

CRICKET LOVER'S TRAVEL GUIDE TO AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

INDIA
& SOUTH ASIA

JANUARY 2015/₹150

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CONCIERGE CONFIDENTIAL

The finest hotel concierge managers are prized for their local secrets. They can tell you about off-beat experiences, undiscovered stores and districts full of character. We have 10 here part with some covert information, and more.

By Aroma Sah Anant



SONIA PAPET
HEAD CONCIERGE
LE BRISTOL PARIS, PARIS, FRANCE

“The most secret spots of Paris are the covered alleys. There are 24 different ones in the city and they are all worth visiting. The Verdeau, Jouffroy, Panorama, Vivienne, Grand Colbert or Choiseul alleys are all unique and home to fascinating antique boutiques.”



ABBAS GOLESTANI
HEAD CONCIERGE
THE BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL, CALIFORNIA, USA DORCHESTER COLLECTION

“Westwood Village Memorial park is hidden behind the high-rises of Wilshire Boulevard and is the resting place for some of the most famous celebrities, including Marilyn Monroe, Dean Martin, Natalie Wood, Jack Lemon, Roy Orbison, Walter Matthau, Eva Gabor and many more. This is a very small park with a singular

driveway entrance. Eternal fans appreciate being able to quietly enter the park, visit the graves of their favourite legendary celebrities, and reflect on the last memories they left behind. There’s another I can share: The Magic Castle, a private clubhouse in Hollywood where world-famous magicians go to showcase

their acts. It was built in 1908 as a private home and gradually turned into The Clubhouse for The Academy of Magical Arts. It has many beautifully appointed rooms featuring dinner service and private shows for members. Our concierge team is able to reserve this experience for our guests who are non-members.”

“Luxembourg is a paradise for visitors who like the quiet, enjoy green spots, elegant shopping and good food. Next time you’re there, visit the Abbaye the Neumunster, go into the outer courtyard and turn left. As you walk along the river and St Jean’s church, you will have the most magnificent view of the upper old part of town, St Michael’s Church, and the Luxembourg Castle.”

SIMON DELCOMMINETTE | HEAD CONCIERGE | LE ROYAL HOTELS & RESORTS, LUXEMBOURG



MAXIM MASCARENHAS
WELCOMCONCIERGE
ITC MARATHA, KHOTACHI WADI, MUMBAI, INDIA

“Located right in the middle of South Mumbai, Khotachi Wadi is a tiny hamlet near Chowpatty beach. It works as the perfect anomaly for what we know as Mumbai. Explore the narrow lanes of this heritage precinct with old-Portuguese style houses that have been home to Mumbai’s oldest inhabitants, the East Indian

Christians. Inspired by Art Deco architectural heritage, most of the houses of Khotachi Wadi are hand-painted in bright colours. It is while observing these beautiful houses you will realise the heritage value of this locality and why it lends itself away from everything around it. We recommend our guests

that as a visitor, just roam around these lanes and admire the houses built over 200 years ago and if possible talk to a few residents to get the real feel of the place and its community. Indeed, Khotachi Wadi is that part of Mumbai which connects the old with the new. It’s a great escape from Mumbai without leaving the city!”

TOP RIGHT: DAVID ZANZINGER/ALAMY/INDIAPICTURE

STAY SWEET

Can miss anything; but desserts...never!

MELBOURNE

GELATO AT MESSINA'S in Fitzroy. There's always a line up—even in winter. No wonder, they go through 2,000 litres of milk per day.

JAMES RIDENOUR, CHEF CONCIERGE CLEFS D'OR AT THE INTERCONTINENTAL MELBOURNE THE RIALTO

LAS VEGAS

"The frozen hot chocolate at **SERENDIPITY 3** in front of Caesars Palace will blow your mind. Who can say that they have ever had Frozen Hot Chocolate anywhere? It's not a typical drink, but it's so much fun."

TINA MATSON, CHEF CONCIERGE, BELLAGIO RESORT & CASINO

MUNICH

Try the typical Bavarian sweet, **SCHMALZNUDEL** or Auszogene. It is a barm pastry and you can choose from among different toppings. Order it with sugar or Sauerkraut.

CONCIERGE FLORIAN WEIDENBACH; BAYERISCHER HOF

BEVERLY HILLS

SPRINKLES CUPCAKES in Beverly Hills have an ATM-like automated vending machine available for customers to pick up cupcakes from. Just be prepared to wait on line.

ABBAS GOLESTANI, HEAD CONCIERGE, BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL

HANOI

Ô MAI are sugared or salted fruits with unique tastes. This traditional Vietnamese food can be found all year round and the best way to enjoy them is with a pot of tea and the company of

friends. Try them before you buy your favourite.

CONCIERGE ASSOCIATE MS THAI PHUONG NGA, JW MARRIOTT HANOI

ISTANBUL

A sweet treat one must try is **KÜNEFE**, a Levantine cheese pastry soaked in sweet sugar-based syrup, typical of the regions belonging to the former Ottoman Empire.

KENAN DEVECI, FRONT OFFICE CHIEF, BOUTIQUE ST SOPHIA, ISTANBUL



SHOPPING STRIPS

A spot of retail therapy

Gärtnerplatz MUNICH

Besides the well-known Maximilianstrasse and the walking area in the centre of the town you find small boutiques from Munich designers as well as bookshops and little Art Galleries in the Gärtnerplatz district behind the Viktualienmarkt.

CONCIERGE FLORIAN WEIDENBACH; BAYERISCHER HOF

IMM, SINGAPORE

Once you are done with your rounds at mega malls in the Orchard area, explore the west side of Singapore. Here lies IMM, Singapore's largest outlet mall. It houses a wide variety of brands. Shop around for good buys at discounted rates.

MOHAMED IBRAHIM, CHEF CONCIERGE, ROYAL PLAZA ON SCOTTS, SINGAPORE, A MEMBER OF SUMMIT HOTELS & RESORTS

Saint Germain des Prés PARIS

It is the best shopping area in Paris with Le bon Marché, the legendary department store where all the prestigious French institution have their boutiques. Also in the same area is Karl Lagerfeld's concept store.

SONIA, LE BISTROL PARIS

Old Quarter HANOI

full of colour and charm, this 1000-year-old area is Vietnam's version of the guild concept. Known as '36 Old Streets', it has actually many more than just 36 streets. Each street is named after the craft sold, such as silk, leather, silver, paper, vermicelli, artwork, toys, watch, food, and more.

CONCIERGE ASSOCIATE MS THAI PHUONG NGA, JW MARRIOTT HANOI



KENAN DEVECI
FRONT OFFICE CHIEF
BOUTIQUE ST SOPHIA, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

"Even today there are parts of Istanbul that an average visitor doesn't know about. Mahmutpaşa is one such area. It's not touristy and it still upholds the old Turkish bazaar culture. Take a stroll there, taste authentic and famous Turkish desserts including maraş ice cream. For foodies, Aksaray would be a great discovery – this street has dozens of kebab shops, and is the best place to taste a delicious variety."

CHRIS ADCOCK

CHEF CONCIERGE
THE JEFFERSON, WASHINGTON DC,
VIRGINIA, USA

"Some of the best kept secrets of the city lie just outside downtown DC. The Hillwood Estate is the house of Marjorie Merriweather Post and home to one of the most comprehensive collections of Russian imperial art outside of Russia. The Kreeger Museum is a private museum at the former home of David and Carmen Kreeger, focusing on 19th and 20th-century paintings and include works by Monet, Picasso, and Miro. Lastly, the Bonsai collection at the National Arboretum features one of the largest collections of bonsai trees in North America."



JAMES RIDENOUR
CHEF CONCIERGE CLEFS D'OR
INTERCONTINENTAL, MELBOURNE, THE RIALTO

"Discover the hundreds of small lane-ways and arcades that the city is famous for. Wandering through these historic passages will bring you a real sense of the lifestyle of Melbourne which has a love-affair with the quirky and unusual. Many businesses don't even post signs making their discovery even more delightful. Make your own every day."

PERFECT TAKEAWAYS

The traveller's keepsakes

In Bavaria, the embellishments on the **hat** are a symbol of wealth and status. However, it's not their size that matters; rather it's the style with which they are worn that makes you a real Bavarian. CONCIERGE FLORIAN WEIDENBACH; BAYERISCHER HOF



Warli art is a beautiful folk art of Maharashtra. The paintings usually depict scenes of human figures engaged in activities like hunting, dancing, sowing and harvesting. These paintings are done with rice paste. MAXIM MASCARENHAS, ITC MARATHA, MUMBAI



Look for **Peckvillchen**, the traditional clay bird whistles that are handcrafted in the noted pottery centre of Nospelt in Luxembourg. SIMON DELCOMMINETTE, HEAD CONCIERGE, LE ROYAL HOTELS & RESORTS – LUXEMBOURG



Turkish handmade glassware called **Çeşm – iBülbül** is a unique and beautiful souvenir that can only be found in Turkey. KENAN DEVECİ, FRONT OFFICE CHIEF, BOUTIQUE ST SOPHIA, ISTANBUL



Photograph dramatic **graffiti**. There are artistic murals all over the city of Melbourne, many that defy standard perceptions of street art. The art is ever changing so your photograph will be a marker of your time in our marvelous city. JAMES RIDENOUR, CHEF CONCIERGE CLEFS D'OR AT THE INTERCONTINENTAL MELBOURNE THE RIALTO

Most guests aren't aware that they can always remember their Vegas experience by taking a **casino chip** or a deck of playing cards from the poker room. They are fun and unique souvenirs and of course, guests always love buying shot glasses. They're great collectibles. TINA MATSON, CHEF CONCIERGE, BELLAGIO RESORT & CASINO



You know you're here when

MUMBAI

Dabbawala's become a common sight. **Maxim Mascarenhas, ITC Maratha**

MELBOURNE

You can eat out 365 days a year and never have a bad meal. **James Ridenour, Chef Concierge Clefs d'Or at the InterContinental Melbourne - The Rialto**

BEVERLY HILLS

You don't see people walking. LA is spread out and everyone needs to travel by car. **Abbas Golestani, Head Concierge, Beverly Hills Hotel**

CAPRI

You see welcoming, polite, smiling, and friendly faces everywhere. **Giada Falanga, Head Concierge, Capri Tiberio Palace**

NEW YORK

A good Saturday morning bagel attracts lines around the block; and Pedi Cabs serve as a popular form of transportation. **Isabelle Hogan, Chef Concierge, The Mark Hotel, New York City**

LUXEMBOURG

You see all the banks. **Simon Delcomminette, Head Concierge, Le Royal Hotels & Resorts – Luxembourg**

LAS VEGAS

You see 'Elvis' walking down The Strip, and showgirls walk out of hotel elevators. **Tina Matson, Chef Concierge, Bellagio Resort & Casino**

WARLI ART: INDIAPICTURE



GIADA FALANGA
HEAD CONCIERGE
CAPRI TIBERIO PALACE, CAPRI, ITALY

"Have you ever swum in the Cala di Mesola? It is only accessible by foot after a long coastal walk through the fort paths (Sentierodei Fortini) in Anacapri. I always suggest taking a private guide as they can take you through the most scenic

trails, tell you amazing old legends and show you spectacular views of the Mediterranean Sea. Also, try the private dining in a Capri Villa where traditional dishes are prepared and served in an intimate and romantic atmosphere."



THAI PHUONG NGA
CONCIERGE ASSOCIATE
JW MARRIOTT, HANOI, VIETNAM

"There is one secret I can share—the Temple of Third Prince—just next to our hotel. Frequented on the first and 15th of every month by senior government officers, the temple is said to answer prayers with good fortune and health!"

"Located on the 79th street deep inside Central Park, Belvedere Castle offers a whimsical and historical attraction with beautiful views (hence it's name) of the great lawn. While visitors often stumble upon the castle while walking through the park, this is a perfect spot to recommend for guests to take our iconic bikes and a picnic lunch by our chef Jean-Georges."

ISABELLE HOGAN | Chef Concierge | THE MARK HOTEL, NEW YORK CITY, USA



LOCAL FLAVOUR

Golden nuggets for the Gourmand

"Try the popular steamboat restaurant frequented by locals, Hai Di Lao Hot Pot. Do make a reservation in advance and be patient while your tables are readied. You will be able to enjoy free snacks and drinks as you wait. Ladies are also treated to a free manicure. Choose from seven soup bases and a range of specialty items which include Black Angus beef tenderloin and hand-pulled noodles."

MOHAMED IBRAHIM, CHEF CONCIERGE, ROYAL PLAZA ON SCOTTS, SINGAPORE, A MEMBER OF SUMMIT HOTELS & RESORTS

"The best restaurant in Capri is definitely Le Grotelle, a family-owned place that serves local fare. It is the only restaurant

in town where one can eat under moonlight. For years it has been the favourite haunt for writers who appreciate dining in Capri's natural beauty.

GIADA FALANGA, HEAD CONCIERGE AND FRONT OFFICE MANAGER, CAPRI TIBERIO PALACE, CAPRI, ITALY, A MEMBER OF PREFERRED BOUTIQUE

The 73-year-old Polo Lounge is the epicentre of power dining in Los Angeles. This is where agents, producers and actors meet for a meal and close deals. Try the iconic McCarthy Salad, which is almost as well known as the restaurant's clientele.

ABBAS GOLESTANI, HEAD CONCIERGE, BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL