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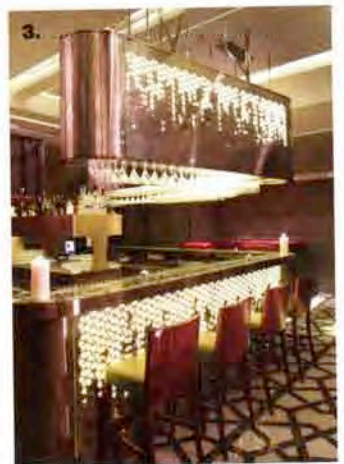
Roger Excoffon's French letters, Michel Deverne's big art, live like a constructivist and Richard Wentworth's steak sandwich



1. EIGHTH WONDER *Pourtales, Paris*

Behind its traditional double doors, this 19th-century, Florentine-style mansion, steps from the Madeleine in the eighth arrondissement, now holds nine very exclusive suites. The property was restored by Groupe Allard to offer discretion and a home-from-home feel. The furniture is contemporary and the Toto loos hi-tech. But it's the art that sets Pourtales apart: Basquiat, Warhol and César share the walls, while the elevator is an installation in itself. A butler and a concierge, with access to the hottest tables in town, are a phone call away.

Paula Bezerra De Mello
7 rue Tronchet, 8e, tel: 33.6 38 67 03 88, www.pourtales.fr.
Rates: from €1,500



3. REPEAT PERFORMANCE *Drop, Shanghai*

Following the success of Drop in Hong Kong, this is DJ Joel Lai's second club in Asia. A block back from the Bund, its discreet entrance is just the way the high-net-worth members like it. Not forgetting the obligatory VIP rooms, one curtained with chrome tubes that twist open and closed, the other by a glass and perforated metal screen. This geometric patterning typifies the kaleidoscope-inspired interiors by Hong Kong architects Oobiq, and is repeated in the steel screen of the bar, where fruit martinis are the speciality. The music is key for Lai, and once the tables are cleared of skewered items from the yakitori menu, the Turbosound acoustic system kicks in. **Guy Dittrich**
Ground Floor, 55 Yuan Ming Yuan Road (by Beijing Dong Road), Huangpu, tel: 86.21 6329 1373

2. BEST CELLAR *Burgundy, Beirut*

Unable to order the wines he wanted to drink at most restaurants in town, Ziad Mouawad did what any oenophile with their own wine import business would; he opened a restaurant of his own. Tucked into an old sandstone vault in the newly restored Saifi Village, Burgundy features a semi-brutal interior by architect Riad Kamel, with retro-futurist chandeliers by PSLAB, Beirut's lighting masters. The restaurant and bar stocks vintages unavailable elsewhere in Lebanon; it may be the only place east of Athens where you'll find a bottle of Domaine de la Romanée-Conti. A menu of international treats gives the odd nod to Lebanon, like the Wagyu beef, smoked on site using cedar wood. **Warren Singh-Bartlett**
752 Goraud Street, tel: 961.1 99 98 20, www.burgundybeirut.com

