



Above: the Geoffrey Bawa-designed pool at the five-star Taj Connemara hotel in Chennai. Below: Cecconi's Lounge on the ground floor of Soho House Amsterdam, a 1930s canal-side building in the centre of the city

swimming and snorkelling beaches, now private, just past the edge of your suite's patio.

➔ In **AMSTERDAM**, a c1934 university building on the corner of Spuistraat and the Singel canal – about as dead-central as it gets in this city – is the newest outpost of the Soho House European portfolio. **Soho House Amsterdam** (*sohohouseamsterdam.com*; from €195) is three floors of hotel rooms (of which there are 79), a spa (Cowshed, natch, with the requisite mani-pedi bars), a rooftop pool (with 300-degree church-spire views) and one entire floor allocated to club facilities, open to Every House members, complete with private-dining rooms, a library with a fireplace and a screening lounge. And for Local House members, there's a bike repair shop in the basement.

➔ He calls himself, only half-jokingly, a “hotel whisperer”, but Angeleno Jeff Klein, the man behind the **Sunset Tower** (*sunsettowerhotel.com*; from \$525), knows more than most about cultivating the kind of hotel everyone wants to be seen (or just be) at. This month marks his newest entry onto the **WEST HOLLYWOOD** scene: **850** (*number850.com*; from \$450), a 23-room boutique property on the site of the old San Vicente Inn. While the architecture is quintessential, white-board California old-meets-new, the interiors are the work of a British woman: Rita Konig, daughter of decorating doyenne Nina Campbell, and a rising interior design star in her own right. Expect some rattan, a killer menu – and probably one or two A-list faces.

➔ The **Taj Connemara** (*tajhotels.com*; from about £200) in **CHENNAI** has serious bona fides, having first opened in the Tamil Nadu capital as the Imperial Hotel in 1854 when Chennai was still Madras (it was renamed in 1890 after Robert Bourke, 1st – and only – Baron Connemara, the Governor of Madras from 1886 to 1890). After a year-long closure and a renovation that takes in every era of its history – from British colonial to tropical modernism (Geoffrey Bawa added the pool in 1974) – the hotel, Chennai's only five-star heritage property, reopens this month with surfeits of four-poster beds and dining options ranging from sandwiches in the glorious gardens to the finest Chettinad cuisine. ♦



epicentre of Baja action, Los Cabos, the **Montage Los Cabos** (*montagehotels.com*; from \$595) has opened its doors inside the grand old Twin Dolphin development (part of Cabo's illustrious history as a gilded getaway for West Coasters since the 1950s). There are all the requisite Montage bells and whistles, familiar to fans of the Beverly Hills and Laguna Beach locations, plus an alluring USP: one of the peninsula's best



Above: Jeff Klein's new boutique hotel, 850, in West Hollywood, with interiors by British designer Rita Konig