



UMA PARO



HI HOTEL



CAPELLA LODGE



Clockwise from above: the elegantly serene Uma Paro is surrounded by the Bhutanese mountains; space-age and ultra-modern is the theme for Nice's HI Hotel; sophisticated beach chic is offered at Lord Howe's Capella Lodge; the theatrical interiors of Christian Lacroix's Hotel du Petit Moulin in the ultra-chic Marrakech district in Paris.

in the middle of the floor or on platforms hovering above. There's a mist blower in the interior yard, organic meals in the café, art books in the lobby and live goldfish in the bedrooms. Visit www.hi-hotel.net for details.

The seductively appointed The Scarlet has a body built for sin. A stark departure from a Singapore skyline crowded with chain hotels, The Scarlet is housed in a restored 20s building in the heart of Chinatown. Clean lines have been eschewed in favour of pure opulence: gilt mirrors, crystal chandeliers, velvet furnishings and generous use of tassels give the interiors a lush, warm ambience. The experience is taken to its absolute limit in the 84-room hotel's five suites: Splendour, Lavish, Swank, Opulent and, of course, Passion, while fine dining is done in a restaurant named Desire. Log on to www.thescarlet.com for more.

For an island more famous for its frenetic club scene than its design credentials, the aesthetic at Theoxenia Mykonos is sophisticated and brilliantly realised. A haven for jetsetters in the 60s (Jacqueline and Aristotle Onassis once stayed here), the hotel lost its lustre in the preceding decades, but the cool retro lines have been expertly revamped to serve the whims of a new generation of hedonists. Acid oranges, greens and blues and modernist 60s furniture are juxtaposed against stone-clad walls and flagstone floors to maximum effect. Visit www.mykonostheoxenia.com for more.

Fashion retailer Christina Ong brings luxe to Bhutan, the famed mountain



HOTEL DU PETIT MOULIN

kingdom, where outsiders were viewed with suspicion until recently. The elegantly serene Uma Paro possesses an unassuming chic that perfectly complements the austere mountain scenery of its surroundings and the tranquil way of life of the devoutly Buddhist locals. The sleek, clean lines of the interior, fashioned by Bhutanese artisans, are at once modern and traditional, providing a cultural experience inside and out. Check out www.uma.com.bz for details.

Having played second fiddle to the more

glam islands off the Queensland coastline, Lord Howe has notched up the luxe factor with the nine-suite Capella Lodge. Evoking a sophisticated beach house, Capella makes maximum use of its surroundings: the subtle, minimalist interiors allow the breathtaking vistas outside the ceiling-to-floor windows to play the hero, while the outdoor massage tent that forms part of the Capella Spa makes the most of the island's unique tranquillity (visitors are limited to 400 at a time). Visit www.lordhowe.com for details.