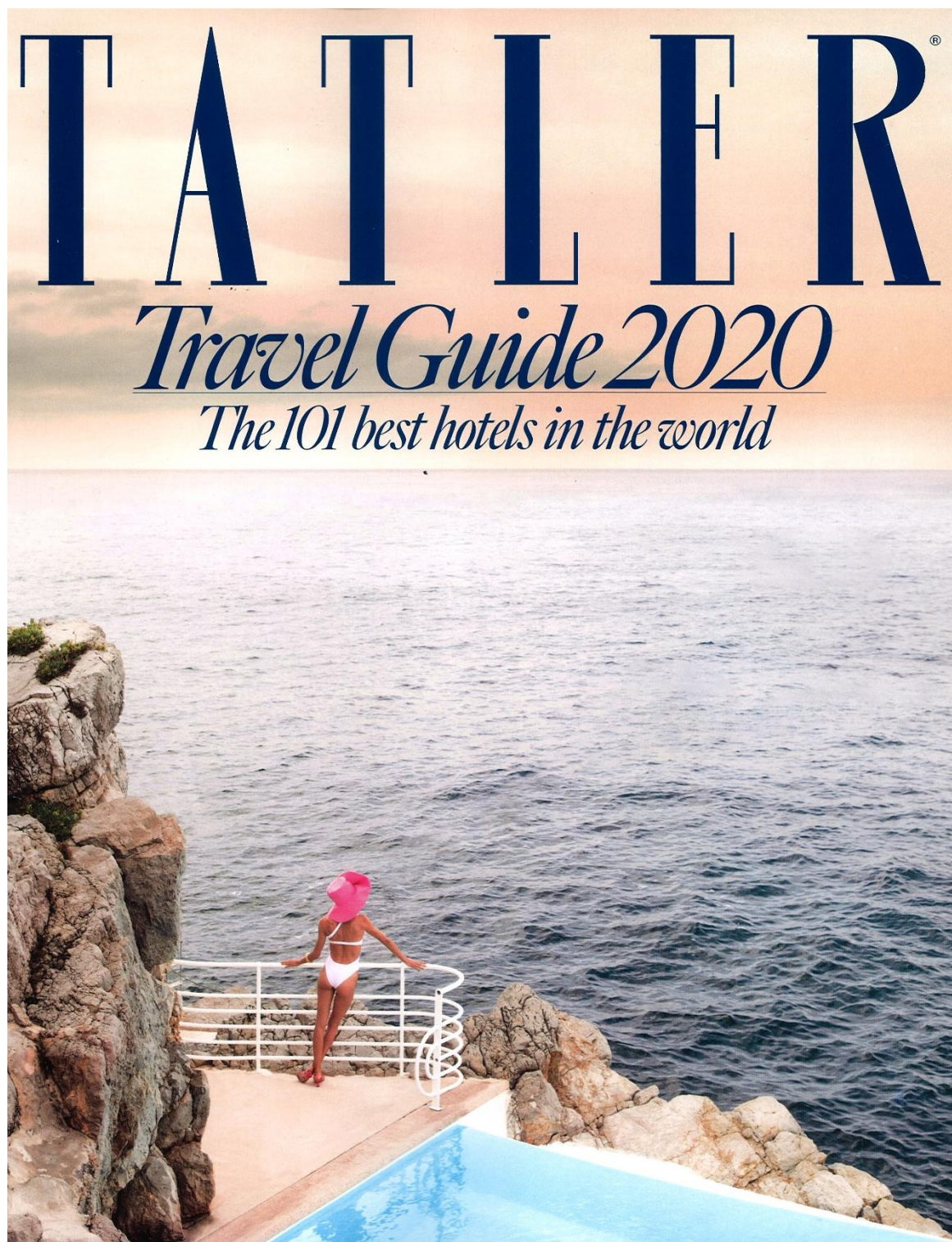


Client: Hotel Continentale
Source: Tatler
Date: 1 January 2020



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Amelia Windsor

Model

After a bank holiday weekend that saw the hottest Notting Hill Carnival on record, I made my way to Florence to immerse myself in even more musical fun at the New Generation Festival. The four-day event was started two years ago by a trio of British producers, Roger Granville, Maximilian Fane and Frankie Parham to celebrate music in all its forms, from opera to classical and jazz, while also providing a platform for rising stars. And so a joyous weekend of music and culture ensued.

You can't help but fall in love with Florence – gazing up at an impressive fresco or facade, wandering through the Boboli Gardens or enjoying an Aperol Spritz on the rooftop of the Hotel Continentale, owned by the Ferragamo family whose glamorous shop and museum is also not to be missed. It's the perfect place to stay, close to the Uffizi Gallery, with romantic bedrooms that look out onto the Ponte Vecchio, the hills beyond and the Basilica San Miniato al Monte in the distance.

It's also very close to the home of the annual New Generation Festival staged in the Corsini Gardens, acquired with the palazzo in 1620 by Philip Corsini. Princess Georgiana Corsini and her family kindly provide this beautiful space for the Festival, its geometric box hedges and scented lemon trees all romantically draped with fairy lights for the occasion.

The opening night started with Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*; director Victoria Stevens transported Lorenzo Da Ponte's libretto into a 1930s film set. This was followed by a divine gala dinner of Tuscan delights created by Nerina Martinelli (of Il Nigolo restaurant fame). Another highlight for me was the night impresario Maximilian Fane guided the orchestra through Elgar's *Chanson de Matin* and *Chanson de Nuit*, followed by Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 4* in G major – each note was conducted with love and played by Giuseppe Guarrera so effortlessly. It was completely spellbinding. lunarnocollection.com; newgenerationfestival.org

Scented lemon trees in the Corsini Gardens were draped in fairy lights for the New Generation Festival