

THE 68 MOST EXCITING PLACES TO STAY THIS YEAR

TRAVEL + LEISURE

THE HOTELS

ISSUE





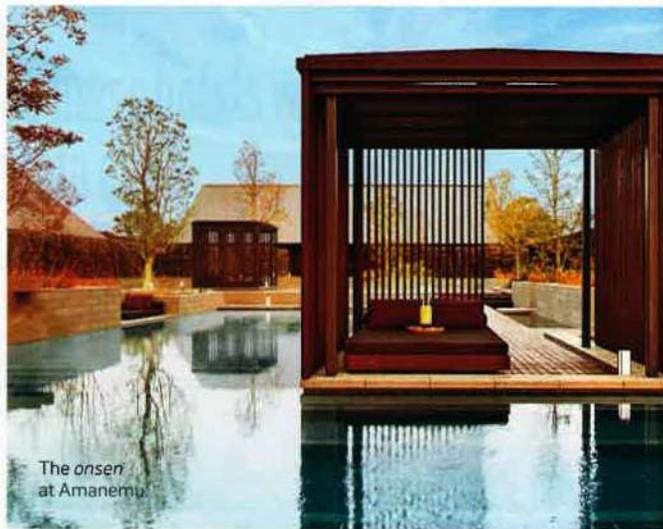
The grounds at Aja Malibu.



The Hacienda at Chablé.

no. 8

Because there have never been so many ways to achieve nirvana.



The onsen at Amanemu.

Amanemu, Ise Shima National Park, Japan

If you want to collapse in total privacy, this 24-suite, four-villa resort is an exquisite ship in a bottle made for silent observation. The crowning glory of Aman's newest creation is its gently lit, mineral-rich *onsen*, with different pools at varying temperatures. Pavilions with plush daybeds, a Watsu pool for hydrotherapy, and four spa-treatment rooms round out the Zen experience, as does the property's traditional Japanese design, including narrow corridors, small courtyards, and views of maple trees and cherry blossoms. *aman.com*; doubles from \$770.

Chablé, Yucatán, Mexico

This 40-villa resort, which is spread over 750 acres of jungle near Mérida, celebrates Mayan culture in a way that feels authentic and not at all gimmicky. The 15-room spa is centered around a large cenote, and offers a wide range of experiences, from a "Tree of Life" ritual incorporating massage and sound healing to three *temazcales* (pre-Hispanic versions of a sweat lodge), where ceremonies are performed by local shamans. At night, guests can sample tequilas and farm-to-table cuisine overseen by chef Jorge Vallejo of Mexico City's standout Quintonil restaurant. *chableresort.com*; doubles from \$780.

Aja Malibu, California

Ready to indulge in a digital detox? A seven-day, all-inclusive stay at this New Age spa—which is set on property once owned by Teddy Roosevelt—is called the Magick Process. The ultimate goal: getting your seven chakras aligned, through a combination of ancient and modern healing practices. You won't be allowed a cell phone, and there's no formal gym, but there is plenty of hiking, acupuncture, infrared saunas, "wisdom workshops," and plant-based, biodynamic cuisine. Days begin at seven, follow a strict schedule, and end (meaning lights out) by 10 p.m. *ajamalibu.com*; from \$10,000 per week, per person, all-inclusive.

FROM TOP: JESSICA SAMPLE; COURTESY OF AMAN; KARYN MILLET



The 2017 It List

Our favorite new and radically redone hotels of the year. Read more at tandl.me/itlist.

U.S. & Canada

THE ASBURY (P. 80)

Asbury Park, New Jersey
This colorful property is Jersey's hot new gathering spot. There's an inviting lobby café and bright-yellow pool chairs to lounge on during the day; at night, options include outdoor movies and a packed rooftop bar. *From \$175.*

THE BEEKMAN (P. 22)

New York City
You could just have a drink in the restored atrium, but you should spend the night to appreciate this architectural wonder from all angles—and at all times of day. *From \$619.*

THE DEWBERRY

Charleston, South Carolina
Once a midcentury office building, the Dewberry is handsome and sleek, with a vintage edge. They've even improved upon Southern hospitality: squirt at a menu and you're offered reading glasses; ask for honey and they'll fetch your preferred kind. *From \$300.*

FOUR SEASONS RESORT (P. 30)

Lanai, Hawaii
Head here for the away-from-it-all feel that Lanai does best, but with plenty of amenities—two pools, four restaurants, and an excellent spa. The interiors are clean-lined, putting the focus on the lush vegetation and ocean views. *From \$1,150.*

MONTAGE PALMETTO BLUFF

Bluffton, South Carolina
This spot still has a gorgeous Lowcountry look and activities like

horseback riding and golf. But it got an upgrade last year: a new inn that serves as the hub, with guest rooms, a restaurant and bar, and a stellar spa. *From \$305.*

THE PONTCHARTRAIN

New Orleans
Amid a wave of fashionable openings, the Pontchartrain best captures NOLA's spirit and history. The 1940s glamour of vintage keys and chandeliers juxtaposed with seemingly incongruent pieces, like a portrait of Lil Wayne, make it elegant and cool in equal measure. *From \$179.*

THE ROBESY

Chicago
You'd be hard-pressed to find another Windy City hotel to rival the Robesy's alchemy of great aesthetics, prime location, and thrumming atmosphere—all for a such a wallet-friendly price tag. *From \$135.*

SINGLE THREAD INN (P. 20)

Healdsburg, California
Acclaimed chef Kyle Connaughton transfers the Japanese approach of his kitchen to the hospitality at his luxury inn. The food is hyper-seasonal, and the rooms are outfitted with understated high-end amenities, like Ratio coffee-brewers and Zalto wineglasses. *From \$700.*

SURFJACK HOTEL & SWIM CLUB

Honolulu
Combine one of Oahu's best retailers (Olive & Oliver), most exciting chefs (Ed Kenney), and a handful of top artists (like Matthew Tapia, profiled on p. 42), and you've got a Waikiki first: a

hotel that truly taps into the island's creative spirit. *From \$207.*

21C MUSEUM HOTEL (P. 26)

Oklahoma City
With more than 14,000 feet of exhibition space, this boutique hotel in the century-old Model T Ford plant has filled the city's void for an artsy place to stay. And since the galleries, lounge, and restaurant have taken off with locals, it has an energy that doesn't wane midweek. *From \$219.*

VICEROY L'ERMITAGE (P. 30)

Beverly Hills, California
This discreet gem has a fresh new palette, and the lounge has made way for a light-filled French bistro. But the real sell is the suites: with dressing rooms, cushy couches, and deep soaking tubs, they're like an A-list home away from home. *From \$413.*

Africa & the Middle East

ANANTARA AL JABAL AL AKHDAR Nizwa, Oman

Skirting the rim of a canyon 6,562 feet above sea level, this is a dramatic departure from Oman's beach-resort circuit. The locale makes even simple pursuits—vertiginous swims in the infinity pool or dinner on a glass platform cantilevered over the chasm—thrilling. *From \$560.*

ANDBEYOND MATETSI RIVER LODGE

Matetsi Private Reserve, Zimbabwe
At this renovated lodge on a

123,500-acre reserve, you're in reach of all the activities offered on the Zambezi. But even if you never leave your room, the scenery—a watery landscape teeming with wildlife—will keep you enthralled. *From \$995 per person, all-inclusive.*

ASILIA THE HIGHLANDS (P. 20)

Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania
It's the first camp near the northern gate of the Ngorongoro Crater, so while most visitors queue at the southern end in the early morning, Asilia guests can sleep in, then take a leisurely descent to the crater floor. *From \$430 per person, all-inclusive.*

LEEU ESTATES

Franschoek, South Africa
Anajit Singh's latest property in South Africa's wine country is a beautifully landscaped, 17-room gem with its own wine cellar (tastings are gratis for guests), a spa, and a farm-to-table restaurant. *From \$659.*

SANCTUARY CHIEF'S CAMP

Okavango Delta, Botswana
Ultra-personal service is the star at this freshly overhauled safari camp. That, and the new Geoffrey Kent Luxury Suite, which comes with a private fire pit, lounge, and bar, plus a dedicated butler and guide. *From \$1,180 per person, all-inclusive.*

SIX SENSES ZIL PASYON

Seychelles
On this eco-chic private isle, the mood is light: soft marine décor, swings by the tubs, vast pool decks. The *pièce de résistance* is the spa, shoehorned between the

archipelago's iconic black boulders, with a yoga pavilion so close to the water the sea spray cools you during poses. From \$1,340.

Asia

AMANEMU (P. 28)

Mie Prefecture, Japan

This new hot-spring resort near the Grand Shrines of Ise is opening up an area that's previously been hard for foreigners to penetrate. It's unique within the Aman family in that it offers a classic *onsen* experience, blending the traditional *ryokan* with Aman's sense of space. From \$770.

CANYON RANCH

Kaplanakaya, Turkey

The brand's first international outpost has panoramic views of the Aegean, a sleek design, and local flavors on display in the cuisine. Hammam treatments are authentic, with a cleansing scrub on a heated marble table followed by an olive-soap massage. From \$472, including meals.

KATAMAMA

Bali, Indonesia

The MO here skews more modern than the typical thatched-roof bungalow, but locally made details—lemongrass-infused gin, hand-dyed bathrobes—keep the look warm, not sterile. Private rooftop Jacuzzis and an adjoining beach club balance serenity with fun. From \$275.

OBEROI SUKHVILAS

Chandigarh, India

Oberoi's newest addition is Mughal-inspired from top to bottom, with intricate hand-painted murals and gold leafing throughout. It sits on a former orange grove, so guests can pluck fruit from the trees as they wander the grounds. From \$320.

THE PENINSULA (P. 30)

Beijing

After a yearlong renovation, the Peninsula is a draw for more than just its location. Rooms now start at 646 square feet and have suite-like layouts, with décor that nods to both China's storied past and its tech-forward present. From \$317.

SANTANI

Sri Lanka

The first destination spa in Sri Lanka is all about wellness—and not the ascetic Western kind that's all juicing and boot camps. Santani's approach is more subtle, with ayurvedic spa treatments, meditation, and health food that includes goat-cheese tortellini and chai crème brûlée. From \$710.

SONEVA JANI (P. 98)

Maldives

If you've ever fantasized about staying in an overwater bungalow, add this to your bucket list. Twenty-four palatial

villas jut into a gin-clear lagoon; all have private pools, and some even have waterslides(!). From \$3,085.

ST. REGIS VOMMULI (P. 98)

Maldives

You come here for two reasons. One, for the impeccable St. Regis service. And two, because the look of this private-island resort will leave you speechless. Gently sloped villa roofs are meant to evoke manta rays, while the Whale Bar, which serves small plates and cocktails, opens to panoramic sea views. From \$1,770.

TAJ MEGHAULI SERAI (P. 24)

Chitwan National Park, Nepal

Taj Safaris' latest lodge has a prime location, so rhino-spotting excursions are relatively effortless. After a few hours astride an elephant, unwind with a private plunge pool, an alfresco massage, and a Tharu meal. From \$300, including meals.

Australia & New Zealand

HELENA BAY (P. 24)

North Island, New Zealand

The setting of this resort is immaculate, from the sheltered bay to the perfectly pruned gardens. The kind of conscientious care you'll get is clear from the staff-to-guest ratio alone: 53 employees for a maximum of only 10 visitors. From \$2,100.

QT

Melbourne, Australia

A refreshing irreverence makes QT Melbourne unique in the city. The lobby's wingbacks and stuffed peacock set the tone; rooms are industrial-lite. Expect the unexpected—like saucy comments from the elevator voice—and exuberant service that verges on the theatrical. From \$258.

Caribbean & Bermuda

HAMILTON PRINCESS

Bermuda

In addition to revamping the rooms during its renovation, this Fairmont property upped its cultural cred with a restaurant from Marcus Samuelsson and an eclectic art collection with works by Warhol, Nelson Mandela, and Banksy. From \$279.

KIMPTON SEAFIRE

RESORT & SPA

Grand Cayman

Catering to both couples and families, this property takes full advantage of its Seven Mile Beach location. Guest rooms—in colors inspired by flora on site—are all angled to face the sea, and the lobby has spectacular floor-to-ceiling windows. From \$500.

LE BARTHÉLEMY HOTEL & SPA (P. 24)

St. Bart's, French West Indies

This Grand Cul-de-Sac newcomer is at once glamorous and unpretentious. An army of genial French staffers will stock a gourmet picnic basket for you, or tote rosé to your lounge chair overlooking the Caribbean. From \$636.

SHORE CLUB

Turks and Caicos

This hotel is the first on Long Bay Beach, a more private alternative to popular Grace Bay. Come for a romantic escape (the ocean-inspired scheme is glamorous, not kitschy) or a group vacation (the 6,239-square-foot penthouse has a huge terrace and hot tub). From \$925.

Europe

COOMBESHEAD FARM (P. 20)

Cornwall, England

The five rooms are simply decorated, because—let's be honest—you're here for the food. The 18th-century farmstead has just a single communal table, where chefs April Bloomfield and Tom Adams serve incredible dishes like pork cracklings in cider sauce. Guests can even take baking or butchery workshops. From \$215.

IL SERENO LAGO DI COMO

Lake Como, Italy

Il Sereno is a restrained antidote to Como's gilded grandes dames. Designer Patricia Urquiola had everything from bathtubs to uniforms made with local materials like *ceppo di gré* stone and Como silk. The layout puts all eyes on the water, with a 450-foot shoreline and lakeview terraces in every room. From \$798.

PARK HYATT (P. 24)

Mallorca, Spain

This may be the Balearics' most stunning retreat yet. Its design was inspired by Mallorcan hamlets, and the pink stone buildings, serpentine pathways, and rows of colonnades have an ancient feel. From \$369.

THE PULITZER (P. 30)

Amsterdam

The update of this hotel's 25 landmarked town houses was not just a polishing of floors and some new cushions. The designer, Jacu Strauss, spent the night in every room to dream up a unique look for each. The result is colorful and whimsical, but tasteful. From \$295.

THE RITZ (P. 30)

Paris

It was all worth the wait. Four years after closing its doors for renovation, the new-and-improved Ritz has kept the Belle Époque glamour but added some modern necessities: speedy Wi-Fi, new plumbing, and a one-of-a-kind Chanel spa. From \$1,107.

RITZ-CARLTON

Budapest

Just two blocks from the Danube, this Ritz captures Budapest's blend of elegance and modernity. The club lounge has an exceptional beverage program: expect Hungarian wines and local pressed juices. From \$309.

SOHO HOUSE

Barcelona

Catalan architecture cements the sense of place, but dedication to comfort makes this six-floor club a place you want to linger. Fluffy robes are a given; here they've upped the coziness ante with a heated towel rack, wool eye mask, and hot-water bottle under the covers. From \$274.

Mexico & Central & South America

ATIX HOTEL

La Paz, Bolivia

Contemporary and indigenous influences abound, like a façade of timber and Comanche stone and works by artist Gastón Ugalde. The restaurant, Ona, is among the city's best, thanks to a staff recruited from Latin America's top kitchens. From \$143.

CHABLÉ (P. 28)

Yucatán, Mexico

Just an hour from the coast, Chablé marries Méridan hacienda hospitality with beach-resort-style amenities (like the glamorous, palm-tree-lined pool that could've been plucked from Tulum). From \$780.

EXPLORA VALLE

SAGRADO (P. 90)

Sacred Valley, Peru

Explora's philosophy emphasizes nature, and their latest addition is designed accordingly: Wi-Fi, TV, and mini-bars are replaced with soothing spaces ideal for relaxing after a day spent exploring craggy peaks and Incan ruins. From \$1,950 per person, for three nights, all-inclusive.

MAR ADENTRO (P. 26)

Los Cabos, Mexico

A reflecting pool wraps around this striking seaside property, anchored by Nido, a restaurant ensconced within a woven-twig ovoid structure. The rooms are divided among stark white cubes that appear to float along the edges of the pool. From \$326.

NEKUPE (P. 46)

Nicaragua

The service alone is first-class, as you'd expect at a luxury inn with just four villas and four suites. But consider the activities—trail rides, monkey-watching treks, skeet shooting, and more—and the unreal views, and it's a singular way to experience the region. From \$750.