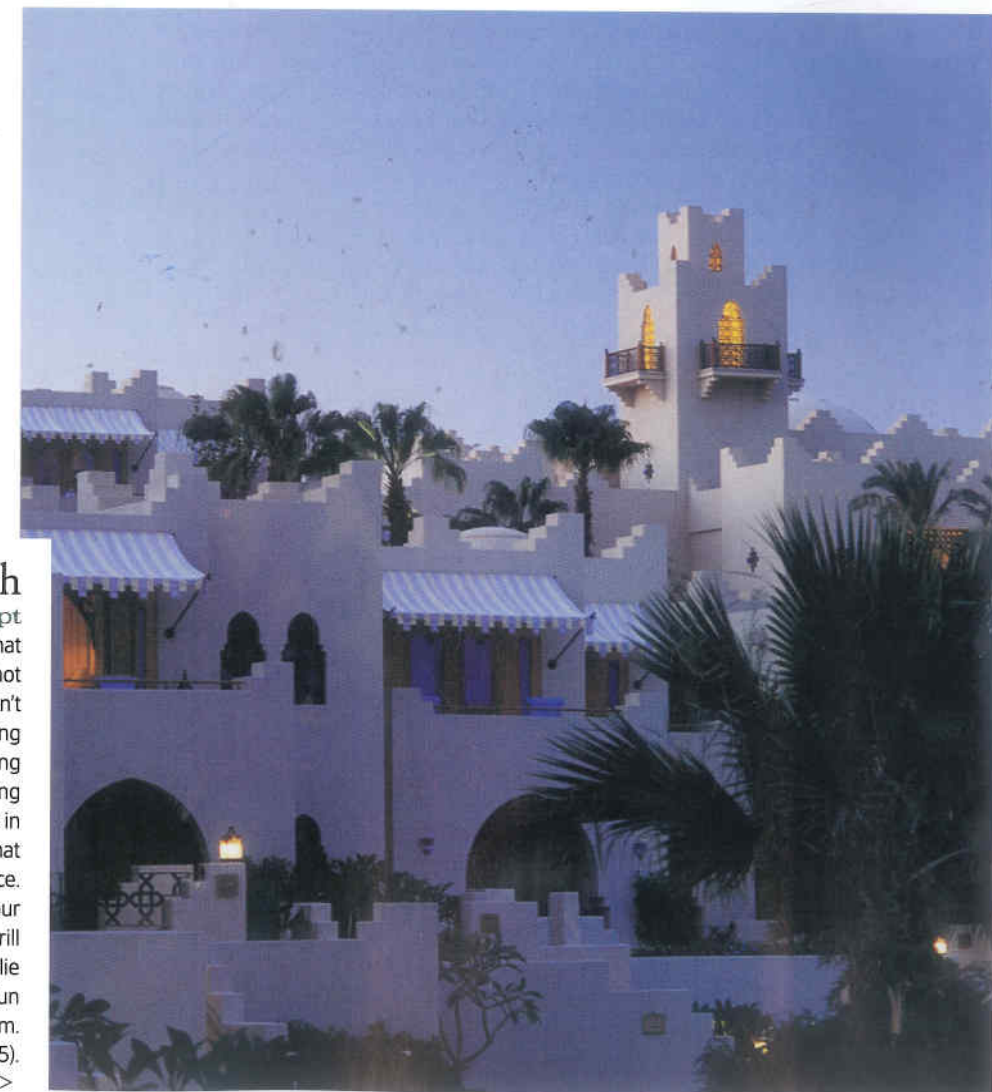
Four Seasons Sharm El Sheikh

Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt
 If there is a smoother, more successful family hotel that answers the crucial requirements of being both hot and near, then shorts will be eaten. Sure, you don't leave the compound, but you don't feel bad not leaving it. You're four hours from London, the sun is shining and your children are baking Arab bread and building volcanoes while you're smoking apple tobacco in shisha pipes and drinking Sharm fruit bowls. What great design – great villas, great gardens, great space. A Red Sea coral shelf means you can snorkle with your little tadpoles and spot octopus and turtles – the thrill of it! Collected, energised resort manager Charlie Parker has more ideas under his hat. As shiny and fun as Dorothy's ruby slippers. **Website** fourseasons.com. **UK reservations** Elegant Resorts (tel: 01244 897505). **Rates** Double, from £210, including breakfast. ▷



Grand-Hôtel du Cap-Ferrat

Cap-Ferrat, France
 The wicked and the winsome have been staying here for a century. But recently the hotel had rather lost its mojo. Now the likes of Chaplin, Churchill and Somerset Maugham would hardly recognise it; Pierre-Yves Rochon's restoration of the classic Riviera headliner is as dazzling as the view from the Cap, but true to its Côte d'Azur roots. Eight new rooms have plunge pools – children adore them. By day the Dauphin beach club is the hub of the action; by night Michelin laureate Didier Aniès's restaurant becomes swashbucklingly glamorous. With France's most famous swimming instructor at hand (endless ducking of heads in buckets – surprisingly fruitful), a children's pavilion and a nearby zoo full of panthers and friendly goats, family holidays just got way more sophisticated. **Website** grand-hotel-cap-ferrat.com. **UK reservations** Elegant Resorts (tel: 01244 897505). **Rates** Double, from £195, including breakfast.



'There is nothing I love more than the English seaside. From the swooping, crying seagulls to the pebbles and walk, preferably with my dogs, for miles on wet sand, breathing in that special

the ebb and flow of the tide, I find it both soothing and magical. I like to clamber down past the sea smell that I can only find on British beaches.' Lady Annabel Goldsmith, writer