

**OK! Middle East's VIP pal  
shares a week about town**



In putting my feet up this week after attending some fantastic festive parties including the launch of OK! All Stars at Nour Kempinski Hotel Mall of the Emirates. It was such a fun experience to shoot for the book and it's definitely a tome I'll treasure for years to come. Speaking of keepsakes, I've been looking for a few signature gems to invest in, especially pieces that become simple wardrobe staples rather than just a seasonal must-have. My favourite brand at the moment is local jewellers, Phara, they create everything from bespoke engagement rings to signature accessories and I think their minimalist aesthetic is timeless.

As is tradition in December when it finally drops below 30 degrees, I've dug out all my winterwear (does anyone else keep them under the bed?) only to discover a fair few things that don't fit anymore. I'm guessing thanks to the new menu at Burger and Lobster, so instead of throwing them out whilst drowning my sorrows in a tub of ice cream (starting to see a pattern here), I'm using them as a good excuse to



Below: Samantha is one of the first OK! All Stars



get a head-start on one of my New Year's resolutions and donate them to the Emirates Red Crescent ([rcuae.ae](http://rcuae.ae)). The organisation have a handy map on their website of your nearest drop-off point and accept all good quality items so you can spring clean, and shop to replace your winter wardrobe, in good conscience. Finally, in the festive spirit of what has been a very eventful 2016, I wish you all a wonderful week and a very happy New Year!

SAMANTHA IS THE FOUNDER OF THE BEAUTY EMERGENCY APP, BEEM, AND A DIGITAL CONTENT STRATEGIST

**Burger and Lobster is a favourite of our Insider**



**SAMANTHA'S TOP 5 WINTER GETAWAYS**

**1 CHENOT PALACE GABALA, AZERBAIJAN**

This newly-launched retreat is a health and wellness oasis that will leave you looking and feeling like an A-lister.



you can spend the day at a turtle sanctuary on a sandy beach?

**4 THE WESTIN DUBAI MINA SEYAHI BEACH RESORT**

Not just because flying can get expensive this time of year, but also because it's a beautiful staycation hideaway in plain sight

**2 PIC DU MIDI DE BIGORRE, FRANCE**

I visit this resort every February with my family, although truth be told I spend more time taking pictures than racing down the slopes.



**5 CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

It's their summer in our winter, so you can pack for chilly dimes on Table Mountain and sunny shores at the waterfront.

**3 KANDY, SRI LANKA**

Because who needs snow when





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