

LIFE. EXTRAORDINARY

# HONG KONG TATTLER

April 2015

## Sarah Ho

THE DAUGHTER OF  
A BOND GIRL AND  
GRANDDAUGHTER OF  
A CASINO MAGNATE  
ON TRAGEDY  
AND TRIUMPH

HONG KONG TATTLER

SARAH HO • BONNAE GOKSON • KARIM AZAR • BRAZILIAN ART

APRIL 2015

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# Jubilant Journeys

*Bespoke trips through the South African bush and to Sicily make our round-up of travel highlights this month*

## FROM THE BUSH TO THE COAST

### SOUTH AFRICA

A2A Safaris has launched a unique nine-night experience through the exclusive Morukuru family properties, taking guests to the Madikwe Game Reserve and the De Hoop Nature Reserve. Explore the impressive wildlife via car and fishing boat during the day with hiking, biking, marine walking and cave tours, before retiring to your accommodation courtesy of luxury hotel and restaurant collective Relais & Châteaux. One not-to-be-missed highlight is witnessing the southern right whales, which are sometimes viewable from the windows of guests' rooms. The trip culminates in two nights at the AtholPlace Boutique Hotel in Johannesburg; guests will be led on excursions to museums and anthropological digs. Bookings start from HK\$47,955. Other new A2A trips to South Africa include jaunts to Cape Town and Whale Coast, and through the Marataba Trails. [a2asafaris.com](http://a2asafaris.com)

## BELLE ÉPOQUE

### PARIS

The newly opened La Réserve Paris exemplifies old-world luxury at the heart of the city of romance. Comprising 26 suites and 14 rooms with picturesque views, the hotel's opulent design bespeaks 19th-century Parisian chic—plenty of oak, velvet and antique furniture—without skimping on the best of modern-day amenities. Highlights of the property are the 16-metre indoor pool, wine cellars in the suites, and a smoking lounge and library. Le Gabriel, the hotel's fine-dining restaurant, serves up contemporary French dishes that reflect the changing seasons. [lareserve-paris.com](http://lareserve-paris.com)



## LA DOLCE VITA

### SICILY

Beautiful beach resort Belmond Villa Sant'Andrea is offering a lavish five-night, six-day excursion to Sicily this spring, where guests can sample the many delights of the Mediterranean island. Explore the rustic towns of Taormina and Castelmola in a classic Ape Calessino three-wheeler, followed by a tour of one of Mount Etna's most stunning vineyards. The experience then whisks guests on a trip through the Bay of Mazara, the Grotta Azzurra and the Bay of the Sirens in a traditional hand-painted boat, and rounds out with a cooking course courtesy of executive chef Salvatore Gambuzza, who will reveal the techniques behind classic Sicilian dishes. The programme runs until May 31. [belmond.com](http://belmond.com)



## SLICE OF HISTORY

### NEW YORK CITY

Opened in 1906, The Knickerbocker Hotel was the cornerstone of Manhattan's social scene and a gathering spot for the likes of John D Rockefeller and F Scott Fitzgerald. After a spell transformed into offices, the treasured landmark reopened as a hotel in February, with design by architecture firm Gabellini Sheppard, which preserved the original Beaux Arts exterior. The Knickerbocker boasts 330 rooms and suites, as well as exquisite cuisine by celebrity chef Charlie Palmer and impressive rooftop bar St Cloud. [theknickerbocker.com](http://theknickerbocker.com)



## HEART OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

### BARCELONA

*The Catalan capital has long remained a top summer destination and, with the recent opening of modern boutique hotel The Serras, you're overdue for a return visit*

### STAY

Hip boutique hotel The Serras opened in what once served as Pablo Picasso's first studio. A rooftop pool and bar, delectable dishes by chef Marc Gascons and beautiful modern decor (below) are only a few of the charms this property has to offer. [hotelserrasbarcelona.com](http://hotelserrasbarcelona.com)

### DRINK

Posh rooftop bars abound in Barcelona, and one of the best is in the sleek Me by Meliá, perched atop a skyscraper designed by French architect Dominique Perrault. Sip a glass of cava while enjoying the stunning nighttime views among the city's crema de la crema. [me-barcelona.com](http://me-barcelona.com)

### EAT

Sample modern Catalan classics at two-Michelin-starred restaurant ABaC in an elegant, intimate atmosphere while soaking up a view of the hotel's impeccable gardens. Don't forget to try the grilled guinea fowl. [abacbarcelona.com](http://abacbarcelona.com)

### SEE

A trip to Barcelona isn't complete without visiting the Sagrada Família. A Unesco World Heritage Site, the church's intricate design was conceived by renowned Spanish architect Antoni Gaudí. [sagradafamilia.cat](http://sagradafamilia.cat)

