



2017

The HOTELS AROUND THE WORLD WE *always* RECOMMEND

► For our editors and contributors, three days in any city usually means a different bed every night. The running joke in our office is that unless a high-end property is truly special, something called luxury fatigue sets in by the last day. In other words, the miles of marble or omnipresent butler can feel gratuitous if not oppressive. What we prize most is the uniqueness of hotels—stalwarts of authenticity in the age of global homogeneity. Because in the end, it's the little things—waking to the call to prayer at El Fenn in Marrakech, or the mood lighting that makes everyone feel like a sexier version of themselves at the historic Soho House bar in Istanbul. As hotel obsessives, we know that where you stay can determine the fate of your trip, that a hotel must clear some very high hurdles in order to justify your spending the money and time away from the kids, the spouse, or the office. What follows are our impassioned recommendations for the hotels we visit time and again—and daydream about long after checkout. → P. 68

An ODE to HOTELS in

India

If choosing the right hotel can feel akin to climbing a summit, then travelers to India start at a higher base camp than most: Stay at any luxury hotel here and you're more or less guaranteed good food and attentive service. (Maybe too attentive? The Indian version of service is much more, let's say, involved than many Westerners are accustomed to.) But the most memorable hotels offer something else—their own interpretations of Indian history. Think of the coolly elegant Imperial New Delhi, its hallways hung with Raj-era photographs, or the grand, marble-floored Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai, both of which pay homage to the country's colonial era; or of Jaipur's ecstatically colorful and patterned Suján Rajmahal Palace, a former royal guesthouse that finds its inspiration in the glory and excess of the Mughals. And it's not only the aesthetics that make Indian hotels singular, it's how creatively, and boldly, they incorporate the country's most iconic landscapes and sites. One has only to stay at the Oberoi Amarvilas, in Agra, where every room has a view of the Taj Mahal—accessible via a golf-cart ride provided by the hotel—or Amanbagh, outside Jaipur, drawn along the lines of a former prince's hunting grounds, where the air is fragrant with wood smoke from the nearby villages and loud with the chatter of monkeys, to know this. But what unites them all is a dedication to splendor: You're on vacation, they remind us—isn't this the time to be dazzled?

HANYA YANAGIHARA



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The Colonnade restaurant in the Suján Rajmahal Palace.

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NOTHING IN THE WORLD IS MORE RELAXING THAN WATCHING WATER BUFFALO GRAZE IN BRILLIANT-GREEN, BREEZE-RIPPLED RICE PADDIES FROM YOUR THAI-STYLE DAYBED.

Peter Jon Lindberg on the *Four Seasons Resort Chiang Mai* in Thailand



Photograph by Rolland Bello

THE Beaches

WE RETURN TO AGAIN AND AGAIN...

The Cape, A Thompson Hotel, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
“One of the sexiest grown-ups’ weekend spots I’ve ever been to.” *Rebecca Misner*

Cheval Blanc Randheli, Maldives
“An overwater villa is a dream come true, but the slightly more spacious on-the-sand option here is the ultimate fantasy beach house.” *Cynthia Rosenfeld*

COMO Parrot Cay, Turks and Caicos
“Just a quick nonstop flight from New York, yet it feels thousands of miles away. The first time I came here, Keith Richards was holding court in the tiny bar. The next morning, Christie Brinkley waved hello as she jogged past my chaise longue. The 13-year-old me would have freaked out.” *P.J.L.*

Cuixmala, Jalisco, Mexico
“It’s a long drive from the airport—more than three hours—but it’s paradise. While the water can be dramatic at times, the beautiful pool that overlooks it will do the trick.” *Yolanda Edwards*

The Datai Langkawi, Malaysia
“So much to love here, like the jungle-meets-the-sea setting and rain forest walks with charming resident naturalist Irshad Mubarak.” *P.J.L.*

Eden Rock—St Barths
“It’s the unicorn of hotels—glamorous without feeling snooty, stylish but still playful, a throwback but not at all dated, and just so damn chic. The people-watching at that hotel is as epic as the beach.” *R.M.*

El Nido Resorts Pangulasian Island, Philippines
“This barefoot-luxe resort on a private island faces an absurdly photogenic beach. Kayak those clear waters to uninhabited nearby islands.” *P.J.L.*

Four Seasons Resort Costa Rica at Peninsula Papagayo
“Falling asleep to the sound of waves crashing and howler monkeys saying good night is pretty pleasant. Book a canopy suite with a private plunge pool.” *Lauren DeCarlo*

GoldenEye, Jamaica
“Pure elegance and a stunning location. They also

added 26 new beach huts just last year.” *P.J.L.*

Guana Island, British Virgin Islands
“You don’t go to this private island for the activities or the pampering. A book and sunblock are the only accessories you’ll need.” *Y.E.*

Hermitage Bay, Antigua
“I like how it feels very raw in the landscape, not too manicured or precious. The restaurant places a huge emphasis on local everything. They don’t have an extensive menu—just what is fresh that day from the farmer or the fisherman.” *Y.E.*

Hotel Esencia, Playa del Carmen, Mexico
“This small, 29-room hotel is like that effortlessly stylish beach house your secretly fancy freshman roommate invited you to over winter break, and that reset the lifestyle bar from there on out.” *Pilar Guzmán*

Jumby Bay, A Rosewood Resort, Antigua
“Don’t let the fact that it’s an all-inclusive scare you away. There’s no swim-up bar here, only blissfully

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*Cynthia Rosenfeld
on Trisara
in Phuket, Thailand*

>
Monuments
Beach at
The Cape
in Cabo San
Lucas.

quiet beaches and, because it’s a car-free island, super-relaxed guests biking all around.” *Paulie Dibner*

Laucala Island, Fiji
“Yes, it’s crazy-expensive. But you’ll get access to an entire private island—including Fijian horses to explore it, acres of tropical orchards, a staff-to-guest ratio of six-to-one, and rides on a \$1.85 million Super Falcon submarine.” *P.J.L.*

Nihiwatu, Sumba Island, Indonesia
“Believe the hype. It has gorgeous eco-savvy design, superb surfing and deep-sea fishing, a remarkable philanthropic arm in the Sumba Foundation, and soul to spare.” *P.J.L.*

Ocean House, Watch Hill, Rhode Island
“This perfectly restored Victorian grande dame right on the sound is the height of an all-croquet-whites WASP fantasy—minus the 1987 Volvo wagon and Triscuits.” *P.G.*

One&Only Palmilla, San José del Cabo, Mexico
“Every one of the four restaurants is truly fantastic, and the spa rivals that of La Mamounia in Marrakech.” *Maca Humeus*



Photo: Getty Images / P. & M. Murray



ITALIANS do it BETTER

Belmond Grand Hotel

Timeo, Taormina, Sicily

"It earned its place on the Grand Tour in the late nineteenth century, and achieves a near impossible visual trifecta with views of Mount Etna, the Ionian Sea, and the third-century B.C. Greek theater." *P.G.*

Grand Hotel a Villa

Feltrinelli, Brescia, Lombardy

"The decor is divine, the view of Lake Garda is so relaxing your shoulders will drop three inches, and the restaurant has some of the best food we've ever had at a hotel, much of it from its garden." *Y.E.*

Grand Hotel Tremezzo,

Como, Lombardy

"A dead ringer for the Grand Budapest Hotel, only on Lake Como. The service is great, but that's a given in Italian hotels of this stature. It's dog-friendly, kid-friendly. And oh boy, that view. What can I say, I love it." *Oddur Thorisson*

Hotel Il Pellicano,

Porto Ercole, Tuscany

"It's all just so good: that curved pool carved out of the rock, the terraced restaurant that hangs over the sea, and the dock reached by a hundred stone steps leading down the cliff." *Odine Cohane* →

The SAFARI INDEX

Our Special Correspondent Sophy Roberts has been on 20 safaris in 13 African countries. Here, her picks for the ultimate properties that reflect the pulse of Africa, where the wild things roam right outside your door.



andBeyond Phinda Vlei Lodge
If South Africa is the sure-hit destination for the safari virgin, then this lodge—in a private game reserve easily overlooked for the more touristed Sabi Sands—is the one to satisfy the most finicky of travelers. Within this glass-and-thatch private world, you don't have to move from your king-size bed or tub to take in the cheetahs and rhinos crossing the vleis in front.

Camp Nomade
Brightly painted steel trunks, camel bells, and scores of lanterns make this sometimes mobile tented camp in Chad completely of its place in north-central Africa. The wildlife highlight is Zakouma National Park's thriving elephant herd.

Greystoke Mahale
One of the most beautifully built lodges in Africa, it was redesigned by the so-called Brunelleschi of the Bush, Kenya-based Ben Jackson. You come to track habituated chimps, but this Tanzanian lodge detoxes your soul.

Mwiba Lodge
Extreme luxury done with class—you can feel the care of the American owners here. Rooms catch the Tanzanian dawn, the leopard coming in to drink, the weaver bird nests that quiver like baubles in the acacia trees.

Segera Retreat
Kenya's Segera works for second-time visitors to Africa, or for a large hit of luxury at the end of a dusty tour. Hole up in the spa, beside the pool, and savor every bite of that seriously thoughtful organic food.

Singita Sabora Tented Camp
Made up of 1920s-style tents on Tanzania's Sabora Plain, Sabora makes you feel like you're the mistress in *White Mischief*, surrounded by campaign furniture, Persian rugs, gramophones, a hundred candles, and zebras snorting under a starpricked sky.

Sirikoi
This Kenyan lodge has the inimitable texture of longtime owners who care (hence the high repeat rate), with fireplaces adorned with family photos of the odd HRH. Lewa Wildlife Conservancy's healthy rhino herds graze like happy sheep all around. Food is a generous alfresco feast every day, from beef salads to Anglo-Indian curries.



CHOOSE YOUR Cruise

If you never thought your once-in-a-lifetime trip would be on water, think again. Cruise lines continue to put the thrill of discovery back into traveling by boat, going farther (think the atolls of the Solomon Islands) and to places where you'll actually want to stay on a ship (that's Cuba). Here's how to choose your next (or first) sail. PAUL BRADY

Crystal Cruises
for original itineraries in unparalleled luxury, like exploring hidden bays in the Seychelles.

Disney Cruise Line
for kids' activities brilliantly plotted by age—and for keeping parents happy, too.

Holland America Line
for glacier-watching in Alaskan fjords.

Norwegian Cruise Line
for that balcony cabin in the Haven, a private "ship within a ship" that has

its own pool, restaurant, and sundeck.

Oceania Cruises
for Canyon Ranch spas and onboard cooking demos by Monsieur Pépin.

Princess Cruises
for cocktails with an ocean panorama from the glass-floor SeaView Bar.

Regent Seven Seas Cruises
for touring the

Mediterranean while noshing on caviar and sipping Champagne.

Seabourn Cruise Line
for having dinner somewhere in the middle of the Arabian Sea at a Thomas Keller restaurant.

Silversea
for tackling Antarctica without having to rough it.

Viking Ocean Cruises
for circumnavigating Cuba with a killer Scandinavian-inspired spa.

Windstar Cruises
for actually sailing aboard multi-masted ships that ply French Polynesia. → P. 74





To the
**MANOR
BORN—for the
WEEKEND
Anyway**

New Yorkers have the Hamptons, Londoners have the English countryside. Below, our favorite estates—all three hours or less from the capital—where we play out our Jane Austen fantasies, but in beds from this century.

Babington House

Owned by Soho House, this 18-acre Georgian estate in Somerset has an eighteenth-century Georgian church, a walled garden, and indoor and outdoor pools that alone are worth the trip.

Barnsley House

It's less grand than the regal manors typical of the Cotswolds, but noted Brit gardener Rosemary Verey used to live here, and her perfectly landscaped gardens remain. The spa is top-notch, too.

Gravetye Manor

This Sussex estate has charm in spades—oak-wood salons, four-poster beds, roaring fireplaces, and a thousand rambling acres of apple orchards, lilies, rose bushes, and swan ponds.

Lime Wood

Hampshire's New Forest is a camping favorite for London families. But those wanting to toast themselves post-hike with a stiff drink in a glass-atrium courtyard should stay at this manor house with interiors by designer David Collins.
Erin Florio

An ODE to HOTELS on the

Amalfi Coast

By virtue, perhaps, of a connecting road so narrow and vertiginous—and a Southern Italian infrastructure so byzantine—the charms of the Amalfi Coast will likely remain unchanged for the foreseeable future. The big-three properties, each distinct in vibe and management style, embody through their unparalleled natural settings, food, decor, and, most importantly, their proprietors, the very essence of la dolce vita. In the center of Positano, *Le Sirenuse* balances centrality with a pristine design sensibility and honeymooners' pool aerie. The super-chic *Il San Pietro di Positano*, just outside town, has the kind of private beach and high-up outdoor cocktail and dining

terraces cantilevered over the Mediterranean that made you want to come all this way in the first place. While some rooms in the family-friendly *Hotel Santa Caterina*, with its lemon orchards and sea views, are more up-to-date than others (we love the newly renovated Room 28 and its wraparound terraces), you can't argue with the pool etched into the mountain overlooking the sea ...and the food, the kind you wish you could eat every day for the rest of your life. PILAR GUZMÁN



The view of the bay from Le Sirenuse in Positano.

●
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*Yolanda Edwards on the
Ritz-Carlton,
Half Moon Bay*





The **SKI** LODGES THAT *always* **DELIVER**

These properties do spa, après, and the high-end ski aesthetic so damn well, you may just bag hitting those drifty precipices altogether.

	<i>Here</i>		<i>Abroad</i>	
	Montage Deer Valley, Utah	Hotel Jerome, Aspen	Badrutt's Palace Hotel, St. Moritz	Gstaad Palace
THE GIST	Ski-in/ski-out Craftsman-style lodge, complete with adorable Bernese mountain dogs.	A 93-room Auberge resort originally built in 1889 at the height of the silver boom.	A castle and luxury benchmark that opened in 1896 and is still owned by the Badrutt family.	An eight-story Swiss icon with tasseled keys, a dinner dress code, and portraits of Elizabeth Taylor.
WHY WE LOVE IT	Almost every room has a small deck, mountain or valley views, and a fireplace.	Huge rooms, and they nailed the renovation—think silver baron's Wild West estate—in 2012.	The lake view and the emphasis on “wellness” (they tuck hot water bottles into your sheets at night).	Its 20,000-square-foot spa and pools and the surrounding Bernese Alps.
MOUNTAINS TO SKI	Three high-speed lifts will take you to Deer Valley. And Park City is only ten minutes away.	It's closest to Aspen Mountain and a short drive to Buttermilk, Aspen Highlands, and Snowmass.	The local mountain Corviglia. The glacier-run Diavolezza and Piz Corvatsch are also options.	Several independent resorts are interconnected by lifts—meaning 136 miles of terrain. →

OUR Favorite

HOTELS IN FIVE OF THE WORLD'S

GREATEST CITIES

LONDON

Batty Langley's, Spitalfields

"This quirky English hotel has Victorian copper showers, dark wood paneling, four-poster beds, tapestries, and loos hidden behind library shelves. It's original and utterly witty." *S.R.*

The Beaumont, Mayfair

"It's got so much heart and soul—and it's only been open since 2014. The interiors are just masculine enough, and the marble and chrome bathrooms are super elegant. If you're jetlagged, go straight to the Colony Grill Room and order the full English breakfast." *Matt Hranek*

Claridge's, Mayfair

"There are few things more satisfying than getting a tray of warm scones delivered to your room here." *Andrea Whittle*

The Connaught, Mayfair

"All-out Mayfair charm. The high tea is the best in town. And don't miss the Champagne Room, with its 40 rare vintages served in bespoke Baccarat glasses." *Victor De Vita*

Rosewood London, Holborn

"It was hard for me not to fall for this place—especially when I saw the tiny foie gras terrine with toast points that appeared next to my Etro-blanketed bed at turn-down." *Andrew Sessa*

The Savoy, Northbank

"Walking past the queue of Rolls-Royces at the entrance always feels so grand. Drinks at the American Bar is a must, even if you're not spending the night." *E.F.*

LOS ANGELES

Hotel Bel-Air

"The bungalows are engulfed in the most gorgeous, peaceful gardens. It's a little bit out of the way, but that's kind of the point." *L.D.*

Shutters on the Beach, Santa Monica

"It's not just that Shutters is the best SoCal hotel on the water. It's that it's consistently good, from the living room—like lobby that overlooks the Pacific to the awesome pool that fulfills the L.A. good life fantasy." *Candice Rainey*

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*Erin Florio on the
Hotel Nord-Pinus in Tangier*

Sunset Tower Hotel, West Hollywood

"Once you're there, there's really no need to go elsewhere. The staff are amazing, the rooms are super comfortable, and it brilliantly captures that Old Hollywood vibe." *Y.E.*

NEW YORK

Baccarat Hotel New York, Midtown

"It's a great combo of traditional European craftsmanship and New York glamour. It also has the only La Mer spa in the country and a champagne button on the room phone." *M.H.*

The Carlyle, A Rosewood Hotel, Upper East Side

"If you're in town on vacation, you're likely to end up at Bemelmans Bar anyway. That alone is reason to stay. That and the monogrammed pillowcases." *L.D.*

Crosby Street Hotel, SoHo

"Kit Kemp's punchy interiors, secret garden, and comfy lounge have turned this little downtown gem into a cult favorite among the fashion set." *E.F.*

Four Seasons Hotel New York, Midtown

"I.M. Pei's 1993 design (all clean lines and cool French limestone) has never felt dated. A \$120 million renovation in 2016 wisely didn't mess with that—and the Manhattan skyline and Central Park views are still insane." *P.J.L.*

The Greenwich Hotel, TriBeCa

"It's like a club without the membership fee—so many discreet sanctuaries. There's the Drawing Room with the jewel-box bar, the topiary garden, the 250-year-old Japanese farmhouse enclosing the pool—and, if you can swing it, a pent-

house designed like a private Zen monastery." *Alex Postman*

The Lowell, Upper East Side

"The most charming and intimate hotel in the neighborhood. Many of the rooms have fireplaces and terraces, and the bathrooms are big and bright." *Y.E.*

The Sherry-Netherland, Upper East Side

"It's made up of privately owned apartments, so you feel like you're actually living there. Room service is from Harry Cipriani, which has its own elevator





and a private door into the hotel." *Y.E.*

PARIS

Four Seasons Hotel George V, Paris, 8th Arrondissement
"Jeff Leatham's incredible kaleidoscopic floral installations fill the hotel year-round. I've never seen the same arrangement twice." *Cynthia Rosenfeld*

Hôtel Plaza Athénée, 8th Arrondissement
"They have the most attentive staff, and you'll wake up to breakfast in the most beautiful dining room—not to mention a pastry basket

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The bar at the Baccarat Hotel New York.

with over 15 types of Viennoiserie." *Y.E.*

La Réserve Paris-Hotel and Spa, 8th Arrondissement
"The rooms are big by Parisian standards. It did, after all, previously belong to Pierre Cardin. And the Jacques Garcia interiors are totally inspiring." *M.H.*

Le Bristol Paris, 8th Arrondissement
"It attracts a crowd who

aren't looking for a scene but want a place that never seems to change." *M.H.*

Le Meurice, 1st Arrondissement
"This is as center-of-the-city as it gets. From here, you can walk pretty much everywhere. Book a room overlooking the Tuileries, and plan on drinks in the seriously romantic bar just off the lobby." *L.D.*

The Peninsula Paris, 16th Arrondissement
"The intimate and sexy Bar Kléber is exactly what you want in a hotel bar, and

LiLi is one of the best Chinese restaurants I've ever eaten at." *Y.E.*

TOKYO

Aman Tokyo, Otemachi
"Many rooms have Japanese soaking tubs with views of the Imperial Palace grounds, and the pool is equal parts elegant and Zen. It may be in the middle of the city, but it feels like you've entered a ryokan in the middle of rural Japan." *Y.E.*

Mandarin Oriental, Tokyo, Nihonbashi
"Not just for its smooth, everything-works-here pol-

ish, but for its 12 (count 'em, 12) restaurants and bars, nearly all of them worth staying in for. That's saying something in this city." *P.J.L.*

Park Hyatt Tokyo, Shinjuku
"The decor could use an update (unless '90s Revival is your style), but for stellar service and Fuji views, nobody doesn't love this Shinjuku icon." *P.J.L.* →



An ODE to HOTELS in

Marrakech

Even more so than the Jardin Majorelle, with its iconic electric-blue villa and canary-yellow planters, or the Carnival-esque Jemaa el Fna Square, hotels here have the power to transport. Sitting in the grand marble lobby of Es Saadi, a hint of orange blossoms and cigarettes in the air, you can almost convince yourself that it's 1968 and Keith and Mick are about to walk by. At the Royal Mansour, you'll play out a modern *One Thousand and One Nights* fantasy in a private riad with your own rooftop terrace and hammam. La Mamounia, on the other hand, is one big fabulous spectacle. There's nothing subtle about it, from the doormen dressed in billowing white pants, fez, and red velvet cape to the exquisite peacock feather-hued zellige tiles over nearly

every surface (for Moroccan minimalism—white tile, neutral textiles, and cream Beni Ourain rugs—stay at the new Mandarin Oriental just outside the city). If your idea of Marrakech is waking to the call to prayer echoing from the Koutoubia Mosque and sipping mint tea in the square, then an Old City riad turned hotel is the way to go, and Vanessa Branson's El Fenn is the best in the category. Not sure which version of Marrakech you want? Choose one and just go with it. The city gets deep under your skin. You'll be back.

REBECCA MISNER

Inside the halls of El Fenn.



Our GLOBAL Hotels ONE SHEET

In some destinations, there is a dearth of great places to stay; in others, there are so many options that you need a trusted recommendation to avoid ending up somewhere mediocre (and still expensive). These are the hotels we don't have to think twice about.

Amsterdam, Conservatorium Hotel; Waldorf Astoria
Athens, Hotel Grande Bretagne
Austin, Hotel Saint Cecilia
Baltimore, Four Seasons Hotel Baltimore; The Ivy
Bangkok, COMO Metropolitan; The Siam
Barcelona, Hotel Arts; Mandarin Oriental
Beijing, Opposite House; Rosewood Beijing
Berlin, Das Stue; Hotel Adlon Kempinski
Boston, Ames Boston Hotel; XV Beacon
Buenos Aires, Alvear Palace Hotel; Palacio Duhaupark Hyatt
Cape Town, Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel; One&Only Cape Town
Capri, J.K. Place Capri
Charleston, Zero George Street; Wentworth Mansion
Chengdu, JW Marriott Hotel Chengdu
Chicago, The Langham; The Peninsula
Copenhagen, Hotel d'Angleterre

Douro Valley, Portugal, Six Senses
Dubai, One&Only The Palm
Dublin, The Merrion
Florence, Four Seasons Hotel Firenze; Portrait Firenze; St. Regis Florence
Galle, Amangalla
Hanoi, Sofitel Legend Metropole
Hong Kong, The Peninsula Hong Kong; Upper House
Istanbul, Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at Sultanahmet; Soho House Istanbul
Kyoto, Hoshinoya
Las Vegas, Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas; Wynn Las Vegas
Lisbon, Palácio Belmonte
Mexico City, Condesa DF; Las Alcobas
Miami, The Betsy; Faena Hotel Miami Beach; Soho Beach House
Milan, Mandarin Oriental
Napa Valley, Auberge du Soleil; Calistoga Ranch
New Orleans, Sontat House
Oslo, The Thief
Phoenix, Royal Palms Resort and Spa
Rio de Janeiro, Belmond Copacabana Palace; Santa Teresa Hotel
Rome, Portrait Roma; Villa Spalletti Trivelli
Saigon, Park Hyatt Saigon
São Paulo, Hotel Fasano São Paulo
Shanghai, Fairmont Peace Hotel; The Peninsula Shanghai
Singapore, Raffles Hotel; St. Regis Singapore
Stockholm, Ett Hem; Grand Hôtel
Tel Aviv, The Norman Tel Aviv
Vancouver, Shangri-La Hotel Vancouver
Venice, Aman Venice; Belmond Hotel Cipriani; Gritti Palace
Washington, D.C., The Hay-Adams; The Jefferson; Park Hyatt Washington
Zurich, Baur au Lac; Dolder Grand



They're

SORT OF

OUT OF THE WAY BUT

WORTH THE TRIP

These hotels may require a longer drive or a connecting flight (or two), but that “are we there yet” feeling will be replaced with “I’m never leaving” as soon as you walk through the door at these otherworldly properties.

Amangiri, Canyon Point, Utah

“Paradise on Mars. And I dream of the perfectly chilled sage lemonade they put in your hiking backpack.” *A.W.*

Babylonstoren, South Africa

“Just 45 minutes outside Cape Town, this seventeenth-century Cape Dutch farm and wine estate has a fabulous bamboo-clad spa and hammam, an onsite



Photograph courtesy Shakti Himalaya

bakery, and two great restaurants sourcing almost everything from the surrounding fields and orchards." *P.J.L.*

Dromoland Castle Hotel & Country Estate, County Clare, Ireland
"It's a comfortable castle—if you can imagine such a thing. It's really more of an estate, set on one of the best golf courses in Burren, which is not at all super lush but raw and beautiful in its own way." *Maeve Nicholson*

Explora Rapa Nui, Easter Island, Chile
"Do the megalithic statues, go to the summit of Maunga Terevaka, and hike through lava tubes overlooking the Pacific, then cap it all off with a night swim in the hotel's pool under the richest blanket of stars you've ever seen." *P.B.*

Omni Bedford Springs Resort, Bedford, Pennsylvania
"One of the oldest resorts in the U.S., with one of the first indoor pools in the

The view of Thiksey Monastery from Shakti Ladakh, in the Himalayas.

country, it's been thoughtfully reconstructed and decorated with many of the original antiques, salvaged by the in-house historian." *Y.E.*

The Point, The Adirondacks, New York
"The staff intuit everything here. They'll hand you another drink when there's a sip left in yours and leave boots, in your size, outside your door if it snows overnight. They even had a to-go lunch packed and ready for us—fried chicken, brownies, sparkling water—so we didn't have to stop on the five-hour drive back to New York City." *L.D.*

Primland, Meadows of Dan, Virginia
"Think of it as the hotel equivalent of eating caviar with potato chips: I went horseback riding, shot clay pigeons, and listened

GOLD LIST

to live bluegrass before having an amazing massage followed by an epic nine-course meal." *R.M.*

Shakti Ladakh, The Himalayas
"The knowledgeable guides will have you hiking, mountain biking, and visiting with local monks and oracles." *David Prior*

Tierra Chiloé Hotel & Spa, Chiloé Island, Chile
"A two-hour flight south of Santiago, this rugged evergreen-forested island is like Chile's version of Maine, and this property is your best way in. Hikes, sails to nearby islands, and horseback riding are all included. Or you can just relax by the fire with a pisco sour and watch the sun set over the bay." *P.B.*

Twin Farms, Barnard, Vermont
"It seamlessly pulls off an incongruous mix of Yankee outdoorsiness and white-glove service on a glorious patch of wooded farmland. In other words, a day of hiking or fly-fishing followed by a glass of champagne." *A.P.*

Wheatleigh, Lenox, Massachusetts
"A Farrow & Ball paint book fantasy come to life, with excellent food and Olmsted-designed grounds." *P.G.*

Wickaninnish Inn, Tofino, British Columbia, Canada
"Explore tide pools, hike the surrounding coastal rain forest, and kayak to nearby Meares Island. That's where I paddled past forests of thousand-year-old cedar and followed a pod of gray whales." *R.M.*



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AND THE
BATHHOUSE
HIDES A
HOT-SPRING-
FED POOL.

Alex Postman on
Dunton Hot Springs in
Dolores, Colorado



WHERE to GET HEALTHY-ISH

The medi-spa trend is exploding, and more hotels are killing it with state-of-the-art wellness programs. But this year we're all about the places that let you live it up a bit outside the treatment room and the gym.

Bio-Hotel Stanglwirt, Austria
Like something out of *The Sound of Music*, this Tyrolean family-run lodge with ten saunas and baths fed by Alpine springs (plus dairy cows!) is the rare spa that's also kid-friendly. *Jennifer Miller*

COMO Shambhala Estate, Ubud, Bali
Yes, it has three pools, a private waterfall, and nine types of massage, but the real treat of staying here is the food. Many places make good, even excellent, low-cal all-organic macrobiotic fare, but no one does it with as much style and subtlety of flavor as this retreat. *H.Y.*

Kamalaya, Koh Samui, Thailand
The monastic-chic vibe of cabins with plunge pools built into a jungle-y hillside gives this Thai stalwart the feel of a Buddhist sanctuary, not a boot camp. *D.P.*

Les Sources de Caudalie, Bordeaux, France
Soak in the hot spring pool, get a vinotherapy massage, then roll over for a wine tasting from the spa's vineyard, Château Haut Smith Lafitte. *Y.E.* ♦