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Essential travel intelligence

April 2020

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THE ONE AND ONLY If you can't travel right now, then make the most of what's on your doorstep, such as the beautiful One&Only Royal Mirage, in our Staycation Special

- **40** This issue we celebrate some of our favourite local heroes, with a curated edit of hotels for the ultimate staycation around the UAE
- **60** Why The Venue is proving to be the jewel in Jeddah's crown, where regal luxury holds hands with local heritage

THE SPIRIT OF ARABIA

Travel without travelling with our staycation special, as we curate an edit of some of our favourite local heroes across the UAE, for desert stays to urban escapes. Then, find out which hotel is the jewel in Jeddah's crown

WORDS: Emily Baxter-Priest

QASR AL SARAB DESERT RESORT BY ANANTARA On the outskirts of Abu Dhabi lies The Empty Quarter, the world's largest sand desert, and rising up from flame-coloured dunes like a mirage is Qasr Al Sarab Desert Resort by Anantara. As secluded as they come, you'll see nothing bar undulating dunes during your stay, as the 206-key hotel invites the utmost in lavish escapism. Earth-tone rooms, suites and villas seamlessly marry rustic yet regal design, while in-the-know travellers book either a pool villa that comes with butler, outdoor shower and private pool, or an opulent 130sqm Royal Pool Pavilion that is secluded from the main resort, and features a pool, cabanas, indoor/outdoor dining areas and, of course, a private butler too. Your desert adventure is all-encompassing at Qasr Al Sarab: traverse the Rub' al Khali by camelback, watch a falcon and Saluki show, dine atop a dune under the desert skies, unwind with a Moroccan hammam, or simply hole up and revel in your uninterrupted oasis and watch the sun set over the sands. Here, the only real onus is on allowing your desert journey to elicit awe, romance and the spirit of Arabia. We promise, it won't be hard to do. www.anantara.com

