

travelista

Wander woman Maria Shollenbarger fast-tracks international intelligence on where to be and what to see.

→ **MANHATTAN**'s Fifth Avenue still exercises a deeply romantic allure – not only on foreign tourists but also on certain hoteliers, who have been busy populating its environs around 34th Street for the past couple of years. The

most recent to debut is **The Setai Fifth Avenue** (www.setaififthavenue.com; from \$630). The Italian developers seem to have taken the American “bigger is better” adage to heart: the

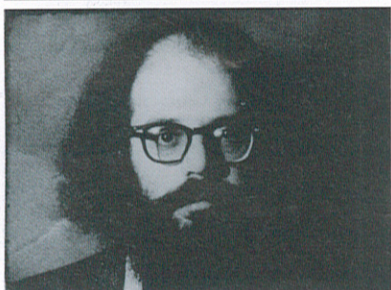
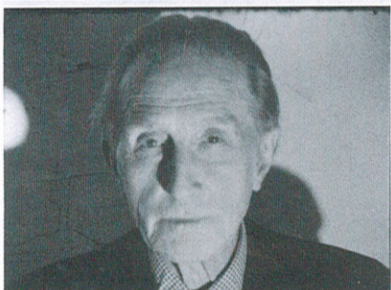
Gwathmey Siegel & Associates-designed tower is a full 60 storeys, and most of the sleek wood-and-glass-walled rooms are over 700sq ft. Aim high and book the 11th-floor suite; its 11ft x 20ft terrace gives onto a killer Empire State Building view. The hotel's Ai Fiori restaurant flaunts impressive creds – Marea chef Michael White will oversee the kitchen – but there's also the new John Dory Oyster Bar a few blocks down at the **Ace Hotel** (www.acehotel.com/newyork; from \$296), where Spotted Pig chef April Bloomfield has consultant mixologist Sasha Petraske of Milk & Honey training the bartenders and a menu of chowders, crudités and bar snacks. Whatever your choice of nosh, make haste to 53rd Street to see *Andy Warhol: Motion Pictures* at **MoMA** (www.moma.org), where his seminal black-and-white short films are being shown *en masse*, opening on the 19th and running till mid-March.

→ There's still time to catch a similarly compelling exhibition in **FLORENCE** at **La Strozzi**, the city's excellent contemporary art venue housed in the **Palazzo Strozzi** (www.palazzostrozzi.org). *Portraits and Power: People, Politics and Structures* is a provocative examination thereof by contemporary photographers including Hiroshi Sugimoto, Tina Barney, Rineke Dijkstra and Martin Parr, and is on until January 23. (The masterfully curated Bronzino retrospective in the Palazzo upstairs – for which over 70 of the Medici court painter's works, including four recently restored *tondi* from the church of Santa Felicita, have been gathered for the first time in one setting – is nothing to sneeze at, either.)

→ In the Mexican colonial town of **SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE** artistic pursuits are a 24/7 affair, with conferences and festivals punctuating the calendar monthly. **The Rosewood San Miguel de Allende** (www.rosewoodhotels.com; from \$295), a new-build puebla-style resort, endeavours to blend – cotto floors, hand-carved furniture and all – with its picturesque surroundings, and looks set to succeed in



Above: the new One & Only The Palm resort in Dubai. Below: Ai Fiori restaurant at The Setai Fifth Avenue, New York.



Above: stills from Andy Warhol's short silent films showing at MoMA, New York.

