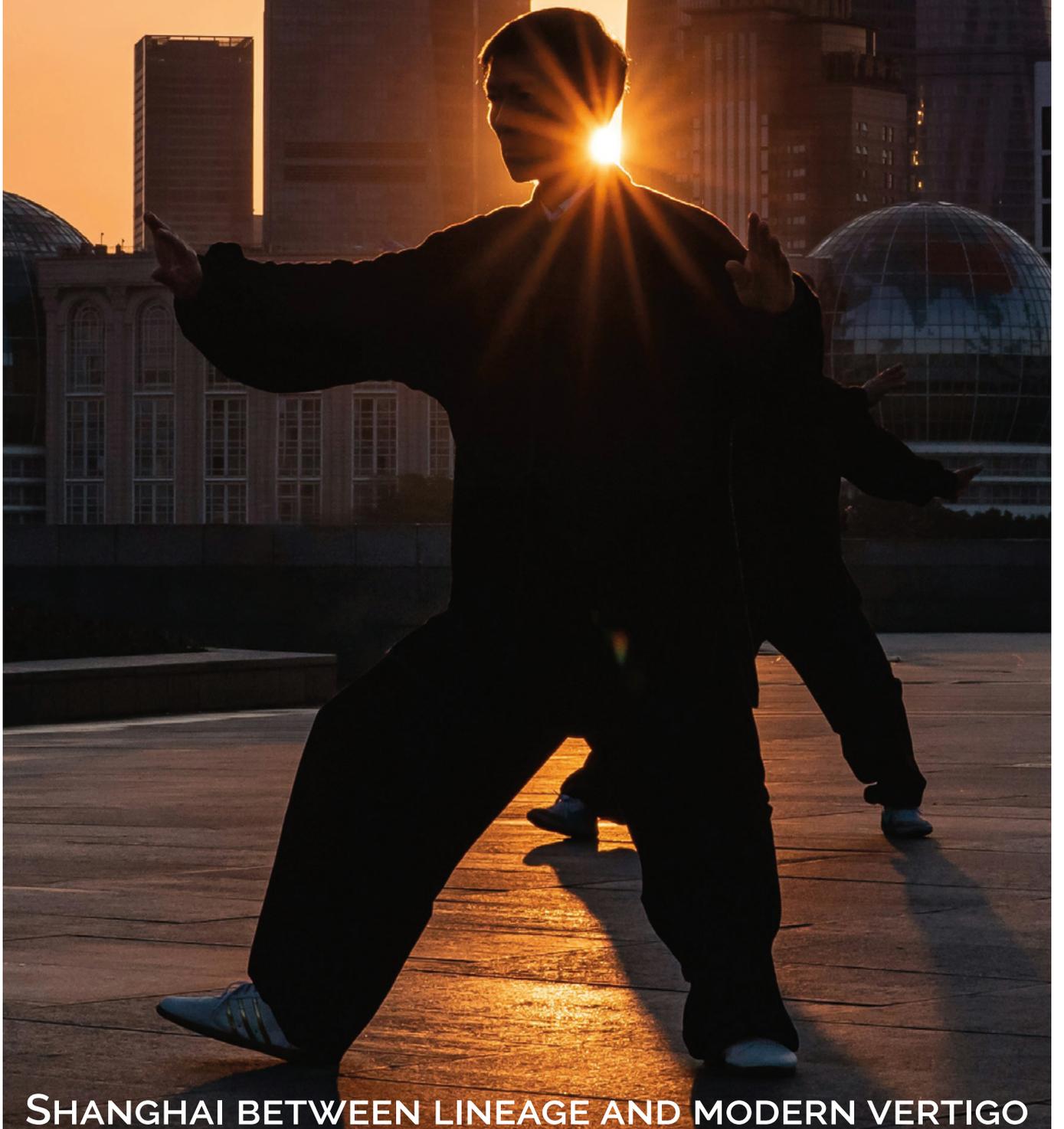


SPORTS & LIFESTYLE

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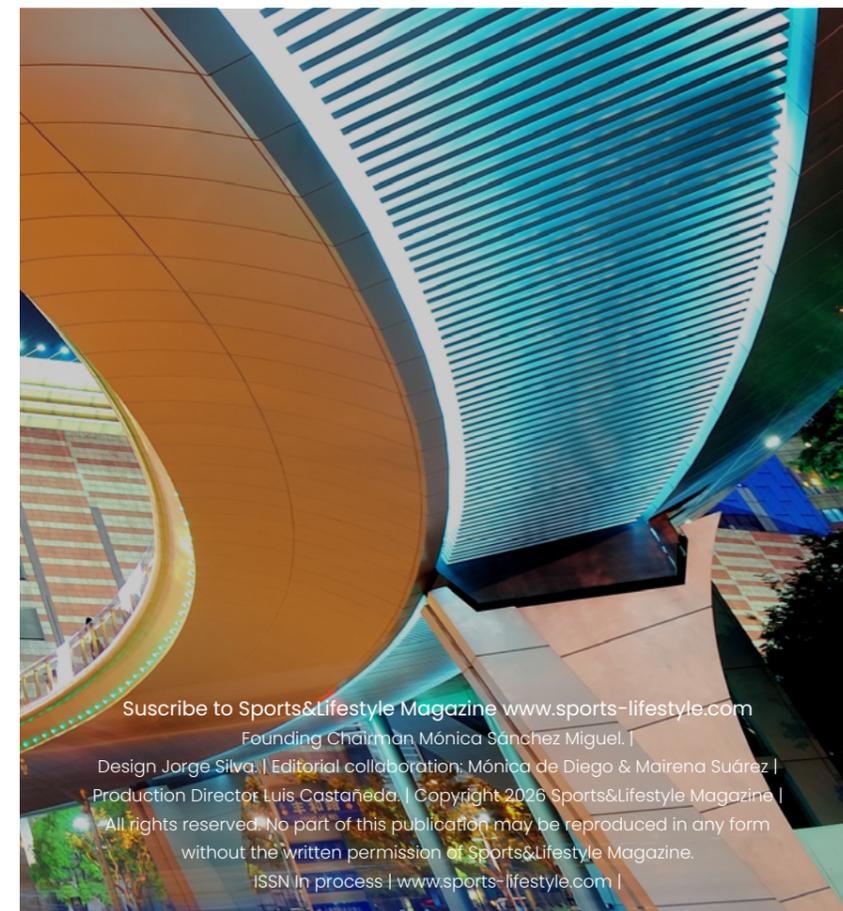
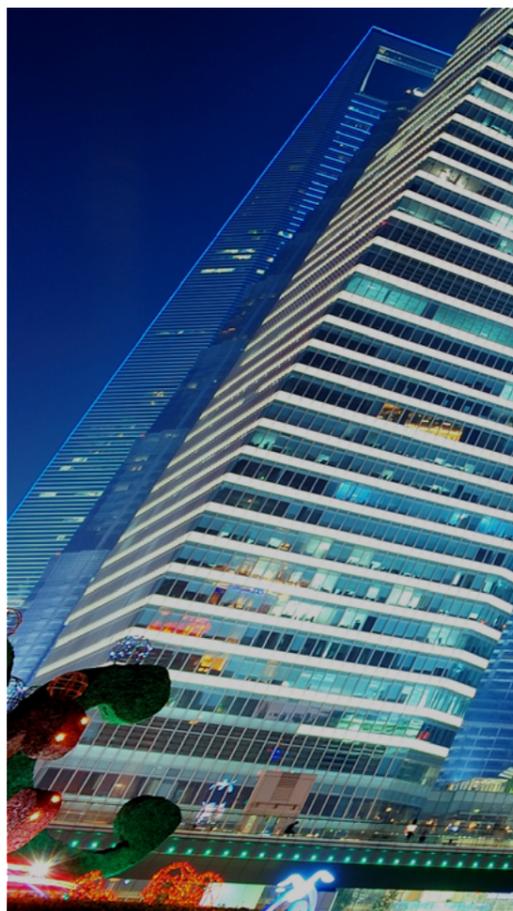
SHANGHAI BETWEEN LINEAGE AND MODERN VERTIGO



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Photo: Courtesy Unsplash

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To travel from West to East is to embrace a different lens through which to read the world. **Shanghai** invites us to see it from both perspectives at once. In this issue, we celebrate a city where spiritual heritage and architectural ambition coexist with effortless poise, shaping a cosmopolitan way of life that feels both rooted and resolutely modern.

Here, towers rise with purpose, sheathed in light and technology; at their summit, altitude becomes a stage for a cuisine in dialogue with the wider world. At **Heavenly Jin Restaurant**, modern Chinese gastronomy reaches select heights, suspended somewhere between earth and sky.

Yet Shanghai's stature is not defined by verticality alone. Its true distinction lies in safeguarding tomorrow by honoring yesterday. **Amanyangyun** stands as perhaps the most eloquent expression of this ethos: an ancient village meticulously relocated stone by stone to preserve its soul — a place where heritage and 21st refinement exist in seamless harmony.

The city also converses fluently with the worlds of travel and style. The bold installation **The Louis**, recalling a vessel forged in steel, pays homage to the art of the trunk and its enduring ties to fashion and sport. On the courts, meanwhile, Valentin Vacherot commands attention; his victory at **Shanghai Masters** propelled him up the rankings.

This edition is an invitation to explore the balance between lineage and contemporary exhilaration. Take a cup of tea from Jiangxi and allow each page of *Sports & Lifestyle* to mark the beginning of your next journey.

Monique SM



THE FOREST

SAFEGUARDED A DYNASTY

Photos: Courtesy Aman Resorts

At the edge of Shanghai, amid camphor forests steeped in millennia of history, entrepreneur *Ma Dadong* envisioned an undertaking devoted to safeguarding more than 10,000 century-old trees relocated from *Jiangxi*. Around them, a hotel complex gradually took shape—*suites*, *pavilions* and *villas* that weave traditional Chinese architecture into a rigorously executed restoration.

Nearly fifty residences from the *Ming and Qing dynasties* were once destined to vanish beneath the waters of a dam in Jiangxi province. The decision to dismantle them piece by piece and rebuild them six hundred kilometers from their

original setting transformed a commercial venture into a cultural manifesto. Beams were numbered, carvings carefully protected, each brick reset with absolute precision. Today, those structures form the heart of *Amanyangyun*—an ambitious preservation project that turns memory into a deeply comfortable, lived experience.

To walk across ancient stone slabs is to sense something no newly built property can replicate. The stone retains its irregularities; the timber reveals the patina of generations; light filters through carved latticework, casting shifting shadows as the day unfolds.



Contemporary architecture by *Kerry Hill Architects* supports this legacy with quiet restraint. The intervention honors the structural essence of the original buildings, organizing the estate in the manner of traditional walled villages. The experience begins with a sequence of inner courtyards guiding guests from arrival to the privacy of each residence. Moving from one to the next feels almost ceremonial, recalling life in Jiangxi's historic hamlets. With each threshold crossed, the atmosphere deepens into greater seclusion.

In the *Ming Courtyard Suites*, two private courtyards shape the stay. One centers on a fireplace that, come evening, transforms the space into an intimate open-air salon; the other features an outdoor soaking tub encircled by bamboo, the scent of the forest intensified after rain. Latticed screens, dark woods, natural textiles and an understated design language converse effortlessly, free of excess.

The *Ming Pavilions* and *Ming Deluxe Pavilions* expand that sense of retreat. Indoor fireplaces, freestanding tubs and courtyards linking bedroom and sitting room in a fluid transition enhance the spatial continuity. At dawn, opening the doors allows forest air to drift through the rooms, subtly altering the mood. Sophistication here reveals itself in silence, in scale, in the privilege of inhabiting generous spaces uninterrupted by visual clutter.

The historic residences—*Antique Pavilions*—restored with particular sensitivity, heighten the sensation of





inhabiting a home with its own memory. Lofty ceilings, century-old beams and ornamental carvings retain the dignity of another era. The *Two-Bedroom Antique Pavilion* offers expansive areas designed for long gatherings and conversations that stretch into the night. The *One-Bedroom Antique Pavilion* draws its magnetism from proportion and the quiet serenity of its inner courtyard. A dedicated butler ensures a level of attentiveness that anticipates every need.

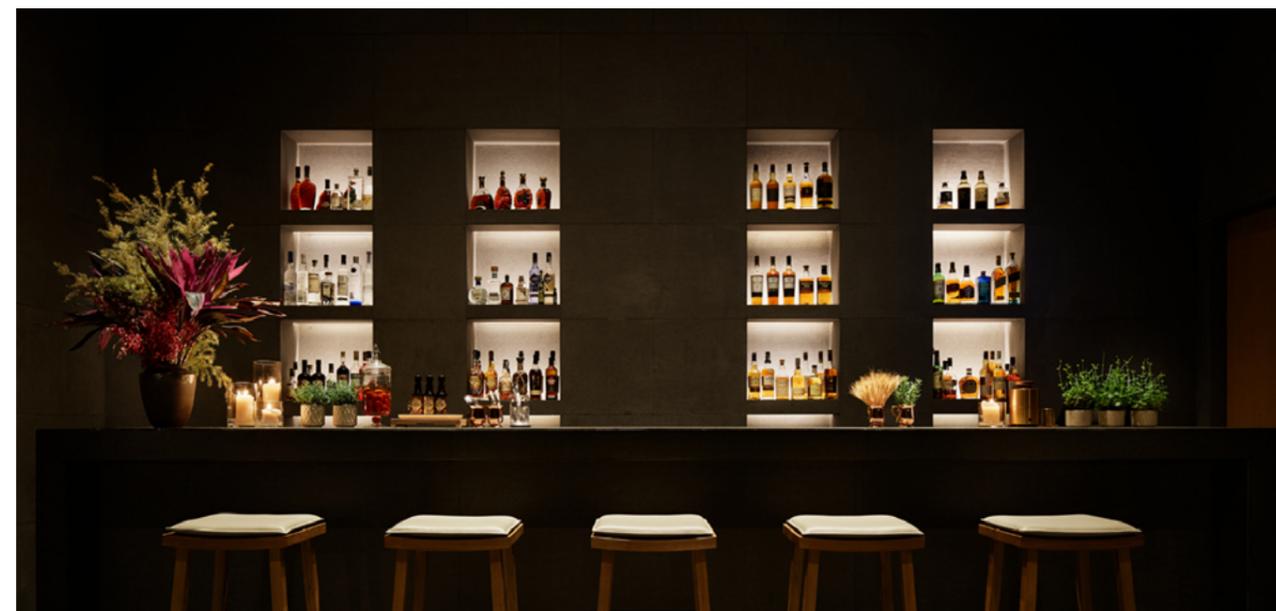
The villas translate this narrative into an even more private scale. Nearly one thousand square meters unfold among landscaped gardens, multiple courtyards and private pools reflecting the deep green of the forest. In the *Four-Bedroom Antique Villa*, original fireplaces and restored beams frame dining rooms prepared to host up to ten guests. The *Four-Bedroom Qing Villa* and the *Four-Bedroom Amanyangyun Villa* combine historic structures with contemporary pavilions linked by private passageways, creating an intimate choreography between conviviality and contemplation.

Dining extends the connection to Jiangxi. At *Lazhu*, spices, freshwater fish and camellia oil define an aromatic repertoire shaped by traditional techniques that prize balance and clarity of flavor. The steam rising from *hot pot*—prepared by Cantonese chefs—honors a custom dating back to the *Western Zhou dynasty*, perfuming the air with comforting warmth. The celebrated XO sauce, first crafted in the early 1980s, lends a lingering depth to



the palate. The *Bar* invites guests to linger over thoughtfully chosen wines, rare spirits and classic cocktails, accompanied by seasonal pastries and freshly baked scones.

Tea occupies a place of quiet reverence. At *Bei Tea House*, each infusion is prepared with meticulous attention to origin and process. Watching the leaves unfurl in hot water, noting the subtle shift in color, holding the cup as the forest stands still beyond the windows—such gestures introduce a pause that reshapes one's sense of time. An ancient tradition becomes an everyday ritual imbued with meaning. Tastings explore varieties from across China, including those linked to Jiangxi, while guided ceremonies led by tea masters offer a contemplative interlude in harmony with the surrounding woodland.



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