

35 AMAZING DEALS FROM COSTA RICA TO CALIFORNIA

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

HOTELS SPECIAL

it list
T+L EDITORS'

TOP
50
FAVORITE
NEW
HOTELS

AUTHENTIC
ITALY:
VILLAGE
HIDEAWAYS

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It list

2011

For T+L's sixth annual It List, we traversed the globe, putting the latest crop of hotels to the test. Here, our 50 favorite new properties, from a pioneering farmstead in South Africa to a sexy Manhattan skyscraper. Read on for this year's groundbreaking openings.



The Delaire Graff Lodges & Spa, in Stellenbosch, one of two It List hotels in South Africa this year.

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Ulist

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CITY

SHANGHAI

Waterhouse at South Bund

Shanghai hotels tend toward the vertical and voluptuous, but one look at this austere lobby—exposed brick walls; steel beams; stone floors—and it's clear the Waterhouse has broken the mold. The 19-room hotel is housed in a low-slung 1930's warehouse on the southern part of the city's iconic Bund promenade. Guest rooms blend rough concrete ceilings with blond-wood floors, while Huangpu River-facing windows flood them with natural light. No. 1-3 Bldg., Maojiayuan Rd.; 800/337-4685; waterhouseshanghai.com; doubles from \$206.

BEACH

JAMAICA

GoldenEye Hotel & Resort

This property on the northern coast of Jamaica has quite a pedigree: in the 1940's,

Ian Fleming built a villa on a hidden cove to write his James Bond novels and entertain visitors including Noël Coward and Errol Flynn. Now



owner Chris Blackwell has transformed GoldenEye into a small but stylish resort. With only 11 cottages and six suites along a white-sand beach and secluded lagoon, the vibe is as exclusive as it was in Fleming's day and the guest list just as impressive (was that Beyoncé and Jay-Z hanging out at the waterfront Bizot bar?). *Oracabessa, St.*

Mary; 800/688-7678; goldeneye.com; doubles from \$448.

BEACH

BARRA DE SÃO MIGUEL, BRAZIL

Kenoa

It was a risky proposition for engineer Pedro Marques to quit his career to open a 23-room eco-retreat on a sleepy beach along Brazil's Alagoan coast, north of Bahia. But the gamble has paid off in spades. The hotel wows with eucalyptus columns and natural wood and brick interiors, all of which reinforce the indoor-outdoor aesthetic that sets the retreat apart. Environmental responsibility is emphasized: staffers are instructed in conservation techniques to avoid disturbing the nearby preserve. *Rua Escritor Jorge de Lima, 58 Barramar*; 800/337-4685; kenoaresort.com; doubles from \$630.

BEACH

MESSINIA, GREECE

The Romanos, a Luxury Collection Resort

A onetime stomping ground for ancient Greek royalty, the white-sand beaches of Messinia, in the Peloponnese region, are about to have their second heyday. The 321-room Romanos is the first of an eco-conscious,



four-resort development named Costa Navarino. The whitewashed, 321-acre property, virtually invisible from the beach alongside it, has a golf course that's irrigated with rainwater, and 80 percent of the property will operate on solar power by 2012. Not that the Romanos isn't about indulging: each of the 32 light-filled suites has a private pool, and the breakfast spread includes five

steaming bowl of pho at breakfast to a dip in your private oceanfront plunge pool—it's the perfect place to spend the afternoon while listening for calls from macaques in the jungle. *Dat Doc Beach*; 84-



64/383-1222; sixsenses.com; doubles from \$600.

BEACH

KOH SAMUI, THAILAND

W Retreat Koh Samui

Bringing a long-lacking dose of mod design and youthful exuberance to this ever-popular Thai resort island, W Hotels' first "Retreat" property in Southeast Asia heeds to the brand's urbane aesthetic. Fans of the cheeky W formula will find all the requisite diversions, from morning Thai boxing classes to midnight mojitos at WooBar. Seeking serenity? The resort occupies a coveted peninsula on Samui's quiet northern coast. While the lure of the beach may be hard to resist, guest rooms offer plenty of watery temptations as well: all of the 75 glass-walled villas have private pools, and the best offer shimmering Gulf of



types of local honey. *Navarino Dunes, Costa Navarino*; 800/325-3589; romanoscostanavarino.com; doubles from \$457.

BEACH

CON DAO, VIETNAM

Six Senses Con Dao

Sybarites in search of Southeast Asia's next great escape are heading to Con Dao Island, where Six Senses has upped the ante on luxury. Just a 45-minute flight south of Ho Chi Minh City, 50 minimalist villas on a pristine southern coast are constructed in blond wood. Canopy beds are draped in gauzy fabric, while bathrooms have enormous sea-facing windows. Time moves slowly here, from the first

ON THE SHORE Clockwise from top right: Shanghai's Waterhouse at South Bund; inside GoldenEye, in Jamaica; a Lagoon cottage at GoldenEye; an oceanfront Deluxe villa at Six Senses Con Dao, in Vietnam; Brazil's Kenoa resort; the restaurant at the Romanos, in Greece.



best deals

CARIBBEAN, MEXICO, AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

\$180 COSTA RICA URBAN RETREAT Perfect Summer package from K Hotels' Beacon Escazu (866/978-6168; k-hotels.com), outside San José. **WHAT'S INCLUDED** Five nights in a double room; one two-hour city tour; one \$150 credit for dinner; one couples massage; daily breakfast. **COST** \$899, double, through August 15. **SAVINGS** 30 percent.

\$252 JAMAICA SUN Summer Getaway package from Jakes (800/688-7678; jakeshotel.com), on Treasure Beach. **WHAT'S INCLUDED** Five nights in an ocean-view Deluxe room; one scrub per person at the Driftwood Spa; one boat tour for two of Malcolm Bay and Galleon Beach; one two-hour bike tour for two; one \$60 food credit. **COST** \$1,260, double, June 1–August 31. **SAVINGS** 20 percent.

\$322 MEXICO ACTIVE Get Away package at the Villa del Palmar at the Islands of Loreto (888/844-8169; villagroupresorts.com). **WHAT'S INCLUDED** Two nights in a



Tambo del Inka, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa Peru
\$517 per night

Deluxe room; all meals; one round of golf on the hotel's course. **COST** \$644, double, June 1–July 31. **SAVINGS** 30 percent.

\$517 PERU CULTURE Discovery Anniversary package from Libertador (877/778-2281; libertador.com.pe), at Palacio del Inka, in Cuzco, and Tambo del Inka, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, in Urubamba. **WHAT'S INCLUDED** Two nights at each hotel; one full-day tour of Machu Picchu; one dinner for two at Palacio del Inka; one spa treatment

and one water-circuit treatment for two at Tambo del Inka. **COST** \$2,069, double, June 1–September 9. **SAVINGS** 30 percent.

\$372 ST. LUCIA SUN Rainforest Hideaway package at Ladera (758/459-6600; ladera.com), near Soufrière. **WHAT'S INCLUDED** Five nights in a double room; daily breakfast and afternoon tea; two-hour Soufrière-area sightseeing tour. **COST** \$1,860, double, June 1–August 31. **SAVINGS** 23 percent. »

THE BENEFITS OF SOCIAL NETWORKING

Big-name hotel brands are giving exclusives to fans, followers, and “mayors.” Here, the payoff.

OUTLET	BEST FOR	USED BY	SAMPLE DEALS
	Contests and early deal alerts for fans	Starwood Hotels and Resorts; Kimpton Hotels; Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts	30 percent off at brand hotels; contests where winners receive free hotel nights.
	Rewarding guests who have already checked in	Wynn Las Vegas; Mondrian Los Angeles	Free cocktails to those who have “checked in” through the app; discounts for “mayors” upon checkout.
	Last-minute booking	Fairmont Hotels & Resorts; Joie de Vivre Hotels	Joie de Vivre's weekly “Social Deals” give followers at least 25 percent off hotel rooms, restaurants, and spa treatments.