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Himalayan Grandeur

The ancient Kingdom of Bhutan will soon have a new luxury hotel in the form of **The Taj Thimphu** (www.tajhotels.com). The property, considered to be the most deluxe the pristine area has seen thus far, will sit in Thimphu, the charming capital whose location in the Himalayas is 7,500 feet above sea level. All 66 rooms promise to provide the ultimate in tranquility, and we're sure the

four luxury suites and two duplex suites will be over the top. The hotel will provide air conditioning, an uncommon amenity in the high-altitude destination.

Note: Those who would like to travel to this exotic destination with a group should consider **Travcoa's** (www.travcoa.com) "Bhutan and Sikkim Unveiled" program, which includes not only Thimphu but Punakha (the ancient capital). Participants will also have access to a Bhutanese farmhouse and a local Buddhist monastery. Contact Kimberly Waddell at 800-992-2003, ext. 260.

Etho Metho Tours & Treks (www.ethometho.com), which is based in Bhutan, provides cultural tours. Considered the last "Shangri-la on Earth," Bhutan is accessible by air from Delhi, Kolkata, Kathmandu, Bangkok and Dhaka. Note: Allow 10 to 14 business days for a visa to be processed.

—Ruthanne Terrero



The Peninsula Beverly Hills named Offer Nissenbaum managing director, replacing Ali Kasikci, who left to join Montage Beverly Hills Resort, which is set to open later next year and just a few blocks away. Nissenbaum, who will be reachable at eopbh@peninsula.com, was most recently regional vice president of operations for Omni Hotels. www.peninsula.com

France's new **Regent Bordeaux** is about to open. Originally slated as a Radisson SAS Grand Hotel, the owners decided the former *palais* was better suited to the Regent brand because of its opulent renovation and its prime location on the *Place de la Comedie*, which is just steps away from the Golden Triangle's elegant shopping district. Contact Director of Sales Lena Lalanne (lena.lalanne@radissonsas.com). www.theregentexperience.com

Encantado, an Auberge Resort, will open outside of Santa Fe, NM, next July. Set on land that was home to Rancho Encantado, the new property will have 65 casitas and a 15-room spa with outdoor soaking tubs and showers. Planning a VIP visit? Contact Angie Cross (across@encantadoresort.com), director of sales and marketing. www.encantadoresort.com