STEP INSIDE

SPECTACULAR SMALL HOTELS AROUND THE WORLD

+ SAINT BART’S DINING • BIKING THE DANUBE RIVER • INSIDER’S STOCKHOLM
Hotels are an integral part of travel. They can be the focal point of an itinerary, or simply a place to lay your head after a day of sightseeing or the night before you set sail on a cruise. While some hotels promise a comfortable home away from home, others entice with the opportunity to leave everything behind for a few days of exciting escape. Regardless of what you're looking for, there's a hotel for you. Virtuoso's Hotel and Resort program – celebrating its 25th anniversary this year – now includes 1,200 properties around the world, large and small.

While the mantra “Go big or go home” has its merits, this issue focuses on the diminutive aspects of hospitality. In “Small Wonders,” featuring 20 hotels with 20 rooms or fewer (page 69), assistant editor Amy Cassell shines a spotlight on the lesser-known gems in our vast network of properties. And “It's the Little Things” (page 99) looks at everyday objects that indicate a hotel's attention to detail. (Clearly, I'm a sucker for a hotel notepad – such a simple, functional luxury.) We put a call out to all our hotel partners, who sent us literally hundreds of products for consideration. Says associate art director Korena Bolding Sinnett, who spearheaded the project, “I was so impressed by the design and branding. Small touches make a big difference in separating a Virtuoso hotel from the others.”

There's much more in this issue, from an AmaWaterways cruise that lets you bike along the Danube River (page 90) to a tour of Stockholm's neighborhoods (page 82) and other inspiring trip ideas to write home about – preferably on hotel stationery.

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IT’S THE LITTLE THINGS

Everyday hotel objects that stylishly serve both form and function.

Proving that no detail is too small when it comes to hospitality, these design-savvy hotels put their brands at your fingertips – literally.

ART DIRECTION BY KORENA BOLDING SINNETT
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS PLAVIDAL  STYLING BY HEIDI ADAMS
THE WRITE STUFF

Go ahead, pocket that pen – it’s free advertising for the hotel, and a utilitarian reminder of a memorable stay after you check out. A trend we’re noticing: Pencils are the new pens at some properties.

VIP guests at The Resort at Paws Up receive a handcrafted maple pen, made in the U.S.

The airplane on Cheval Blanc St-Barth Isle de France’s floaty pen pays homage to the island’s notorious landing strip.