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26TH ANNUAL SPECIAL ISSUE

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Four Seasons Hotel Lion Palace St. Petersburg

Opened in September, Kafri's Roman retreat is set in a 19th-century former architecture school with an enviable location in the city's historic center, just west of the Spanish Steps. The property's 30 rooms and suites, designed by the Florentine architect Michele Bönan, are a luxuriant blend of bespoke furnishings, custom artworks, and carefully selected antiques. A bistro, a library, and a sky-lit lobby share the same modern-meets-vintage scheme. Should such fashionable interiors inspire visitors to embark on a Roman shopping spree, the boutiques of Via dei Condotti are just a short stroll away. (\$975-\$2,800)

—ANDREW SESSA

THE WORLD'S ONLY hotel to occupy a Ludwig Mies van der Rohe-designed building, the new **Langham, Chicago** (312.923.9988, www.langhamhotels.com), is a worthy tribute to the great Bauhaus architect. Debuted in September in an imposing glass tower along the Chicago River, the hotel abounds with appropriate touches, including Mies-inspired furnishings designed by the luminary's grandson, Dirk Lohan of the Chicago-based firm Lohan Anderson. The 316-room property—which occupies the first 13 floors of the 52-story tower—breaks with form at times, as in the plush-carpeted guest rooms and suites and the Eastern-inspired Chuan Spa. The

David Rockwell-designed Travalle restaurant serves as the hotel's most authentic interpretation of Bauhaus, with glass walls, clean lines, and minimalist wood-and-metal furnishings. (\$295-\$6,000) —BECCA HENSLEY

FOLLOWING NEARLY A decade of renovations, the **Four Seasons Hotel Lion Palace St. Petersburg** (+7.812.339.8000, www.fourseasons.com) opened last July as the Russian city's premier address. The five-story hotel—first constructed in the early 19th century as an apartment building for Russian nobility—is located in the heart of St. Petersburg: along the Neva River, adjacent to St. Isaac's Cathedral, and a short walk from the State Hermitage Museum. Of the 157 rooms and 26 suites, the 1,636-square-foot Lobanov Presidential Suite—named for the palace's original owners, Prince and Princess Lobanov-Rostovsky—best preserves the property's imperial provenance, with a sprawling marble bathroom and a garden terrace overlooking the historic Admiralty Tower. The regal guest experience at the hotel is facilitated by a team of guides and concierges who can arrange private tours of the city's famed museums and procure last-minute tickets to the ballet and opera houses. (\$342-\$14,325)

—BAILEY S. BARNARD



The Langham, Chicago

BOTTOM: MIKE SCHWARTZ