

BEST AIRLINE SEATS — WHO HAS THEM, WHERE THEY FLY

# Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

MAY 2011

124  
Best New  
Hotels in the  
World (Including  
40 under \$300)

The Hot  
List 2011

21 Top Restaurants  
40 Sensational Spas

PLUS

BEIJING  
Insider's Guide  
to the World's  
Wildest City

CARIBBEAN'S  
Sleeping Beauty

THE SEXIEST  
PLANE  
IN THE SKY



TIBET TODAY: At the St. Regis Lhasa Resort



A 45-page special section.

15th Annual

# Hot List

2011

## The Year's 124 Top New Hotels

Including 40 under \$300 a night\*

EVERY HOTEL IN THIS LIST won its place the old-fashioned way—by earning it. After scrutinizing nearly a thousand of the hotels that opened worldwide over the past year, we selected a couple hundred of the most promising candidates, then checked into each one—anon-ymously, of course—trying out the beds, testing the staff, tasting the food. Finally, 124 properties ultimately won us over. Spanning 43 countries and six continents, this year's Hot Hotels are

an eclectic group, from tree houses to farmhouses, and they range in size from a three-suite safari camp in South Africa's leopard-rich Londolozi Private Game Reserve to a glossy 2,995-room tower on the Vegas Strip. The cost per night also runs the gamut—from a mere \$75 for a groovy room above a white-hot gastropub in Chicago's boho Logan Square to \$2,040 for a private three-story *riad* with a rooftop plunge pool and a butler in the heart of Marrakech. Despite the diversity, the hotels share a common standard in their artful blend of high style and a strong sense of place. Now that we've completed our white-glove test (and even ferreted out exactly which room to book), all that's left for you to do is make a reservation.

Wait! There's more. Look on the following pages for:

**THE HOTTIES** Those little details that elevate our favorite new hotels from likable . . . to lovable.

**THE ONES TO WATCH** Another year of reviewing may have wrapped, but the hotels haven't stopped opening. A number of notable properties debuted just after our press deadline, or are slated to open soon. Our Truth in Travel policy means that we inspect a hotel by staying the night as any traveler would—we do so incognito. As you read this, our editors have already begun a new cycle of reviews, and this year we're offering a sneak peek at some of the places on the radar. A few may land a spot on next year's Hot List; others may not make the cut. For our predictions on the next wave of great new hotels, check out our roundup of the Ones to Watch.



PLUS

P. 129 **Hot Spas**

40 blissful  
new places to relax  
and recharge

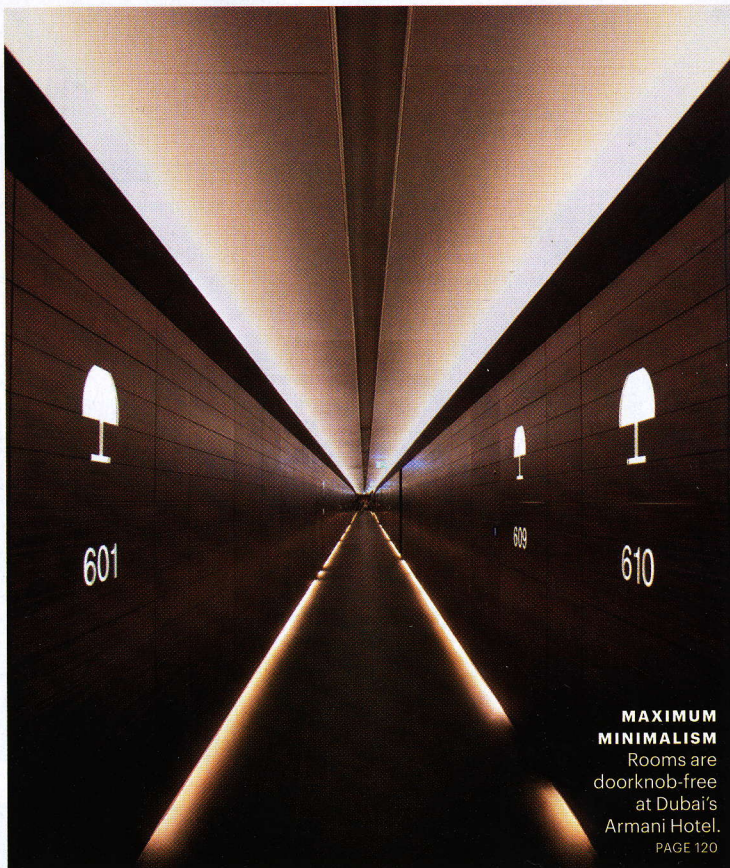
P. 143 **Hot Tables**

Top chefs pick  
their favorite new  
restaurants



# Hot Hotels

- 73 **ARGENTINA**  
**Allodon Mansion**, Buenos Aires  
**Fierro Hotel**, Buenos Aires  
**Luma-Casa de Montaña**, Villa La Angostura
- 73 **AUSTRALIA**  
**Crown Metropol**, Melbourne  
**The Olsen**, Melbourne  
**Saffire Freycinet**, Tasmania
- 76 **AUSTRIA**  
**Sofitel Vienna Stephansdom**, Vienna
- 76 **BELGIUM**  
**Tenbosch House**, Brussels
- 76 **BRAZIL**  
**Villa Corcovado**, Rio de Janeiro
- 76 **CAMBODIA**  
**Villa Romonea**, Kep
- 76 **CANADA**  
**Thompson Toronto**, Toronto
- 78 **CARIBBEAN**  
**Rosalie Bay Resort**, Dominica  
**GoldenEye**, Jamaica  
**St. Regis Bahia Beach Resort**, Puerto Rico  
**W Retreat & Spa**, Vieques Island, Puerto Rico  
**Turtle Beach Bungalows**, St. Kitts
- 80 **CHILE**  
**Palafito 1326**, Chiloé Island  
**Le Rêve Boutique Hotel**, Santiago
- 80 **CHINA**  
**Yi House Art Hotel 798**, Beijing  
**Conrad Sanya Haitang Bay**, Hainan Island  
**Four Seasons Hotel Hangzhou at West Lake**, Hangzhou  
**Hullett House**, Hong Kong  
**St. Regis Lhasa Resort**, Lhasa  
**Fairmont Peace Hotel**, Shanghai  
**Waldorf Astoria Shanghai on the Bund**, Shanghai  
**Waterhouse at South Bund**, Shanghai
- 82 **ENGLAND**  
**The Arch**, London  
**Four Seasons Hotel London at Park Lane**, London  
**The Savoy**, London  
**Coworth Park**, Surrey
- 86 **FRANCE**  
**U Palazzu Serenu**, Corsica  
**Le Strato**, Courchevel  
**Hôtel Thoumieux**, Paris
- Le Burgundy**, Paris  
**Le Pavillon des Lettres**, Paris  
**Le Royal Monceau Raffles**, Paris  
**Les Jardins de la Villa**, Paris  
**Shangri-La Hotel**, Paris
- 90 **GERMANY**  
**Soho House**, Berlin
- 90 **GREECE**  
**Kinsterna Hotel and Spa**, Monemvassia, Peloponnese  
**The Romanos**, Costa Navarino, Peloponnese  
**Westin Resort**, Costa Navarino, Peloponnese
- 90 **INDIA**  
**The Sol**, Bardez, Goa  
**Taj Falaknuma Palace**, Hyderabad  
**Samode Safari Lodge**, Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh  
**The Sarai at Toria**, Panna National Park, Madhya Pradesh  
**Ranvas**, Nagaur Fort, Rajasthan
- 95 **ISRAEL**  
**The Brown TLV**, Tel Aviv
- 95 **ITALY**  
**Grand Hotel Villa Cora**, Florence  
**Principe Forte dei Marmi**, Forte dei Marmi  
**CastaDivi Resort**, Lake Como  
**Town@House Street**, Milan  
**Borgo Egnazia**, Savelletri di Fasano  
**The Metropole**, Taormina, Sicily  
**Val di Luce Spa Resort**, Abetone, Tuscany
- 98 **JAPAN**  
**Hotel Kanra**, Kyoto
- 100 **KENYA**  
**Solio Lodge**, Laikipia
- 100 **LAOS**  
**Alila**, Luang Prabang
- 100 **LATVIA**  
**Hotel Neiburgs**, Riga
- 100 **LEBANON**  
**Four Seasons Hotel**, Beirut
- 100 **MALDIVES**  
**Constance Moofushi**, South Ari Atoll
- 100 **MEXICO**  
**Banyan Tree Cabo Marqués**, Acapulco  
**Hotel Boca Chica**, Acapulco  
**Las Alcobas**, Mexico City  
**Hotel at Imanta Resort**, Punta de Mita
- Rosewood San Miguel de Allende**, San Miguel de Allende
- 104 **MOROCCO**  
**Palais Amani**, Fez  
**Le Royal Mansour**, Marrakech
- 107 **NEW ZEALAND**  
**Matakauri Lodge**, Queenstown
- 108 **PERU**  
**Mancora Marina Hotel**, Mancora  
**Tambo del Inka**, Urubamba
- 108 **PORTUGAL**  
**Hotel Areias do Seixo**, A-dos-Cunhados  
**The Oitavos**, Cascais  
**Hotel da Estrela**, Lisbon  
**Hotel Inspira Santa Marta**, Lisbon  
**LX Boutique Hotel**, Lisbon  
**The Yeatman**, Porto  
**Hotel Martinhal**, Sagres  
**Vidago Palace**, Vidago
- 110 **RUSSIA**  
**Radisson Royal Hotel**, Moscow  
**Taleon Imperial Hotel**, St. Petersburg
- 112 **SINGAPORE**  
**Fullerton Bay Hotel**, Singapore  
**Wanderlust**, Singapore
- 112 **SLOVAKIA**  
**Kempinski River Hotel Park**, Bratislava
- 112 **SOUTH AFRICA**  
**The Last Word Sea Five**, Cape Town  
**Babylonstoren**, Cape Winelands  
**Winston Hotel**, Johannesburg  
**Pioneer Camp**, Londolozi Private Game Reserve, Sabi Sand Private Game Reserve  
**Delaire Graff Lodges and Spa**, Stellenbosch
- 114 **SPAIN**  
**Hotel Atrio**, Cáceres  
**Giri Residence Hotel & Spa**, Ibiza  
**Hotel Viura**, Villabuena de Álava  
**Cap Rocat**, Mallorca
- 116 **SWEDEN**  
**The Treehotel**, Harads  
**Nobis Hotel**, Stockholm
- 116 **THAILAND**  
**Siam Kempinski Hotel**, Bangkok  
**Banyan Tree Samui**, Koh Samui  
**W Retreat Koh Samui**, Koh Samui
- 120 **TUNISIA**  
**Dar Hi**, Nefta
- 120 **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**  
**Armani Hotel**, Dubai  
**One&Only The Palm**, Dubai
- 120 **UNITED STATES**  
**The Redbury**, Los Angeles, California
- Hotel Yountville**, Yountville, California  
**Four Seasons Hotel**, Denver, Colorado  
**Four Seasons Resort**, Vail, Colorado  
**Hotel Beaux Arts**, Miami, Florida  
**Soho Beach House**, Miami Beach, Florida  
**The Waikiki Edition**, Honolulu, Hawaii  
**JW Marriott Chicago**, Chicago, Illinois  
**Longman & Eagle**, Chicago, Illinois  
**Ranch at Rock Creek**, Philipsburg, Montana  
**Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas**, Las Vegas, Nevada  
**Andaz 5th Avenue**, New York, New York  
**The Chatwal**, New York, New York  
**The James**, New York, New York  
**Setai Fifth Avenue**, New York, New York  
**Ocean House**, Watch Hill, Rhode Island  
**W Hotel**, Austin, Texas  
**Montage Deer Valley**, Deer Valley, Utah
- 194 **URUGUAY**  
**Playa Vik**, José Ignacio  
**Hotel Fasano Las Piedras**, La Barra
- 196 **VIETNAM**  
**Six Senses Con Dao**, Con Dao  
**Fusion Maia**, Danang  
**Ana Mandara**, Hue



**MAXIMUM MINIMALISM**  
 Rooms are doorknob-free at Dubai's Armani Hotel.  
 PAGE 120



# Hot Hotels

lobby bar and basement nightclub, 1812, draw crowds on weekends, but hotel guests and condo owners, select locals, and occasional celebs escape to the rooftop lounge for its infinity pool. **WHICH ROOM TO**

**BOOK:** Northwest-facing rooms on upper floors have great city views—Nos. 713, 813, and 913 are high enough to be unobstructed by other buildings (416-640-7778; thompsonhotels.com; doubles, \$405-\$467). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

## CARIBBEAN

### **UNDER \$300** Rosalie Bay Resort, Dominica

🔥 767-446-1010; rosaliebay.com; doubles, \$185-\$450.

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### **GoldenEye, Jamaica**

🔥 Hidden in plain sight on the island's northern coast, GoldenEye has long been a mainstay of Caribbean casual chic. These days, this former estate of Ian Fleming's has expanded dramatically with the addition of a series of accommodations unfurling between a placid lagoon and the Caribbean Sea, as well as restaurants and a spa. The property's four original villas (also refurbished) still sit like smaller siblings around Fleming's three-bedroom house on the lush side of the resort. This section connects via a footbridge to the 11 beachfront cottages and 6 Lagoon Suites. The accommodations are all painted in soft pastels while still evoking a Jamaican style, with thresholds that are defined with the natural twists of weathered tree limbs and driftwood. Lagoon-facing suites in particular encourage dawdling, as you can move between dips in the water and lounging on the terrace while gazing at the mangroves and the occasional fish popping up. Above the beach is Bizot Bar, the more casual of the resort's two excellent restaurants, while Gazebo, with its elegant takes on classic resort favorites, overlooks the freshwater and saltwater pools. The Jamaican staff are exceedingly polite and outgoing, always offering their assistance. Mosquito-wary guests can close up the shutters and use the AC—but at the expense of missing the sweet night air. **WHICH ROOM TO BOOK:** The Lagoon Suites are serene, with a covered deck and a private sunning platform (876-975-3354; goldeneye.com; doubles, \$840-\$1500). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

### **St. Regis Bahia Beach Resort, Puerto Rico**

🔥 787-809-8000; stregisbahiaresort.com; doubles, \$819-\$1,750.

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### **W Retreat & Spa,**

*Vieques Island, Puerto Rico*

🔥 Designed for the terminally hip, the W is a beach house-style explosion of reclaimed wood,

