

Business Post

IRISH TATLER

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NORMAL
PEOPLE'S
**INDIA
MULLEN**
IS THE
ONE TO WATCH

SPRING

SPECIAL

FASHION



Above:
InterContinental
Shanghai
Wonderland
Below: rooftop
views at London's
Mondrian
Shoreditch

LIVING

THE LUXE RADAR

Shopping in the world's fashion capitals requires suitably stylish digs. **Jillian Bolger** lines up the hottest hotels in the big 7.

After two years of online shopping, nothing excites Luxe Radar more than the prospect of hitting the streets in the world's fashion capitals. We're dreaming of trawling the racks at the flagship stores of the world's great design houses; Chanel in Paris, Prada in Milan, Yohji Yamamoto in Tokyo. We can't wait to discover edgy new boutiques and seek out niche new designers. And, naturally, we'd like to do it in style, checking into the chicest spots in town.

First on our hit list is **Paris**, where the fabled InterContinental Paris Le Grand's has just come through a lengthy renovation, making it the perfect time to visit. The architectural masterpiece is as impressive inside and out, with flawless service and rich heritage. The Signature Suites, tucked into the eaves, are the ultimate in French elegance and perfect comfort after a day's shopping. We're particularly looking forward to coffee and croissants at the hotel's iconic Café de la Paix, fashionable since 1862, and ideal for people-watching on the Grands Boulevards.

parislegend.intercontinental.com
A hotel owned by the Ferragamo family seems like the smart choice for a retail trip to **Milan**. The ultra-luxurious Lungarno Collection opens Portrait Milano, its newest property, this summer in the monumental setting of Europe's oldest seminary. Built in 1564 and long closed, the staggering building is currently being restored to create an opulent five-star setting complete with baroque entrance and imposing piazza. Decor will be heavily influenced by Ferragamo's impeccable style credentials. In the heart of the city's fashion district, the new hotel will connect Corso Venezia to Via Sant'Andrea and will have its own restaurants and boutiques.

lungarnocollection.com
Closer to home, **London's** calling with countless exciting new hotels that we want to try. We love the boho opulence of NoMad, (which we've swooned about in the Luxe Radar before) and also fancy the look of cool newcomer Mondrian Shoreditch, which opened last summer. GM David Lockhart joined from the ultra-hip Ned, ensuring this East London outpost is connected to its neighbourhood's cultural and creative scene. Aside from cool digs, serious tapas is on offer at BIBO by Dani García, the Michelin-starred chef who brings his Marbella vibes to London, and the cool rooftop pool and lounge will be calling us after a day's ritual therapy. sbe.com

Those craving off-beat fashion, and the next big thing, should hit up **Barcelona** for a wardrobe refresh. Don't leave without booking a bed at ME Barcelona in the hipster area of Poblenou, a hotbed for creativity and culture on the city's golden mile. A tall building surrounded by a vibrant neighbourhood, head for the cool rooftop pool and patio on the eighth floor, where you can enjoy the skyline views of neighbouring Plaça Catalunya and La Sagrada Família. Inside, you'll find a luxurious spa, great cocktails at Luma bar, designer furniture and cool local art. Melia.com

If you're feeling more adventurous, **Tokyo** is the city for you with its edgy mix of avant-garde street fashion and designer tailoring. Fans of the luxury EDITION hotel group will love their new Japanese property, which is set to open this winter. The Tokyo EDITION Ginza follows on from the successful launch of the Tokyo EDITION, all clean lines and elegant spaces. Opening on Chuo Street, one of the city's largest shopping destinations, we're expecting this sleek new hotel to ooze panache and quickly become a magnet for Tokyo's style set. Get ahead of the crowds by booking at editionhotels.com

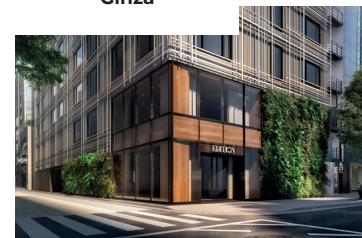
Done Tokyo? Try **Shanghai**, where you'll discover one incredible shopping

experience. China's fashion capital, and centre of the textile industry, this vibrant city has been synonymous with style and decadence for decades, once enjoying the name of Paris of the East. Should you like your hotel to turn heads too, go beyond the city limits to discover the breathtaking InterContinental Shanghai Wonderland. A sparkling semi-submerged structure within an abandoned quarry, its design and construction are mesmerising, with underwater suites, a gigantic aquarium and spectacular light and water shows every day. ihg.com

Of course, we can't talk fashion capitals without giving worship at the temple of cool that is **New York**. SoHo's always a favourite spot of Luxe Radar's, with its eclectic mix of designer shops, quirky boutiques, cobbled streets and cast iron-fronted buildings. We'll be heading for ModernHaus SoHo, a member of Preferred Hotels & Resorts, where its Bauhaus-inspired interior and incredible views make it a red hot destination. After a day's shopping, the delicious rooftop pool and bar are where you'll want to be, sipping cocktails and enjoying amazing views of the city that never sleeps. modernhaushotel.com ●



Above: The soon to open **Portrait Milano**
Below: Tokyo's **Edition Ginza**



From left:
InterContinental Paris; New York's **ModernHaus SoHo**; the **ME Barcelona**

