

# TATLER

Starring  
the 101 best  
hotels in  
the world

# Travel Guide 2010



In association with  
Africa Travel

## Four Seasons Florence

Florence, Italy

The most thrilling serious hotel in Europe right now. Four Seasons' renovation of a 16th-century conventino and separate 15th-century palace could have taken a terrible phoney dive (elsewhere in Italy that happens a lot). But in fact it's sensitive, subtle, spectacular – a triumph. Half-hotel, half-museum, it was once the residence of a pope and a viceroy of Egypt (who left when his harem were forbidden from moving in). The largest gardens in Florence are beautiful; the Violette Bubble on the menu is quite the strangest, most delicious pudding ever; the scent of the spa is just bliss, with products provided by local heroes Santa Maria Novella. And then there's the genius of the concierge for, among other things, suggesting Sostanza for the best bistecca alla fiorentina. This is a cultural landmark brought sensationally back to life. **Website** fourseasons.com. **UK reservations** Citalia (tel: 0871 664 0253). **Rates** Double, from £455.



## The Quay

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Hot and captivating, Phnom Penh is Graham Greene-ish, dissolute and beguiling. Away from the whirling ceiling fans, the deep-fried spiders and the honking mopeds is a new, simple, modern nook that's absolutely charming. A sister to the famous Foreign Correspondents' Club, it has just 16 carbon-friendly rooms, full of granite-edged tubs and Arne Jacobsen chairs. This is the place to be in the city of misfits (the capital of a country whose own King spent many years as a ballet dancer in Paris), overlooking the Mekong, the main artery of all Asia, and surrounded by street cafés bristling with baguettes and local spices. The bistro is fantastic – amazing hot lemongrassy soup – and there's a great pool. The Quay is an immediate hub, the hot hangout. **Website** thequayhotel.com. **UK reservations** Cleveland Collection (tel: 0845 450 5732). **Rates** Double, from £70, including breakfast. ▷

**STOP PRESS...** Members' club star player Soho House is spreading its wings to the Mitte District