

THE TRAVELER'S GUIDE TO INSPIRED PURSUITS

NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2011

# VIRTUOSO LIFE

\$5.95

## THE CALL OF CHINA

Shanghai, Beijing,  
& the Yangtze River

ESSENTIAL  
INDIA

BARCELONA  
MARKETS

TOKYO TODAY

TANGO IN  
BUENOS AIRES



## Two to Watch in 2012

NEW  
HOTELS

Bangkok's all-suite **Siam** opens in March with 39 rooms – 11 of them villas with private pools and rooftop terraces, and one an original Thai teakwood house floated downriver from the ancient capital of Ayutthaya. Located on the Chao Phraya River, the intimate hotel will feature a cooking school, art gallery, jazz bar, five-room spa, and speedboat for quick getaways. Grand-opening specials include 50 percent off rooms through February 15, 2012. *Suites from \$544 (\$272 through February 15), including breakfast daily and a complimentary sunset cocktail cruise.*



The Siam's Chinese Villa bedroom.

Guests of the 41-room **Hotel Castello di Casole** near Siena will have a 4,200-acre estate planted in vineyards and olive orchards to explore when the Italian property opens in April. The original castle, circa 1700, will house 18 suites with beamed ceilings and freestanding tubs in Carrara marble bathrooms, while other suites occupy outbuildings such as the original lemon tree conservatory. Guests can join the resident game warden for guided wildlife tours on the property. *Doubles from \$802, including breakfast daily. Bookings open at the end of November.*



Castello di Casole's Tuscan charm.



Holiday glow: Las Noches de las Luminarias decks out the botanical garden in Phoenix.

## "WHITE CHRISTMAS" IN ... ARIZONA?

Irving Berlin penned "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" at the sun-kissed Catalina Pool at Phoenix's 740-room **Arizona Biltmore** in 1940. This season, guests can enjoy a host of holiday activities throughout December that include cooking classes, carolers and sing-alongs, a gingerbread house contest pitting teams of architects and pastry chefs against each other, and nearby **Las Noches de las Luminarias** – the Desert Botanical Garden's annual festival, featuring 8,000-plus hand-lit luminaries, ten musical groups nightly, and other events. *Doubles from \$359, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*