

TRAVEL NOTES

By Eoin Higgins



GREAT DANE

With everything, down to the chic staff uniforms, designed or curated by owner Alexander Kølpin (former principal dancer of the Royal Danish Ballet, and artistic and creative director) one would expect the just-opened Sanders Hotel, Copenhagen to be aesthetically pleasing, but expectations have been well and truly smashed. Rather than furrowing along the contemporary design seam that apes originality but is anything but, Kølpin has struck out, boldly, with a visual theme that is at once enticingly original and comfortingly familiar. "Quiet luxury" is how the designing Danish dancer describes a hotel that features subtle luxury train motifs, open fireplaces, broad beds and rattan ceilings that create a rustic/luxe feel that is hugely comforting. Meanwhile, up on the fifth floor, a conservatory offers inspiring views of Copenhagen's night sky. A splendid addition to the city's competitive hotel roster, hotelsanders.com.



ALL THAT JAZZ Staycate groovily this month with a trip to Cork city for the annual music shindig that separates the coolest of cats from the dippiest of dilettantes – the Guinness Cork Jazz Festival. The joint is not solely for jazzers, however – highlights this year include performances from chameleon queen Imelda May and Nicholas Payton's multi-layered, sonic smorgasbord, Afro Caribbean Mixtape. As for accommodation, it's hard to beat the versatility, proximity to venues and all-round comfort on offer at The River Lee hotel, not to mention its gorgeous terrace, guinnessjazzfestival.com; doylecollection.com.

THE CANNIEST CANS BEAUTIFULLY DESIGNED, NOISE-CANCELLING, SNUGLY COMFORTABLE, WIRELESS, CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED, MELLIFLUOUS... THE AKG N60NC IS SIMPLY AN UNBEATABLE CHOICE OF HEADPHONES FOR TRAVELLERS WHO WANT TO EMPTY OR FILL THEIR EARS, €288 AT THOMANN.DE.



GOIN' TO MIAMI

With Aer Lingus having launched its inaugural direct flight to Miami last month, it's time to bring the Travel Notes heat to South Beach.

STAY

Arty, slick, cultural – **The Betsy's** breezy, boutique-y, beach-bright rooms provide the quintessential backdrop to a tropical-luxe Miami experience, thebetsyhotel.com.

EAT

Experimental, nostalgic, mind-blowing – Juan Manuel Barrientos' **El Cielo** is an unmissable taste of Miami gastronomy at its apex, elcielorestaurant.com.

DRINK

Iconic, glam, entertaining – experience what is quite possibly the best expression of a mojito on the planet at **Ball & Chain**, a recently resurrected 1930s beauty, ballandchainmiami.com.

WALK

Hip, vibrant, cutting-edge – the best way to discover the **Wynwood Art District's** excellent shopping, people-watching, eating and drinking options is by foot.