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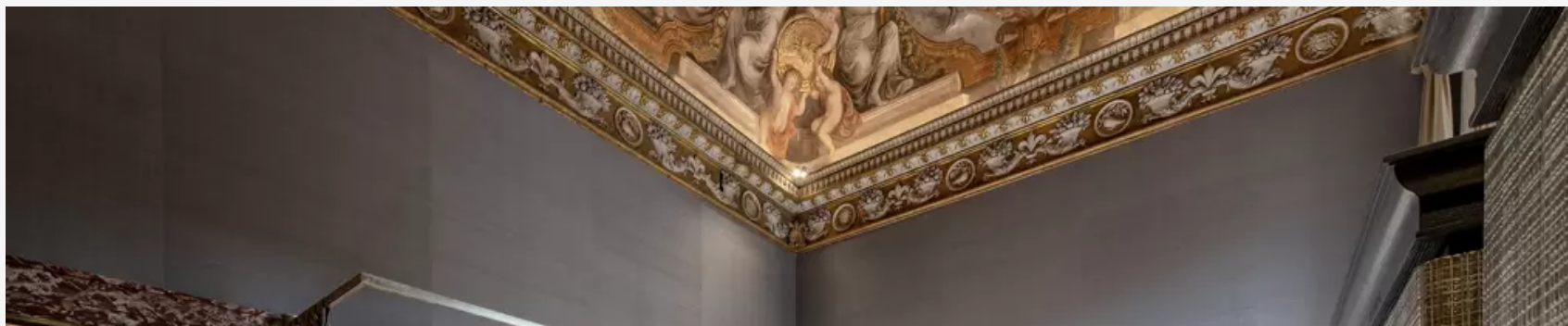
LIVING

Rome to Rio, the luxury long weekend breaks to book this Easter

Stretch out the long weekend and maximise the glamour at these dream escapes

by DELILAH KHOMO

13 APR 2019





Holy Deer San Lorenzo City Lodge, Rome

As addresses go of where to stay in the Eternal City over Easter weekend, nowhere compares to the Holy City Lodge. Here, it's all about location, location, location in the heavenly former residence of Innocent X, Giovanni Battista Pamphilj, overlooking Piazza Navona, bordered by grand palaces, statues and Gian Lorenzo Bernini's Fountain of the Four Rivers. The sheer museum-splendour of this two-bedroom palazzo, filled with a collection of oversized art books, first editions and framed maps, onyx sculptures and Murano chandeliers, not to mention a fresco in the Pope's Bedroom of the queen of Carthage, and her lover, the Trojan hero Aeneas, will be hard to leave. But the promise of hearty Roman comfort food and the best *cacio e pepe* at the trattoria, [Da Enzo Al 29](#), will draw you out.

sanlorenzolodges.com

CREDIT: GIOVANNI DE SANDRE

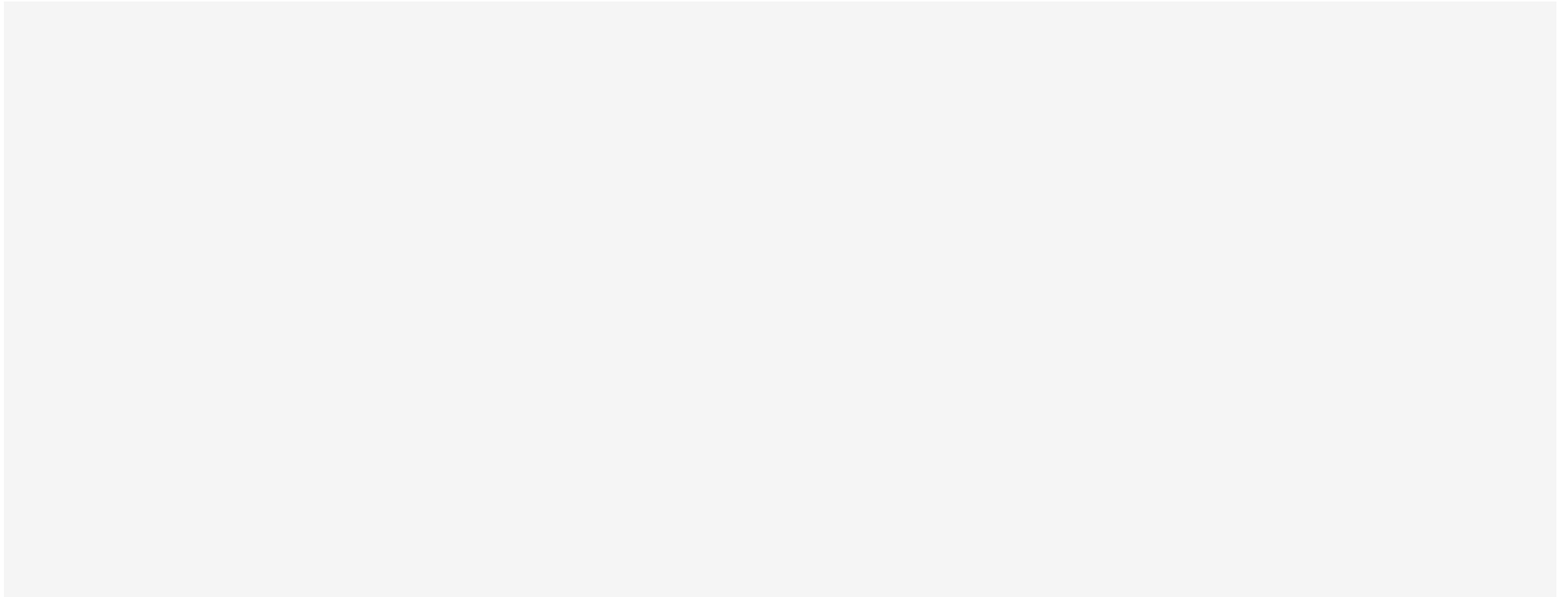
Belmond Copacabana Palace, Rio de Janeiro

the same evening before heading out on the late night on a Sunday, means you can maximise your precious beach time.

No other place offers such a beguiling mixture of resort holiday and city break, where you can imbibe the fun-loving Carioca mantra of a *boa vida*, the good life. And to really soak it up, hole up at the peerless Belmond Copacabana Palace, a 1920s icon of the city, where Ginger Rogers (the star of *Flying Down to Rio*) stayed. There is no better place to wake up than from one of the sixth floor penthouse suites, which comes with huge terraces and uninterrupted sea views, a sleek black slate pool, and your own butler to fulfil your every whim - whether to replace a forgotten toothbrush or bring you an urgent serving of the Cipriani's baked taglioni at midnight.

Don't miss the legendary Easter Sunday brunch at the hotel's restaurant, Pergula, which draws a stylish crowd for long, lingering lunches around its glorious pool.

belmond.com

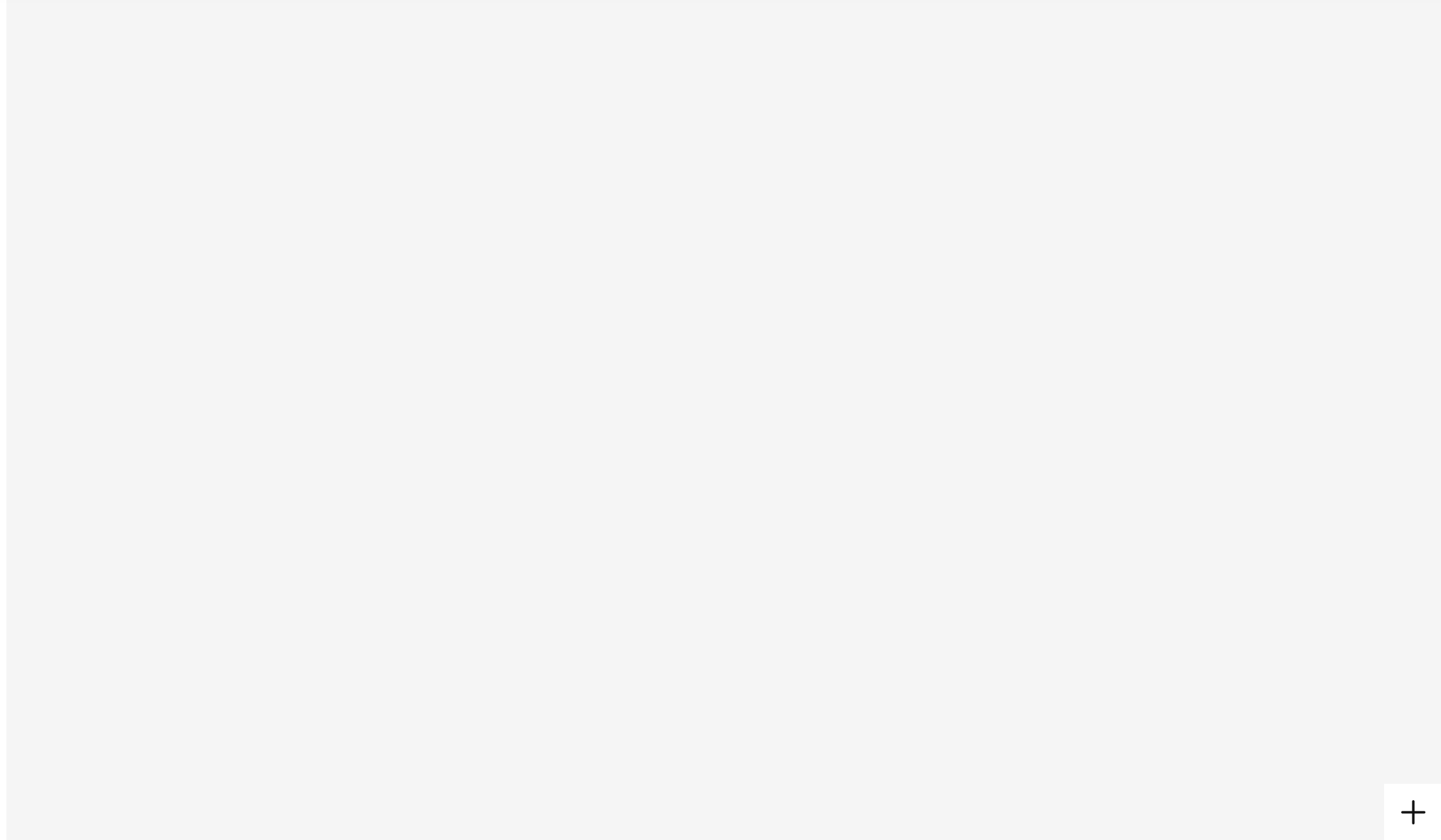


Riad Mena, Marrakech

Only three hours away, but the most otherworldly and intoxicating of escapes, Marrakech has always been a favorite on the jet-set circuit, who continue to be seduced by the heady, interactive energy of the place. Not far from the medina is the most fairy tale lovely riad owned by tastemaker extraordinaire, Philomena Merckoll. It's all fabulously inviting with its small but perfectly formed pool, hammam and five-individualistic bedrooms, such as the minimal Eileen Grey-inspired suite filled with mid-century treasures.

Merckoll's insider address book is what also makes staying here so divine; whether a last minute lunch, dinner or a night's stay at the bucolic hideaway Berber Lodge, antiquing tips, or just knowing where serves the best rosé in the city – like the Beldi, which everyone loves for its Moorish Cinquante Cinq vibe, beautiful pools and romantic gardens with its 15,000 roses, which in late April are in full bloom.

riadmenaandbeyond.com

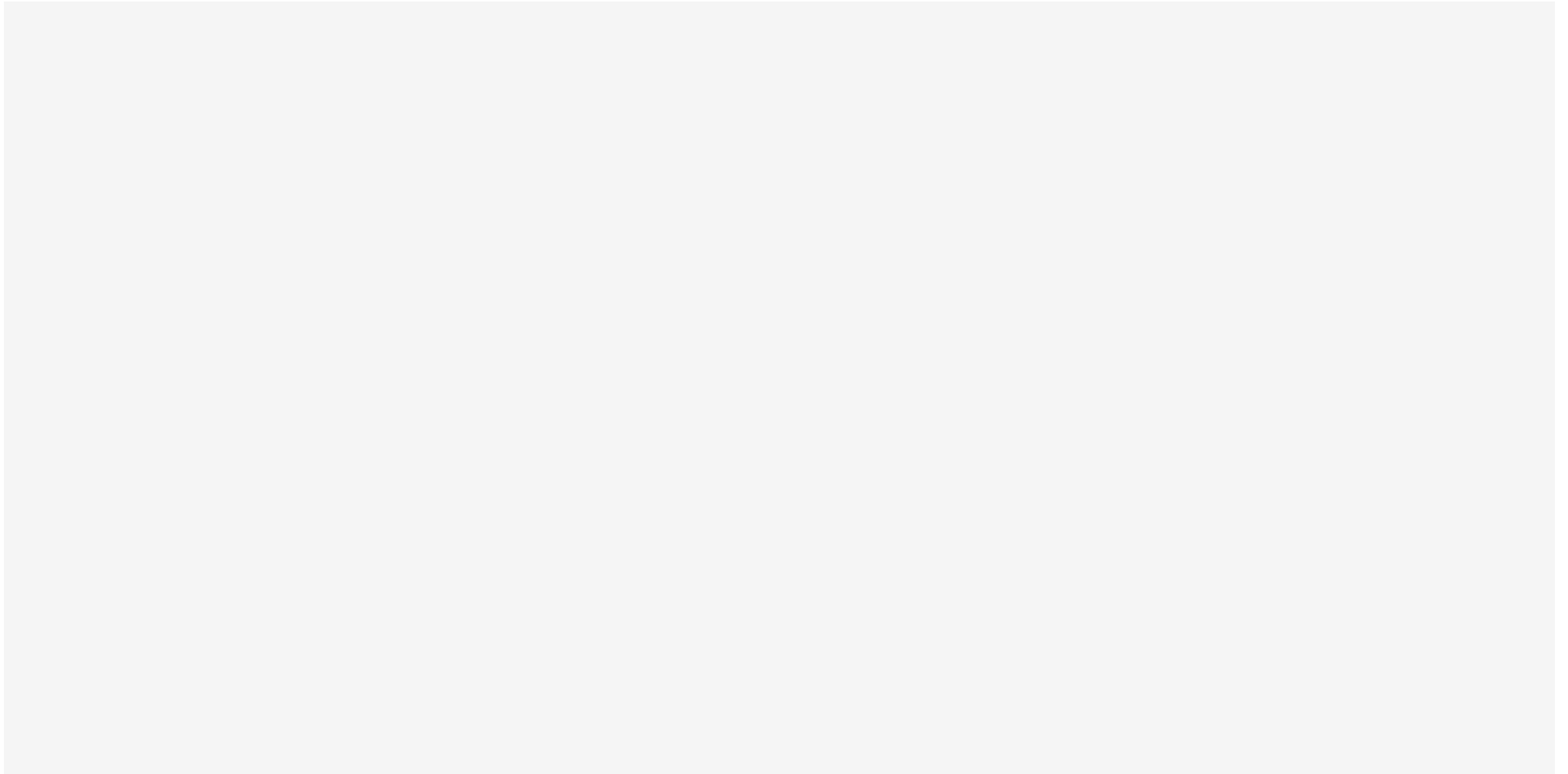


Ritz Carlton al Bustan Palace, Oman

languishing by the vast mosaic swimming pools with fountains and blowing six daybeds, while for families, it is the dream holiday choice with supervised playrooms stuffed with toys, activities like storytelling and archery, plus camel rides and quad-biking expeditions in the nearby Wadi desert.

ritzcarlton.com

CREDIT: PAUL THUYSBAERT



Nour el Nil, Egypt

For a more immersive cultural fix, soak up the vast, living museum that is Luxor before embarking on a slow boat journey to Aswan onboard the romantic, dahabiya boat Nour El Nil with its trademark candy-striped sails and elegantly bohemian interiors. There are two excursions per day either to a village or temples like Esna and Edfu led by the boat's resident Egyptologist, otherwise days drift by lying on hammocks, or else taking exhilarating dips in the Nile, before enjoying delicious meals of Egyptian-style chicken and okra stews, grilled Nile perch, fattoush salads, zingy cold soups and strawberry sorbet.

nourelnil.com

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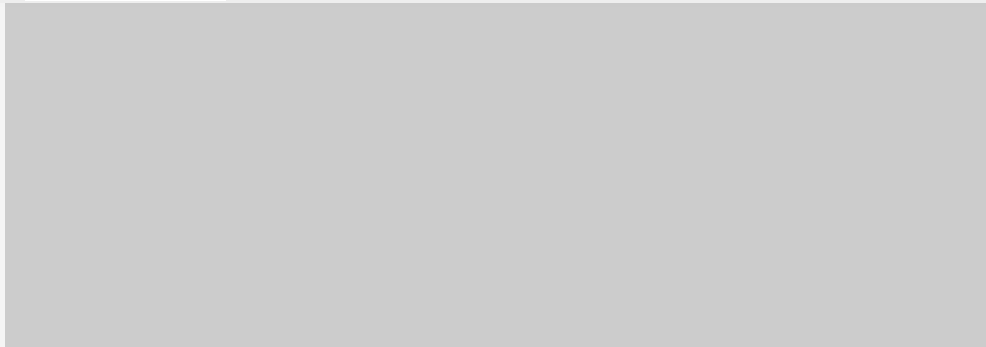


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