

How to spend it

AUGUST 7 2010

PLASTIC MAKES PERFECT



travelista

Wander woman **Maria Shollenbarger**
fast-tracks international intelligence
on where to be and what to see.

→ The Grand Prix Season in **SINGAPORE** may still be several weeks away, but a cache of new hotels are already jostling for the spotlight. Local hospitality star Peng Loh – the man behind the perennially cool New Majestic hotel – has just thrown open the doors to **Wanderlust** (www.wanderlusthotel.com; from \$120), an ideal address for those seeking design-hotel creds and an almost absurdly fortuitous location in Little India and very near to Arab Street and Mount Sophia. And opening next month in the middle of lush Fort Canning Park, in an impressive,



Above: the new Fullerton Bay Hotel in Singapore.

c1926 listed building and one-time base for the British Far East Command, is **Hotel Fort Canning** (www.hfcsingapore.com; from S\$235, about £112), which will offer an embarrassment of luxe services and amenities, from the first Thann spa in town to outdoor pools to personal trainers on call in the gym. Meanwhile, Marina Bay continues to sprout attractions, seemingly by the week, including **The Fullerton Bay Hotel** (www.thefullertonheritage.com; from about £184): a severely sleek, purpose-built pavilion that extends out over the water housing 100 ultra-contemporary rooms and suites.

→ Water views abound, too, in the verdant Okavango Delta in **BOTSWANA**. Here, the Safari Adventure Company, a sister operation to blue-chip operator Wilderness Safaris (whose longstanding Mombo and Abu camps are considered two of southern Africa's finest for game viewing), looks set to raise the bar. **Banoka Bush Camp** (www.safariadventurecompany.co.uk; from \$400 per person) in the Khwai Concession, bordering the Moremi Reserve (where the dry season sees a wildlife congregation rivalled in few places), has just 10 tented suites and will offer drives deep into the reserve, as well as walking safaris and birding expeditions in the Delta's traditional mokoro canoes.

→ In **NAMIBIA** water is, instead, profoundly scarce – the arid north-west sees average rainfall of just 100mm per annum. But the serene, otherworldly beauty of the landscapes is precisely what draws travellers, and it's here that Conservancy Safaris (www.kcs-namibia.com.na) has constructed the country's first community-owned luxury safari camp. **Etambura Camp** (booked through www.zambezi.com; from \$4,200 per person for five nights) has five sleek, round-roofed "huts", each with private terrace and plunge pool overlooking the Onjuva hills. On the conservation



Above: a traditional mokoro in the Okavango Delta, Botswana. Below: Wanderlust has just opened in Singapore.

