

Editor's  
**CHOICE**

*The Sheraton Doha  
Hotel and Resort, Qatar*

THERE ARE MANY FINE HOTELS IN QATAR, BUT the one with more facilities than any other is the Sheraton Doha.

Aside from five Head of State Suites, two Royal Suites, and five Presidential Suites, there are four Japanese Suites, seven Diplomatic Suites, and four penthouses – and that's in addition to the usual Executive Suites. This hotel is where visiting heads of state are put up by the government.

In addition, the Sheraton Doha has 70 acres of gardens, a private beach, a lagoon, fitness facilities, a super golf club, a shopping mall within walking distance, and one of the best convention centers in the country, where major international conferences, such as the World Trade Organization's, take place. The hotel can host gatherings of up to 5,000 as well as very special board meetings and smaller VIP gatherings.

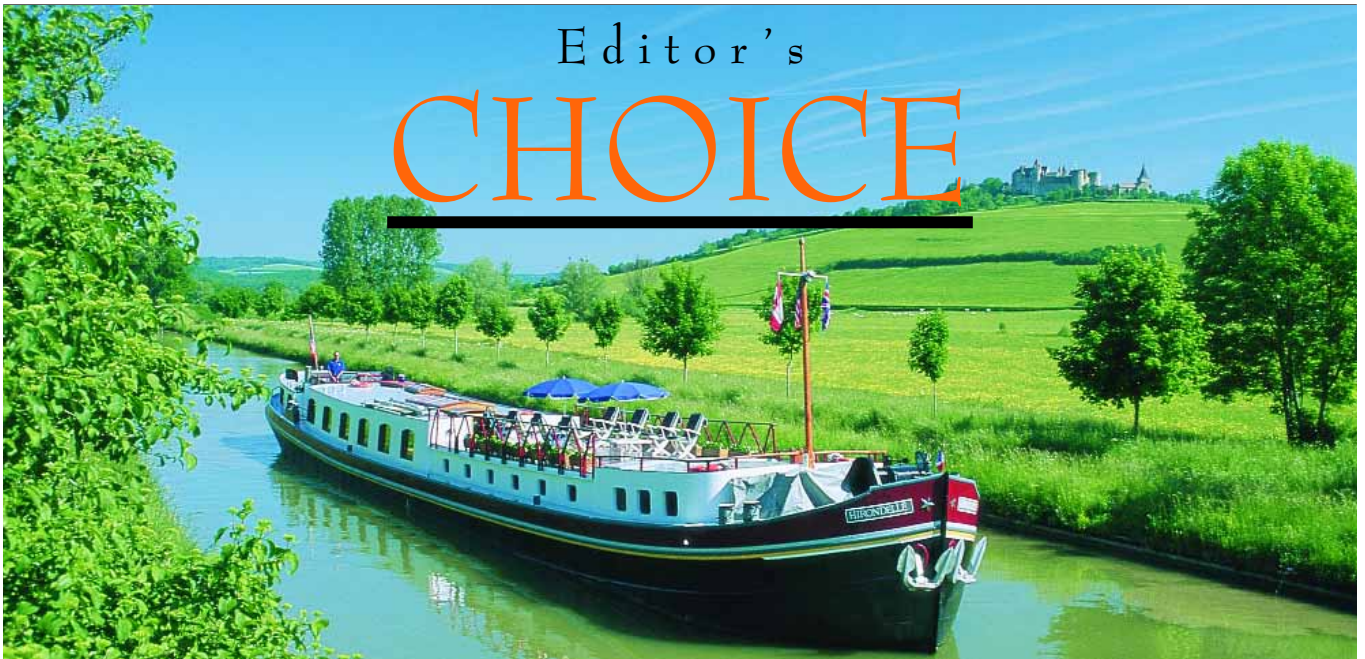
Gerhard Foltin, the legendary general manager who opened the hotel, has returned to this special luxury property, which is built in the style of the ancient pyramids. So, besides having one of the finest conference centers in the Middle East, the Sheraton Doha has one of the finest general managers, as you'll find out when you stay there. ●



*Clockwise from top: Tower Room lounge; La Veranda Restaurant; Dafna Hall; a room in an Executive Suite*



# Editor's CHOICE



## *Afloat in France*

NO LONGER JUST THE WORLD'S EXPERTS IN LUXURY TRAVEL by train, Orient-Express Hotels Ltd. is establishing itself as a leader in the luxury canal-and-river cruising industry. The company has acquired Afloat in France – a bespoke cruise company – and its fleet of five *péniche-hotels*, or deluxe barges. The *péniche-hotels* travel the most beautiful inland waterways in rural France, in the Burgundy, Provence, Rhône Vallée, and Languedoc-Roussillon regions.

Available for private hire and for individual cabin bookings between April and October, each lavishly appointed *péniche-hotel* is staffed by a pilot, guide, housekeeper, and chef. The staff makes sure your tailor-made itineraries – which are fully inclusive – are expertly executed and that your onboard meals are nothing short of Orient-Express's five-star standards.

Because the boats accommodate only 6 to 12 passengers in the same amount of space that other cruise operators use for 18 to 24 people, there is ample room for relaxation. Each *péniche-hotel* features a sundeck; two have outdoor, heated pools; and one has a Jacuzzi and a deck for alfresco dining. If you prefer a more structured vacation, your onboard guide can arrange for land activities, such as biking, ballooning, and visits to chateaux and vineyards.

*The Hironnelle (top); dining room aboard the Fleur de Lys (right); the Alouette's dining room (below, left); a guest cabin on the Amaryllis (center); the Napoléon's upper deck*

An excellent alternative to renting a villa, a three- or six-night cruise on one of Orient-Express's new boats is truly a floating house party.

For more information, please visit [www.orient-express.com](http://www.orient-express.com). In the United States, call 1-800-524-2420, or in the United Kingdom, 0845-077-2222. ●



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Editor's  
**CHOICE**

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*The Royal Scotsman*

IMAGINE THE FINEST COUNTRY HOUSE you've ever visited. Now imagine that same house on wheels, and there you have the Royal Scotsman, which has recently entered into a marketing alliance with Orient-Express Hotels Ltd. With room for only 36 guests, the Royal Scotsman is an exclusive treat for the traveler who wants to take in Scotland's sights on one of the world's most scenic rail journeys – through Edinburgh, Loch Lomond, Spean Bridge, Fort William, and Stirling – in one of the world's most well-appointed trains.

Each of the train's cabins is outfitted with rich woods, fine damasks, plush carpets, and its own private bathroom. At night the train is stationary, ensuring a sound night's rest for travelers. The observation car, furnished with sofas and armchairs, is a comfortable place to watch the mountains, lochs, and forests that were once Bonnie Prince Charlie's stomping grounds roll by. In the dining car delicious Scottish specialties, such as Buccleuch beef and wild scallops, are paired with fine wines and served on Royal Worcester china.



These sumptuous surroundings, in combination with the attentive service provided by the train's crew, will transport you back in time, to an era when traveling had style. Lucky for you, onboard the Royal Scotsman, it still does. And if you think this is an endorsement, it sure is!

For more information, please visit [www.orient-express.com](http://www.orient-express.com). In the United States, call 1-800-524-2420, or in the United Kingdom, 0845-077-2222. ●

*The Royal Scotsman journeys through the majestic landscape of Scotland (above). Cabins in the sleeping cars are fully equipped to ensure a good night's sleep.*

Editor's  
**CHOICE**

*Hotel Nassauer Hof  
Wiesbaden, Germany*

IF YOU WANT TO BE YOUNG AGAIN AND HECTIC BUSINESS in Frankfurt wears you down, take a 20-minute drive to Wiesbaden and the Hotel Nassauer Hof, which is one of the last great grand hotels that is still managed by the owners. The hotel combines luxury and elegance, and also one of the best restaurants in Germany, the Ente, which features the talents of the grand chef Gerd Eis and has had a Michelin star for over 25 years.

But the reason you can dine elegantly and sample meals with less fat and sugar is the spa, with its infinity pool that is heated by natural springs hidden deep under the hotel.

Thomas Bonk is the chief physiotherapist. An expert in osteopathic massage, he supervises a staff of health experts in the most up-to-date health facilities.

Karl Nueser, the managing partner of the hotel, has made the Nassauer Hof the home of world celebrities because of his expert com-

bination of the finest accommodations and the best food and service, comparable to Europe's finest hotels. This is certainly one of the top.

For more information, visit [www.nassauer-hof.de](http://www.nassauer-hof.de). For reservations, call 49-0611-1330 ●



*Clockwise from top right: the hotel's exterior; the serene infinity pool; Presidential Suite bedroom and living room; lobby*

# Editor's CHOICE

## *Mandarin Oriental Dhara Dhevi, Chiang Mai*

IS LIFE GETTING YOU DOWN? DO YOU NEED TO GET AWAY from it all? Or if you are feeling generous, how would you like to take some of your top executives to a place where they can think, come up with brilliant ideas, and help the company make money?

The Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group has opened a new property, the Mandarin Oriental Dhara Dhevi in Chiang Mai, which is only a short hop from Bangkok. They have recreated a royal place with truly fantastic accommodations, not only for individuals and

families, but also for corporate meetings and special events.

Since this is a very unique place, it's wise to make reservations far in



advance, especially for corporate meetings.

At the Mandarin Oriental Dhara Dhevi, you can truly put your body at rest and give your brain the peace it needs to come up with more brilliant ideas for corporate profits and to ensure your own long and happy health. ●

*Clockwise from left: Deluxe Villa jacuzzi; spa room entrance; Villa plunge pool; Villa bedroom; and Colonial Suite bedroom*

