

DESIGN HOTELS™

PRESS RELEASE



Sunyata Hotel Meili

The beauty of restraint

Berlin, May 16, 2019 – Carved from a former Tibetan home cradled in a remote hillside in Yunnan province, Sunyata Hotel Meili stands as the antithesis to the hyper-consumerism and materialism that drives the modern world. Deriving its name from the Sanskrit word for “emptiness”, the 19-room hotel harks back to a more poetic way of life with an aesthetic informed both by traditional Tibetan architecture and Japanese wabi-sabi philosophy. Nestled among a cluster of 22 Shangri-La households in a centuries-old village, the hotel both honors and continues the cultural narrative of its exceptional setting. A restaurant serves authentic seasonal Yunnan cuisine, and the jagged beauty of the sacred Snow Meili Mountain is offered up to guests from the rooftop lounge Kawagebo, which also serves a neighborhood hub come nightfall. www.designhotels.com/sunyata-hotel-meili

Acclaimed studio Zhao Yang Architects were responsible for transforming the two-and-a-half storey homestead-turned-hostel into a four-floor hotel inspired by traditional local architecture. Proving the adage correct that good things come to those who wait, the logistical challenges of sensitively restoring an ancient structure located 3,600 meters above sea level meant the project took 1,095 days to complete. The result is an intoxicating fusion of old and new, the architectural language of Sunyata is traditional, albeit supported by modern practices. The original rammed-earth walls have been retained and reinforced with concrete to strengthen the structure, while the expansive atrium features a gold curved arch that has been artfully purposed to reflect natural light and illuminate the interiors. In a purely modern flourish, the restaurant resides in a newly-constructed steel and glass edifice that offers a peerless panorama over the rugged awe-inspiring mountain terrain.

DESIGN HOTELS™

PRESS RELEASE

In one of the best instances of wabi-sabi outside of Japan, Sunyata celebrates both the beauty of imperfection and the freedom of “emptiness”. The restrained interiors are defined by the aged texture of natural materials, salvaged timber, roughly-hewn furniture, and rustic pottery, all curated by designer Ke Xie. Oversized, deep wooden window frames showcase the dramatic mountainous landscape and allow sunlight to flood the guestrooms and public areas, creating a profound sense of lightness and calm. In harmonious balance with its core wabi-sabi concept, the hotel is imbued with a proud sense of location and heritage, reflected in features such as the Tibetan-style fireplaces, Buddhist murals and reclaimed doors.

A soothing nude color palette is used throughout the hotel’s 19 rooms and suites, which all feature an open-studio layout and uninterrupted views over the surrounding peaks. Framed by coarse bamboo beams and uneven concrete walls, each is outfitted with furniture crafted by local artisans, as well as custom-made pieces from the Yiji Collection by Ke Xie. The 45-square-meter Snow Mountain Room has a balcony that is perfectly placed to soak up the extraordinary natural setting, while Sunyata’s 70-square-meter standalone villa, Noble House, takes the “room with a view” to the next level with a private terrace and bathtub overlooking the gardens and dense forest beyond.

A hand-selected collection of multilingual books, ranging from literature to nature and social science books about the Shangri-La region, is placed in each room as an invitation for guests to take a break from the technological treadmill of modern life. And for the most ardent of bibliophiles, the hotel’s spectacular library houses *The Sonnets of Snow Mountains*, a moving tribute to the spiritual sanctuary of Meili by Chinese avant-garde poet Hua Ma, alongside an impressive curation of limited-edition publications and rare vintage volumes.

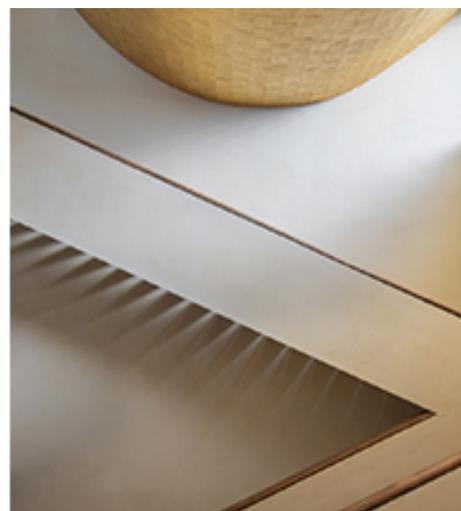
Subtle lighting, strategically placed candles, handwoven blankets, and naturally dyed linens create a cozy vibe at the restaurant, which is located in the steel and glass clad extension. The menu is inspired by traditional Yunnan specialties, and regularly changes to reflect the season and availability of regional produce. Digestifs are best enjoyed at the rooftop lounge Kawagebo, which looks out over the Wunongding village, the residents of which are known to open their homes to hotel guests looking to meaningfully engage with the neighborhood.

Location

Sunyata Hotel Meili is nestled in the foothills of one of the Tibetan’s sacred mountains, the Snow Meili Mountain, which is shrouded in legends as well as snowcapped peaks, dense forests, and beautiful wild flowers in spring. The mountain is located at the famed “Three Parallel Rivers” where the Nujiang, Lancang, and Yangtze run roughly parallel to one another, separated by mountains. Rare species, such as the Yunan snubnosed monkey, snow leopard, red panda, and plants that survived from the glacial epoch, can be found in this region.

The nearest airport is Diqing Shangi-La Airport (DIG), which can be reached through the international airport of Chengdu (CTU).

DESIGN HOTELS™ PRESS RELEASE



Notes to Editors

For high resolution images and more information on our member hotels, please register on the Design Hotels™ Virtual Press Office designhotels.com/press.

To download the images directly, click [here](#).

For additional information, please contact us via email press@designhotels.com or phone at +49 30-8849 400 70.

For reservations, please refer our website designhotels.com or find the appropriate Design Hotels™ toll-free number designhotels.com/toll-free-numbers.

About Design Hotels™

DESIGN HOTELS™ PRESS RELEASE

Design Hotels™ represents and markets a curated selection of over 300 independent hotels in more than 60 countries across the globe. More than a collection of hotels, the company is a collection of stories. Each property reflects the ideas of a visionary hotelier, an "Original", someone with a passion for genuine hospitality, cultural authenticity, thought-provoking design and architecture. Each "Original" stands for the individual, aesthetic and service-driven experience that his or her hotel provides.

Founded by Claus Sendlinger in 1993, Design Hotels™ offers its members insightful travel industry knowledge, from market trend consultancy to international sales representation. The company has its headquarters in Berlin and branches in London, Los Angeles, New York and Singapore. Executive Board members are: Peter Cole (CEO), Serdar Kutucu (COO) and Sascha Wolff (CFO)

In 2015, Design Hotels™ joined forces with Starwood Preferred Guest (SPG®), enabling its member hotels to have both a greater and more selective reach while offering its Community the benefit of a prominent loyalty program. In August 2018, Marriott International combined its leading loyalty programs of SPG®, Marriott Rewards® and The Ritz-Carlton Rewards® into one loyalty program with instant elite status matching and points transfer.

www.designhotels.com

www.designhotels.com/original-experiences