

HONG KONG HIGH LIFE | REDEFINING LUXURY | THE BEST OF ISTANBUL

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DISCOVER A LAVISH MODERN EXPERIENCE
IN AUSTRALIA'S LAST GREAT WILDERNESS

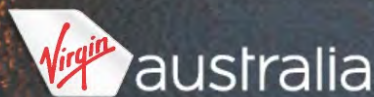
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(from top to bottom) And they're off, at the White Turf race in Switzerland; a treatment room at Abu Dhabi's Anantara spa; unusual food at Ultraviolet in Shanghai; the restaurant's dining/projection room.



ANANTARA SPA, ABU DHABI, UAE

Want major boasting rights at the world's most luxurious spa and hotel, guaranteed to make you feel like a million dollars?

OK, sometimes luxury really is just about unabashed bling. If so, then the ultimate spa beauty treatment must be the Diamond Experience ritual at Anantara Abu Dhabi, which uses genuine diamond dust (from ethical sources, naturally) to stimulate the skin and provide a facial that will leave you with a jewel-like sparkle. The two-hour treatment, which also includes a peel and massages, will cost you AED\$1624 (\$422). The setting itself is just as opulent, with gold-adorned architecture evoking an Ali Baba palace from an old storybook. Later, you can retire to the \$3 billion Emirates Palace hotel of which the spa is a part, with private butlers and Swarovski chandeliers aplenty. www.spa.anantara.com/abudhabi.



ULTRAVIOLET RESTAURANT, SHANGHAI, CHINA

Anyone can spend a small fortune on a fancy meal (well, almost anyone) but this innovative restaurant goes beyond mere fine dining to assault all the senses.

There's no more outrageously original restaurant on the planet than the recently opened Ultraviolet, which its maverick avant-garde French head chef Paul Pairet describes as a "multi-sensory experience". Guests are driven to the secret location of an old, abandoned warehouse — then the magic begins. Church bells ring and a starry sky appears above as the brick walls begin to shimmer upwards and then disappear. Waiters appear with appetisers that look

like food beamed down from a futuristic planet. By the time you tuck into lobster, waves crash around the walls and the air smells as salty as the sea. Settle in for four hours of witty entertainment created by clever use of themed music and interactive floor-to-ceiling video projection screens that might see you sitting in a forest glade or a psychedelic 1960s nightclub. www.uvbypp.com.

WHITE TURF, ST MORITZ, SWITZERLAND

Horse racing has always had a touch of glamour, but the ultimate equine meet must be White Turf in the Swiss alpine resort of St Moritz. Join the beautiful people to watch dramatic horse racing on ice with the snowy Alps as a backdrop. Thrilling.

A tent city springs up around the town's frozen lake, populated by fur-clad billionaires and ski-bunny celebs. Champagne flows, and oysters and Oscietra caviar circulates. VIP entries are almost impossible to get, but the ordinary folk can obtain a seat in the grandstand for a pretty generous CHF 70 (\$70). The snow-capped Swiss mountains provide the background scenery to the action on the ice — a series of horse races that culminates in the 1800-metre Grand Prix. The meet also includes skijoring, an unmissable highlight in which skiers are pulled along behind galloping horses in a wild display of skill, courage and sheer physical strength. www.whiteturf.ch.

GETTING THERE To book your flights, visit www.virginaustralia.com or simply call 13 67 89 (in Australia).

