

—THE WORLD'S TOP 100 HOTELS—

Robb Report

RobbReport.com

**Elite City
Retreats in**
BUENOS AIRES
CAPE TOWN
COPENHAGEN
SAN FRANCISCO
SHANGHAI & MORE



—FIRST LOOK—
Mercedes-Maybach
The Opulent S600 Establishes a New Luxury Marque

THE TOP 100 HOTELS

From London's classic Connaught to New York's brand-new Baccarat Hotel, *Robb Report* presents our biennial selection of the most exclusive and exceptional accommodations in cities worldwide.



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**All pricing information is listed in U.S. dollars per room, per night, based on double occupancy, unless otherwise noted.*





United States & Canada

Atlanta

The St. Regis Atlanta

This 151-room hotel in upscale Buckhead marries Southern tradition and big-city sophistication, featuring twin marble staircases, a wine-room atrium, and a resort-style swimming pool that transforms into an ice-skating rink during winter. Join locals at Astor Court for afternoon tea. (\$350–\$6,000) stregis.com



Four Seasons Hotel Denver

Baltimore

Four Seasons Hotel Baltimore

Baltimore's first true luxury hotel opened in 2011 in a glistening glass tower overlooking the historic Inner Harbor. Panoramic views complement sleek, modern decor in the 256 guest rooms. Chef Michael Mina's Wit and Wisdom tavern puts an innovative spin on classic comfort food. (\$400–\$14,000) fourseasons.com

Boston

Mandarin Oriental, Boston

With its contemporary feng shui–influenced decor, the 148-room Mandarin Oriental is Beantown's most fashionable address. A Daniel Boulud restaurant attracts the stylish denizens of Back Bay, and Boylston Street's top boutiques—Gucci, Hermès, and more—are just steps away. (\$495–\$8,000) mandarinoriental.com

Charleston

Belmond Charleston Place

Southern hospitality reigns at this 435-room grand hotel set amid the historic district's cobblestone streets and antebellum mansions.

Sip bourbon at the

equine-themed Thoroughbred Club and dine on fried catfish or buttery grits and shrimp at the Charleston Grill. (\$300–\$2,400) belmond.com

Chicago

NEW OPENING

◆ The Langham, Chicago

A graceful adaptation of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's glass-skinned skyscraper, this 318-room riverfront hotel brings top-flight service and flawless panache to a modernist icon. The Asian-inspired Chuan Spa offers a lavish reprieve from the Windy City. (\$395–\$6,000) langhamhotels.com

The Peninsula Chicago

The Magnificent Mile property offers a perfect blend of privacy and conviviality, with a European-style café, a dim sum terrace, a cocktail bar known for its legendary martinis, and 339 guest rooms with views of downtown or Lake Michigan. (\$515–\$9,000) peninsula.com

Dallas

The Ritz-Carlton, Dallas

The Lone Star State's top hotel is set in a Regency-style structure by Robert

A. M. Stern and

renowned for its clubby bar and Dean Fearing restaurant. Guests of the 218-room property can walk to the nearby arts district or be chauffeured via Rolls-Royce. (\$400–\$7,500) ritzcarlton.com

Denver

Four Seasons Hotel Denver

Though located within a 45-story skyscraper, this 239-room hotel resembles a cozy mountain chalet on the inside, with fieldstone fireplaces, deep soaking tubs, and unobstructed views of the Rockies. Leisure time can be spent at a rooftop pool and a spa with eucalyptus steam rooms. (\$325–\$11,000) fourseasons.com

Honolulu

Halekulani

With the city on one side and Waikiki Beach on the other, this 453-room Honolulu hot spot combines the best of a hotel and a resort. The century-old property's original plantation style survives in the form of an oceanfront dining house containing the all-day Orchids, the haute cuisine La Mer, and the exquisite L'Aperitif cocktail bar. (\$495–\$8,000) halekulani.com



New York

The St. Regis New York

EVEN OLD KING COLE needs a refreshment every once in a while. After watching patrons partake at his namesake bar at the St. Regis New York for the better part of 70 years, the king and his subjects in the establishment's 30-by-8-foot mural were taken down in 2013 for a cleaning and restoration. The whimsical artwork reclaimed its prominent perch that fall, when the bar reopened as part of a property-wide renovation that has returned the St. Regis to the top of New York's hotel hierarchy. The midtown landmark, which John Jacob Astor IV opened in 1904, preserved its Gilded Age ambience during the renovation, but never at the expense of creating a world-class modern hotel. Its 238 guest rooms now include 67 suites, among them three specialty accommodations designed in conjunction with Dior, Tiffany & Co., and Bentley Motors. Two Bentley house cars—a Flying Spur during the day, a Mulsanne at night—are available to all St. Regis guests for complimentary trips around town, though visitors need not leave the premises to experience one of Manhattan's premier gathering places: Expanded and restored, the King Cole Bar & Salon always attracts a colorful crowd. (\$995–\$35,000) stregis.com —BRUCE WALLIN





The Setai, Miami Beach



Halekulani

**Las Vegas
Mandarin Oriental,
Las Vegas**

A tranquil and casino-free haven above the frenzied Strip, featuring 392 Adam Tihany-designed guest rooms, a 17-treatment-room spa,

and cuisine by the famed French chef Pierre Gagnaire. Cabanas at the guests-only swimming pool offer a further reprieve from the Sin City spectacle. (\$230-\$15,000) mandarinoriental.com

**Los Angeles
Beverly Wilshire,
Beverly Hills (a Four
Seasons Hotel)**

The landmark Los Angeles property has been at the center of the Beverly Hills scene since 1928. The 395 rooms include 137 suites, among them—at 5,000 square feet—Los Angeles's largest penthouse accommodation. Head to the Blvd for cocktails across from Rodeo Drive, or to Wolfgang Puck's original Cut for a stylish steak-house dinner. (\$475-\$25,000) fourseasons.com

**The Peninsula
Beverly Hills**

The Peninsula brand's refined style and flawless service are right at home in the heart of Beverly Hills. Of the 194 lavish guest rooms, the 16 Villa Suites nestled into a garden of palm trees, bougainvillea, and jasmine are the most coveted. (\$775-\$9,500) peninsula.com

**Miami
The Setai,
Miami Beach**

A Zen ambience pervades this 120-room beachside sanctuary in lively South Beach. Standout amenities include three infinity-edge pools, a spa by the Parisian skin-care brand Thémaé, and a sleek lounge serving cocktails

with a Pan-Asian twist. (\$675-\$32,000) thesetaihotel.com

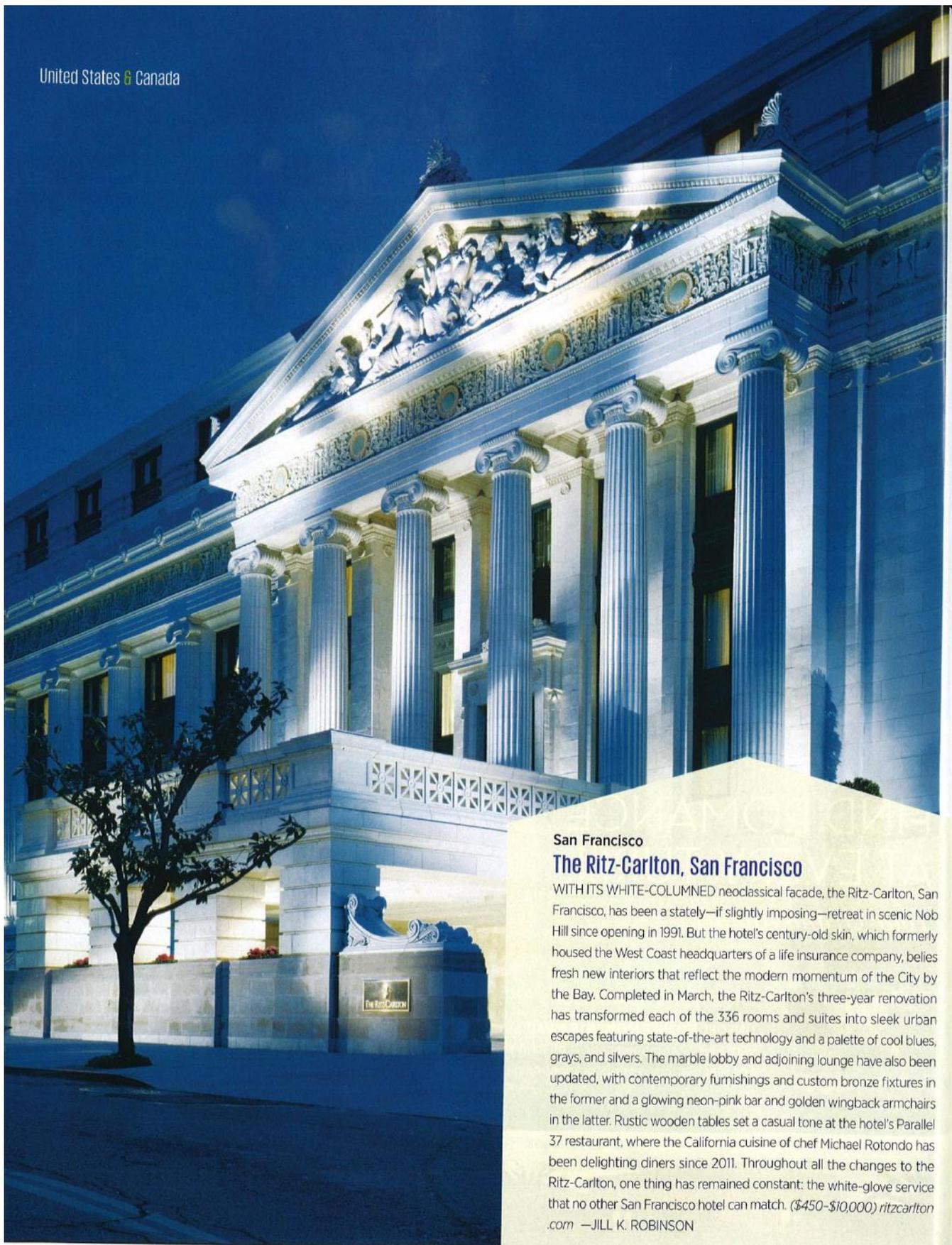
**The St. Regis
Bal Harbour Resort**

Set within a 27-story glass-and-steel tower on the northern tip of Miami Beach, the property houses 227 ocean-view rooms, a 14,000-square-foot Remède Spa, and a Jean-Georges Vongerichten restaurant. The adults-only swimming pool is a welcome escape from the local party scene. (\$650-\$12,000) stregis.com

**Montreal
Ritz-Carlton Montreal**

Originally opened in 1912, the Ritz-Carlton offered room service, round-the-clock valets, and other unprecedented luxuries for a Canadian hotel. An extensive renovation exactly a century later restored the grande dame's luster, adding a Daniel Boulud restaurant and a rooftop pool and updating the 129 guest rooms. (\$525-\$7,000) ritzcarlton.com

**New York
NEW OPENING**
❖ **Baccarat Hotel & Residences New York**
Opened in March just opposite the Museum of Modern Art, Baccarat's first hotel is a sparkling jewel brimming with custom crystal panels



San Francisco

The Ritz-Carlton, San Francisco

WITH ITS WHITE-COLUMNED neoclassical facade, the Ritz-Carlton, San Francisco, has been a stately—if slightly imposing—retreat in scenic Nob Hill since opening in 1991. But the hotel's century-old skin, which formerly housed the West Coast headquarters of a life insurance company, belies fresh new interiors that reflect the modern momentum of the City by the Bay. Completed in March, the Ritz-Carlton's three-year renovation has transformed each of the 336 rooms and suites into sleek urban escapes featuring state-of-the-art technology and a palette of cool blues, grays, and silvers. The marble lobby and adjoining lounge have also been updated, with contemporary furnishings and custom bronze fixtures in the former and a glowing neon-pink bar and golden wingback armchairs in the latter. Rustic wooden tables set a casual tone at the hotel's Parallel 37 restaurant, where the California cuisine of chef Michael Rotondo has been delighting diners since 2011. Throughout all the changes to the Ritz-Carlton, one thing has remained constant: the white-glove service that no other San Francisco hotel can match. (\$450-\$10,000) ritzcarlton.com —JILL K. ROBINSON



and chandeliers. Chevalier features the French cuisine of the Michelin-starred chef Shea Gallante; the Spa de La Mer is the first in the United States. (\$900–\$20,000) baccarathotels.com

Mandarin Oriental, New York

Mandarin Oriental's trademark style blends with many a nod to Gotham—paintings of New York City landmarks, jaw-dropping Central Park views—at this 198-room hotel in Columbus Circle. Located on the 35th floor, the power-lunch favorite Asiate completed renovations last year. (\$595–\$4,500) mandarinoriental.com

The St. Regis New York

(See page 89)

Philadelphia The Rittenhouse

Set in the former mansion of the 19th-century railroad magnate A. J. Cassatt, this 116-room hotel on Rittenhouse Square completed an extensive renovation in 2014. Guest rooms decorated with mahogany furnishings offer a faithful interpretation of Cassatt's era, and the new 10,000-square-foot spa is one of Philly's largest. (\$400–\$5,000) rittenhousehotel.com

San Francisco The Ritz-Carlton, San Francisco

(See opposite)

The St. Regis San Francisco

Located next door to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the 260-room St. Regis is suitably contemporary in style and services, featuring Yabu Pushelberg-designed interiors, a white-on-white Remède Spa, and a collection of dramatic art installations throughout. Walk to Yerba Buena Gardens, AT&T Park, and other top attractions. (\$755–\$15,000) stregis.com

Toronto Four Seasons Hotel Toronto

Four Seasons' hometown welcomed the brand's first official flagship when this 259-room hotel opened in the stylish Yorkville neighborhood in 2012. Highlights include an extensive Canadian art collection, two restaurants helmed by Daniel Boulud, and Toronto's largest spa. (\$430–\$11,995) fourseasons.com

Vancouver Rosewood Hotel Georgia

First opened in 1927, this Georgian Revival landmark completed a restoration by Rosewood

in 2011. The updated hotel, which now has 156 guest rooms, has reclaimed its place as the city's finest, thanks in part to its popular Hawksworth Restaurant and 1920s-style Prohibition bar. (\$225–\$3,400) rosewoodhotels.com

Washington, D.C. The Jefferson

An elegant homage to one of the United States' Founding Fathers, this 95-room hotel is a beaux arts haven adorned with mahogany paneling and grand marble columns. At Quill, craft cocktails and American fare draw the Capitol Hill crowd. (\$320–\$8,000) jeffersondc.com



The Rittenhouse



Europe

Amsterdam, Netherlands **NEW OPENING**

❖ **Waldorf Astoria Amsterdam**

Built within a series of neighboring 17th- and 18th-century townhouses, the Waldorf Astoria opened last year on the edge of the Herengracht canal. Undeniably Dutch in style and substance, the 93-room hotel stands out for its garden planted with more than 5,000 tulips and the two-Michelin-starred Librije's Zusje restaurant. (\$650-\$1,650) waldorf-astoria.com

Athens, Greece Hotel Grande Bretagne, a Luxury Collection Hotel

Opened in 1874, this Syntagma Square grande dame is an old-world delight with tuxedoed butlers, a colonnade-filled lobby, and 320 rooms decorated with priceless antiques. Admire the Acropolis from the hotel's rooftop restaurant. (\$300-\$17,090) grandebretagne.gr

Barcelona, Spain Hotel Arts Barcelona

Rising 44 stories above Port Olímpic, this Ritz-Carlton-managed property is more Mediterranean resort than city hotel, with 483 breezy guest rooms, a

two-Michelin-starred restaurant, and a sublime spa. At the second-floor swimming pool, guests are within fin's reach of Frank Gehry's steel-and-glass *Peix* sculpture. (\$265-\$15,000) hotelarts-barcelona.com

Mandarin Oriental, Barcelona

A former bank headquarters reinvented as a sleek Patricia Urquiola-designed retreat. The 120-room hotel sits in the heart of the Eixample district and features a two-Michelin-starred restaurant and a serene spa. Glimpse Antoni Gaudí's famous modernist masterpieces from the rooftop pool overlooking the Passeig de Gràcia. (\$540-\$9,375) mandarinoriental.com

Berlin, Germany Waldorf Astoria Berlin

Set within a 32-story high-rise, the 232-room Waldorf Astoria towers over Berlin's burgeoning City West. Upper-floor suites offer sweeping views of the Kaiser Wilhelm Church through floor-to-ceiling windows. French touches include Pierre Gagnaire's fine-dining venue and Germany's only Guerlain spa. (\$230-\$2,230) waldorf-astoria.com

Brussels, Belgium Hotel Amigo

Housed in a former jail, this 173-room landmark near Grand Place is today the Belgian capital's most prestigious address. Rich interiors feature Flemish tapestries, Carrara marble, and works by René Magritte. The chic Bar Amigo offers an extensive menu of whiskeys and cognacs. (\$750-\$7,375) roccoforte-hotels.com

Budapest, Hungary Four Seasons Hotel Gresham Palace Budapest

The Four Seasons is an art nouveau treasure on the banks of the Danube River, overlooking the Chain Bridge and its guardian lions. Golden mosaics and a magnificent glass dome define the lobby, while the 179 rooms embrace a classic-contemporary style. (\$450-\$5,400) fourseasons.com

Copenhagen, Denmark Hotel d'Angleterre

Copenhagen's historic White Lady reborn, this 90-room, 260-year-old grande dame emerged in 2013 from a top-to-bottom makeover. Reserve a table at Marchal for a taste of chef Ronny Emborg's New Nordic

cuisine. (\$460-\$9,090) dangleterre.com

Dublin, Ireland The Merrion Hotel

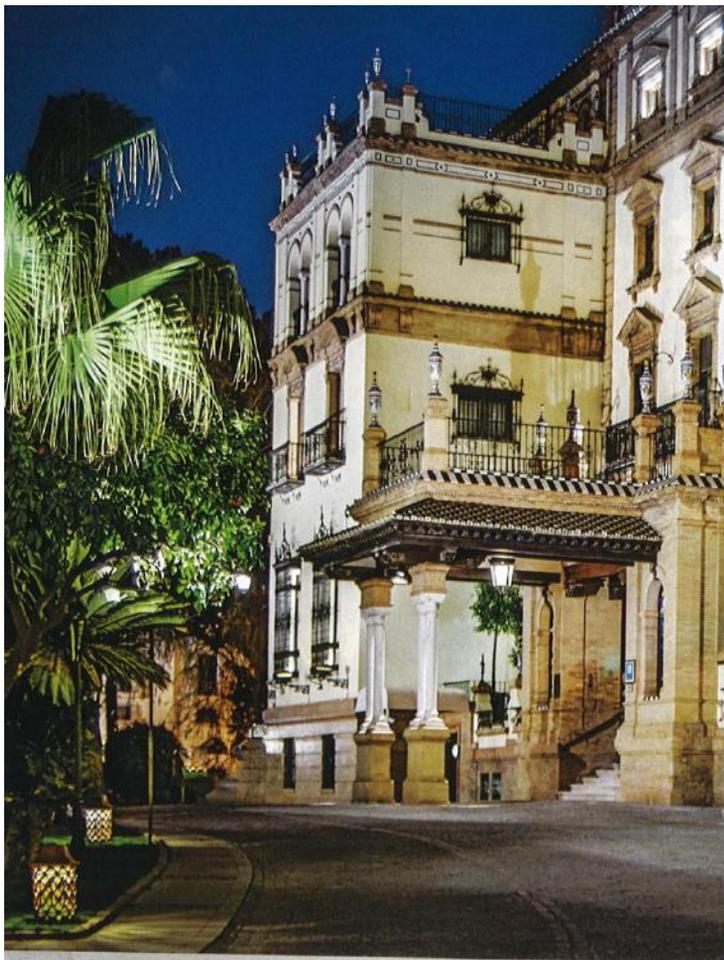
This Dublin landmark is set within a cluster of 18th-century townhouses and channels its aristocratic origins with polished marble halls, damask upholstery, and elaborate Rococo plasterwork. Of the 142 rooms, the recently renovated Penthouse Suite is notable for its private rooftop terrace. (\$535-\$3,670) merrion-hotel.com

Edinburgh, Scotland Prestonfield House

Colorful peacocks roam the grounds of this 17th-century mansion, which opened as a 23-room hotel in 1959. Tucked behind the hills of Holyrood Park, the estate includes a croquet lawn, a teahouse surrounded by rose bushes, and a candlelit restaurant. (\$450-\$650) prestonfield.com

Florence, Italy Four Seasons Hotel Firenze

A Medici-worthy hotel set within a Renaissance palazzo and an adjacent 16th-century convent, the Four Seasons features 116 rooms decorated with



Seville, Spain

Hotel Alfonso XIII, a Luxury Collection Hotel

IN 1916, King Alfonso XIII of Spain commissioned an opulent palace hotel that would serve as a royal hideaway in the center of historic Seville. More than a decade of construction followed before the property—adorned with painted tiles, marble floors, and Moorish-style coffered ceilings—made its debut in 1929 with an elaborate celebration attended by the king and his wife, Queen Victoria Eugenie of Battenberg. Today, stepping into the Hotel Alfonso XIII is as enchanting as ever, thanks to a \$25 million renovation by Starwood's Luxury Collection that was completed in 2012. Guests enter through a meticulously restored marble lobby lined with ornate wrought-iron windows and colorful tile mosaics. Contemporary artworks and muted colors lend a modern touch to the 151 guest rooms, many of which are outfitted with original crystal chandeliers and leather headboards bearing the hotel's noble seal. After a day of exploring Seville's palaces and museums, guests can unwind with tapas and sangria in the royal-blue American Bar. (\$350-\$4,500) luxurycollection.com —IRENE RAWLINGS





museum-quality frescoes, friezes, and pastel brocades. Resort-style amenities include a spa, a Michelin-starred Tuscan restaurant, and a secret garden lush with wildflowers. (\$770–\$15,500) fourseasons.com

Frankfurt, Germany
Villa Kennedy

Medieval meets modern at this 163-room hotel hidden inside a turreted gothic revival mansion in the Sachsenhausen district. The service-driven property includes an Italian restaurant, a state-of-the-art spa, and a leafy courtyard where guests can sip craft cocktails. (\$310–\$13,770) roccofortehotels.com

Geneva, Switzerland
Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues

Offering old-world refinement with contemporary flair, this neoclassical landmark has been the grande dame of Lake Geneva for nearly two centuries. The 115 guest rooms pay tribute to the hotel's history without being stuffy or staid, while the new Spa Mont Blanc is a modern marvel. (\$1,020–\$14,500) fourseasons.com

Helsinki, Finland
Hotel Kämp, a Luxury Collection Hotel

This historic beacon in Finland's contemporary

capital houses 179 classically appointed rooms, but the 19th-century property has been updated with many a modern amenity, including a state-of-the-art spa and an Asian-fusion restaurant. The Mannerheim Suite is Helsinki's most opulent accommodation. (\$200–\$3,600) hotelkamp.com

Istanbul, Turkey
Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at the Bosphorus

This former 19th-century Ottoman palace on Istanbul's famed strait appeals to modern pashas with a labyrinthine spa, a waterfront terrace, and 25 over-the-top suites. Throughout, the 170-room hotel offers sweeping views of the Asian coastline and the domes and minarets of Old Town. (\$590–\$27,430) fourseasons.com

Shangri-La Bosphorus, Istanbul

Balinese massages and Peking duck are among the many Eastern delights available at Shangri-La's 186-room property, which opened

in 2013 on the European side of the Bosphorus Strait. Stellar service meets authentic Ottoman opulence. (\$315–\$31,830) shangri-la.com

Lisbon, Portugal
Four Seasons Hotel Ritz Lisbon

A hilltop hideaway filled with handwoven tapestries, 18th-century furniture, and contemporary Portuguese art. Highlights of the 282-room hotel include a rooftop running track with panoramic views of Eduardo VII Park, and the Ritz Bar with its extensive port menu. (\$395–\$9,095) fourseasons.com

London, England
The Connaught

Redolent of an English country house, this 121-room Edwardian hotel in the heart of Mayfair is the consummate British retreat. A top-notch staff ensures every experience—from drinks in the swanky Coburg Bar to treatments at the Aman Spa—is without flaw. (\$660–\$17,000) the-connaught.co.uk

Corinthia Hotel London

Unabashedly ornate, the 294-room Corinthia boasts a lobby adorned with a 1,001-crystal Baccarat chandelier and houses the world's biggest Espa Life spa. Larger-than-life views of the Thames River are especially breathtaking from the 5,000-square-foot Royal Suite. (\$625–\$32,450) corinthia.com

NEW OPENING

◆ **Rosewood London**

Set within a 1914 Edwardian landmark near Covent Garden, Rosewood's 306-room hotel blends neoclassical grandeur with the eccentric styles of interior designer Tony Chi. The Grand Manor House Wing features six bedrooms, a private hotel entrance, and its own postal code. (\$585–\$1,840) rosewoodhotels.com

Madrid, Spain
Villa Magna

A modern granite facade fronts this 150-room hotel in Madrid's fashionable Salamanca neighborhood. Interiors deliver a sophisticated

INTERNATIONAL EDITOR'S CHOICE

Şebnem Denктаş, *Robb Report Turkey*

ÇIRAĞAN PALACE KEMPINSKI, ISTANBUL

"The best hotel in Istanbul has always been the Çırağan Palace. Set in a former Ottoman palace and located on the shores of the Bosphorus Strait, the hotel brings an imperial touch to every experience. The large infinity-edge pool overlooking the water is truly magical." (\$360–\$33,570) kempinski.com



Vienna, Austria
Hotel Sacher Wien

SACHER TORTE—AN AIRY chocolate cake layered with apricot jam and served with a spoonful of whipped cream on the side—has been on the menu at Hotel Sacher Wien since the Sacher family opened the hotel on Philharmonikerstrasse in 1876. Nearly a century and a half later, the decadent confection and its historic home remain two of Vienna's greatest indulgences. The 149-room hotel is a beguiling spectacle of fin-de-siècle artistry, with its brocade wall coverings, silk curtains, glittering Lobjmeyr chandeliers, and original oil paintings. Plush and vibrant in emerald green, the Restaurant Anna Sacher is delightfully antiquated with white-glove service and dark-wood-paneled walls. A glass conservatory at the scarlet-hued Restaurant Rote Bar overlooks the Vienna State Opera across the street. In the Sacher Spa, guests are treated to therapies that incorporate appropriately delectable ingredients: caviar, coconut, and, of course, chocolate. (\$580–\$2,925) sacher.com —BECCA HENSLEY





Palazzo Parigi

blend of styles, with Chinese screens, Empire chairs, and contemporary artworks that accent the structure's Bauhaus-inspired bones. Champagne flows at the trendy Magnum Bar. (\$890–\$20,840) villamagna.es

Milan, Italy Four Seasons Hotel Milano

This former 15th-century convent near the luxury boutiques on Via Montenapoleone preserves its historic provenance with frescoes, vaulted ceilings, and 118 rooms dressed in Fortuny fabrics. The legendary Chocolate Room is a must for its decadent desserts. (\$665–\$12,000) fourseasons.com

NEW OPENING

❖ Palazzo Parigi Hotel & Grand Spa

Located in Milan's upscale Brera district, this palazzo residence has been transformed into a glamorous boutique hotel. In the 98 light-filled rooms, ornate Parisian elegance blends with Milanese minimalism. A grand spa is set to open this May. (\$460–\$16,500) palazzoparigi.com

Monte Carlo, Monaco Hôtel Hermitage Monte-Carlo

Contemporary Pierre-Yves Rochon interiors meet belle époque architecture at this 278-room hotel overlooking Port Hercule. A VIP entrance just off the lobby leads to the legendary Thermes Marins Monte-Carlo spa. The Michelin-starred Le Vistamar restaurant is Monte Carlo glitz at its finest. (\$645–\$5,470) hotellermitagemontecarlo.com

Munich, Germany Bayerischer Hof

Founded in 1841 by the order of Ludwig I of Bavaria, the Bayerischer retains its royal standards with a rooftop spa terrace, a Michelin-starred restaurant, and the historic Falk's Bar. Diverse decor in the 340 rooms promises something to suit every taste. (\$330–\$16,380) bayerischerhof.de

Paris, France

Le Bristol Paris

The epitome of understated charm, this 188-room Haussmannian gem on rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré celebrates its 90th anniversary this year. Honor the milestone with dinner at one of the hotel's two Michelin-starred restaurants, followed by a digestif in the Pierre-Yves Rochon–designed Le Bar du Bristol. (\$900–\$25,500) lebristolparis.com

Shangri-La Hotel, Paris

In 2010, Prince Roland Bonaparte's 19th-century pleasure palace was reborn as this 101-room hotel featuring fin de siècle gilding, moldings, and paintings. Just steps from the Seine, the property brings flawless Shangri-La service and two Michelin-starred restaurants to old-world European opulence. (\$760–\$21,300) shangri-la.com

Porto, Portugal The Yeatman

The port-making town of Porto welcomed a true five-star hotel with the opening of this 82-room retreat on the banks of the Douro River in 2010. Oenophiles will rejoice at the decanter-shaped swimming pool, the Vinothérapie Spa by Caudalie, and the

1,200-bottle wine cellar. (\$420–\$1,945) theyeatman-hotel.com

Prague, Czech Republic Mandarin Oriental, Prague

Hidden within a 14th-century monastery near Prague Castle, this 99-room hotel strikes a perfect balance between old and new, with vaulted ceilings and parquet floors augmented by colorful and contemporary furnishings. The glass floor in the spa reveals the ruins of a Renaissance chapel below. (\$295–\$2,770) mandarinoriental.com

Rome, Italy Hotel de Russie

A 19th-century landmark overlooking the buzzing Piazza del Popolo, this Rocco Forte hotel features 122 guest rooms cast in pastel tones and Carrara marble. The scent of orange blossoms permeates the restaurant's terraced gardens; the Spanish Steps are eight minutes away by foot. (\$830–\$4,375) roccofoorthotels.com

St. Petersburg, Russia NEW OPENING

❖ Four Seasons Hotel Lion Palace St. Petersburg

A pair of marble lions guards the entrance of this 19th-century palace turned luxury hotel. Opened in mid-2013, the



Aman Canal Grande Venice

property maintains its neoclassical charm with meticulously restored granite stairs in the lobby and gold and bronze details in the 183 guest rooms. (\$350–\$10,000) fourseasons.com

Salzburg, Austria Hotel Sacher Salzburg

This 113-room, family-owned hotel on the Salzach River is the grande dame of Austria's Baroque city. A magnificent collection of oil paintings and Austrian antiques adds to the grandeur. Café Sacher serves the world-famous Sacher torte. (\$285–\$2,590) sacher.com

Seville, Spain Hotel Alfonso XIII, a Luxury Collection Hotel

(See page 95)

Stockholm, Sweden Grand Hôtel

Perched above the harbor just opposite the Royal Palace, this 312-room hotel has been a gathering place for dignitaries and celebrities since opening in 1874. Chef Mathias Dahlgren's two-Michelin-starred Matsalen is an institution in its own right. (\$375–\$10,925) grandhotel.se

Venice, Italy NEW OPENING ❖ Aman Canal Grande Venice

Amanresorts' 16th-century-palazzo hotel on the Grand Canal is

brimming with original details, including carved woodwork, terrazzo floors, gilt cornices, and a centuries-old fresco by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo. The 24-room property's two private gardens provide rare retreats in tourist-filled Venice. (\$915–\$4,400) amanresorts.com

The Gritti Palace, a Luxury Collection Hotel

Murano glass chandeliers, custom Rubelli silks, and priceless art and antiques adorn this 500-year-old palazzo, which reopened as an 82-room Luxury Collection hotel in 2013. The Club del Doge restaurant serves classic Venetian cuisine with close-up views of the Grand Canal. (\$540–\$11,880) thegritti-palace.com

Vienna, Austria Hotel Sacher Wien (See page 97)

NEW OPENING
❖ Park Hyatt Vienna
Set within a former bank in the pedestrian-only Goldenes Quartier, this modernized beaux arts belle features 143

spacious rooms, a regional-cuisine restaurant, and a wood-paneled cigar lounge. In the spa, an old bank vault is now home to a shimmering gold-tiled swimming pool. (\$540–\$5,920) park.hyatt.com

Zurich, Switzerland Baur au Lac

Founded in 1844, this family-run grande dame on the edge of Lake Zurich stays fresh with constant renovations, the most recent of which included a sparkling new lobby lounge by Pierre-Yves Rochon. In 2013, the 120-room hotel's Pavilion restaurant earned a Michelin star. (\$450–\$3,925) bauraulac.ch

The Dolder Grand

A 176-room hilltop haven comprising a 116-year-old main building and two Norman Foster–designed contemporary wings. Just minutes from the city center, the hotel is a true urban retreat with verdant grounds and a 43,000-square-foot spa. (\$755–\$15,810) thedoldergrand.com

INTERNATIONAL EDITOR'S CHOICE

Igor Garanin, *Robb Report Russia* FOUR SEASONS HOTEL LION PALACE ST. PETERSBURG

"Alexander Pushkin immortalized this 19th-century palace in his poem, *The Bronze Horseman*. Located opposite the Hermitage Museum, every one of the 183 guest rooms has a spectacular view." (\$430–\$10,000) fourseasons.com



Asia & the Pacific

Agra, India

The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra

Each of this palatial property's 102 rooms and suites features unobstructed views of the Taj Mahal. Interiors sparkle with glass chandeliers and white marble; terraced gardens, stone fountains, and a spa inspired by ayurvedic principles provide a serene escape from the tourist bedlam. (\$890-\$11,960) oberoihotels.com

Bangkok, Thailand

Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok

The Thai capital's

colonial grande dame dates to 1876. The 374-room hotel, set on the banks of the Chao Phraya River, is a monument to opulence, featuring seven restaurants, a Thai cooking school, an ayurvedic spa, and 35 suites swathed in colorful silks. (\$370-\$7,330) mandarinoriental.com

The Siam

A tranquil, residential-style hotel along the Chao Phraya River with 39 Bill Bensley-designed suites and villas. Highlights include a cinema, a Muay Thai

boxing academy, a century-old teakwood house turned restaurant, and an extensive collection of rare Thai and European antiques. (\$550-\$1,250) thesiamhotel.com

Beijing, China

Waldorf Astoria Beijing

(See opposite)

Hanoi, Vietnam

Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi

This French Colonial-style monument near the opera house comprises the historic Metropole Wing (dating to 1901) and the neoclassical Opera Wing (completed in 2008). A tour of the 364-room hotel's preserved bomb shelter—constructed during the Vietnam War—is a must. (\$280-\$4,390) sofitel.com

Hong Kong, China

The Landmark Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong

A striking counterpoint to Hong Kong's many historic hotels, this 113-room property blends high-tech amenities with modern design. The French restaurant Amber earned a pair of Michelin stars in 2012; cocktails are unrivaled at the MO Bar. (\$770-\$8,740) mandarinoriental.com

The Peninsula Hong Kong

Colonial decadence and white-glove service are long-standing traditions at Hong Kong's first luxury hotel, which opened in 1928. All 297 rooms of the Kowloon property offer sweeping views of Victoria Harbour. Arrive via helicopter or the Peninsula's restored 1934 Rolls-Royce Phantom II. (\$755-\$16,410) peninsula.com

The Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong

Located on the top 16 floors of Hong Kong's tallest tower, the 312-room Ritz-Carlton is a showstopper with bird's-eye views that extend all the way to the South China Sea. The top-floor infinity-edge pool and Ozone bar sit 16,000 feet above the city. (\$980-\$17,930) ritzcarlton.com

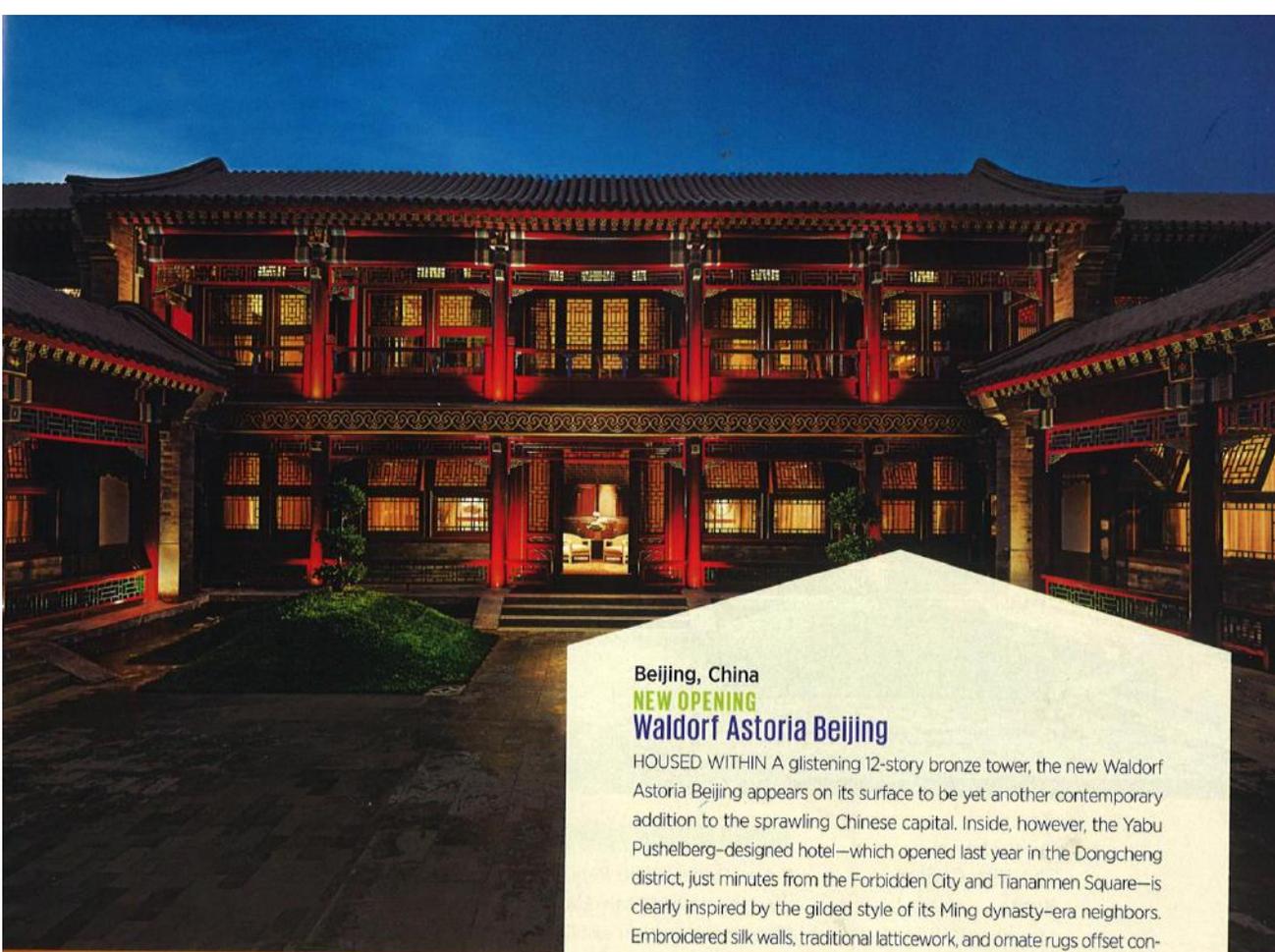


Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi

INTERNATIONAL EDITOR'S CHOICE

Michael von Schlippe, *Robb Report Vietnam* PARK HYATT SAIGON, Ho Chi Minh City

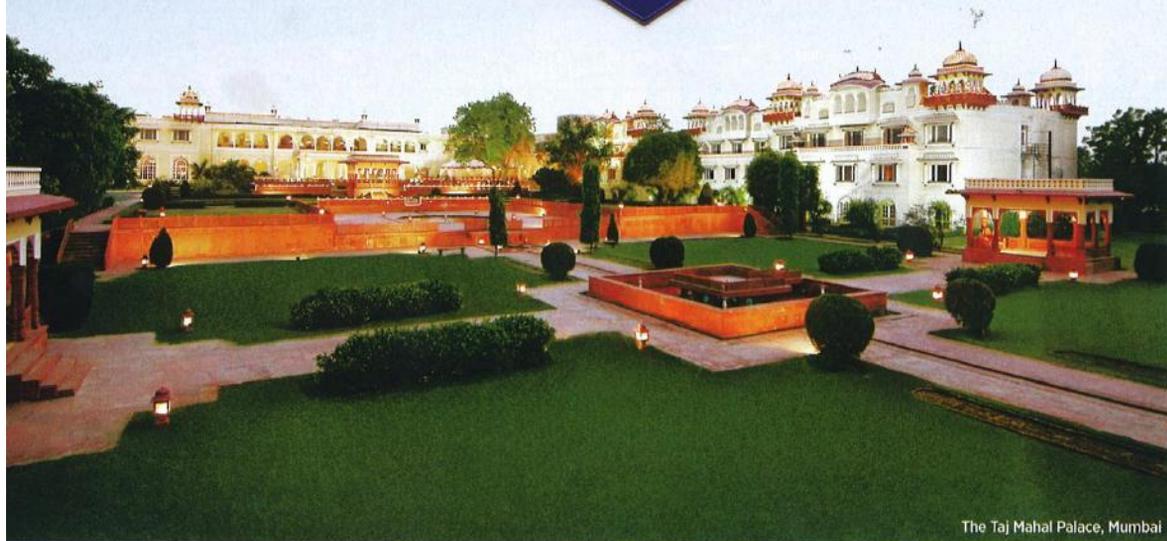
"The top service in Vietnam—and perhaps all of Southeast Asia—can be found at this heritage hotel opposite the Saigon Opera House. The breakfast buffet is exceptional; the bar is the best in town." (\$280-\$2,900) park.hyatt.com



Beijing, China
NEW OPENING
Waldorf Astoria Beijing

HOUSED WITHIN A glistening 12-story bronze tower, the new Waldorf Astoria Beijing appears on its surface to be yet another contemporary addition to the sprawling Chinese capital. Inside, however, the Yabu Pushelberg-designed hotel—which opened last year in the Dongcheng district, just minutes from the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square—is clearly inspired by the gilded style of its Ming dynasty-era neighbors. Embroidered silk walls, traditional latticework, and ornate rugs offset contemporary artworks and slick black lacquer in the public spaces, while amenities include a spa specializing in Chinese-medicine-influenced therapies and a restaurant serving Beijing-style Cantonese cuisine. Most of the 176 guest rooms are modern in style, with metallic accents, Ferragamo bath products, and floor-to-ceiling windows. Guests in search of a more traditional—and imperial—experience will be most comfortable in the two-bedroom Hutong Villa (top), a palace of red, blue, and gold designed in what the hotel describes as the Ming Dynasty Royal Hutong (or Alleyway) style. The villa's amenities include a private swimming pool and a courtyard garden. (\$320–\$18,870) waldorfastoria.com —CYNTHIA ROSENFELD





The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai

Kyoto, Japan
The Ritz-Carlton,
Kyoto

(See page 108)

Mumbai, India
The Taj Mahal Palace,
Mumbai

Once the domain of maharajas, this 560-room landmark overlooking the Gateway of India is filled with ceiling frescoes, handwoven silk carpets, and onyx columns. Stay in the historic Palace wing, where period furnishings and Rajput bay windows recall the property's royal roots. (From \$260) tajhotels.com

New Delhi, India
The Leela Palace
New Delhi

A modern interpretation of old-world opulence, this 254-room hotel sits in the heart of the historic Diplomatic Enclave. Outposts of the acclaimed

INTERNATIONAL EDITOR'S CHOICE

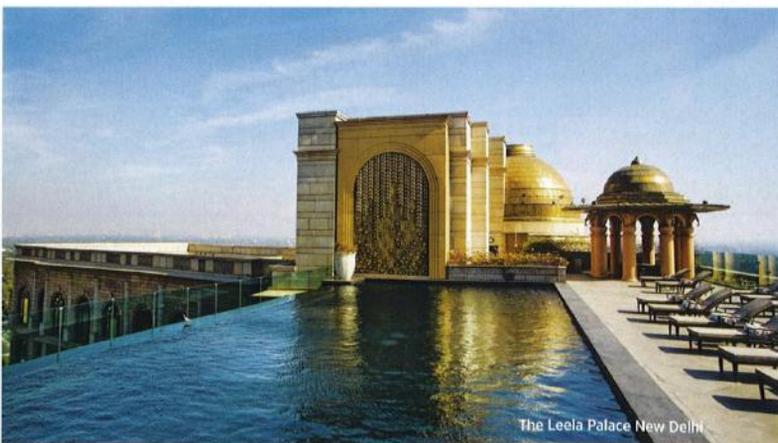
Sujata Dugar, *Robb Report India*
TAJ FALAKNUMA PALACE, Hyderabad

"The former residence of the nizam of Hyderabad, this 60-room palace hotel is filled with rare furniture, Venetian chandeliers, and grand marble staircases. The Palace Library—a replica of the library at Windsor Castle—features rare manuscripts and a collection of the Holy Quran." (\$450–\$3,175) tajhotels.com

INTERNATIONAL EDITOR'S CHOICE

Michael von Schlippe, *Robb Report Malaysia*
MANDARIN ORIENTAL, KUALA LUMPUR

"Kuala Lumpur's most luxurious hotel sits between the Kuala Lumpur City Centre Park and the Petronas Towers, and features an indoor golf center and a contemporary-art collection. Do not miss the wide selection of cigars by La Casa del Habano at Cigar Divan." (\$465–\$9,480) mandarinoriental.com



The Leela Palace New Delhi



restaurants Le Cirque and Megu are on-site, as is a two-story Espa facility specializing in ayurvedic treatments. (\$380–\$8,770) theleela.com

Osaka, Japan The St. Regis Osaka

Japan's second city is home to its first St. Regis hotel, located in the fashionable Midotsuji shopping district. Take refuge in the 160 rooms dressed with Kawashima silk, at the 12th-floor St. Regis Terrace, or in the Zen garden overlooking the city. (\$210–\$6,715) stregis.com

Seoul, South Korea Park Hyatt Seoul

Indigenous stone and glossy Burmese oak contribute to a meditative ambience at this 185-room hotel set within a glittering glass skyscraper in Gangnam.

Drink in the panoramic views at the top-floor lounge, or descend to the clubby basement bar for sake and *soju* cocktails. (\$460–\$5,130) parkhyatt.com

Shanghai, China Four Seasons Hotel Pudong, Shanghai

This 187-room hotel in the bustling business district surprises with a surplus of leisurely pursuits, including a 41st-floor infinity-edge pool and a French restaurant with a secluded dining terrace. The English-speaking staff is exceptional, as is the traditional Cantonese cuisine at Shàng-Xí. (\$270–\$14,190) fourseasons.com

The Peninsula Shanghai

Pierre-Yves Rochon's sleek style saturates this

Bund hotel decorated with black marble and sparkling chandeliers. Guests of the 235 rooms enjoy sweeping views across the Huangpu River to the futuristic skyline of Pudong. (\$595–\$19,990) peninsula.com

Singapore The St. Regis Singapore

A palm-shaded swimming pool and a Remède Spa are among the resort-style amenities at this 299-room high-rise on the corner of prestigious Orchard Road. Butler-served guest rooms feature leather-topped desks and bespoke linens; a world-class art collection includes original works by Joan Miró and Fernando Botero. (\$670–\$11,160) stregis.com

Sydney, Australia The Langham, Sydney

Ideally situated on Sydney Harbor, this elegant 98-room hotel reopened in December following a \$30 million makeover. Relaxed yet refined in style, the rooms and suites are now the city's largest. Delectable pastries and afternoon tea at Palm Court are not to be missed. (\$635–\$3,500) langhamhotels.com

Tokyo, Japan NEW OPENING

❖ Aman Tokyo

Japanese minimalism permeates this urban retreat, which opened in December on the top six floors of the Otemachi Tower. Each of the 84 rooms and suites includes a traditional Japanese *ofuro*; the Zen experience continues at the Aman Spa and glass-enclosed swimming pool. (\$630–\$1,680) amanresorts.com

Mandarin Oriental, Tokyo

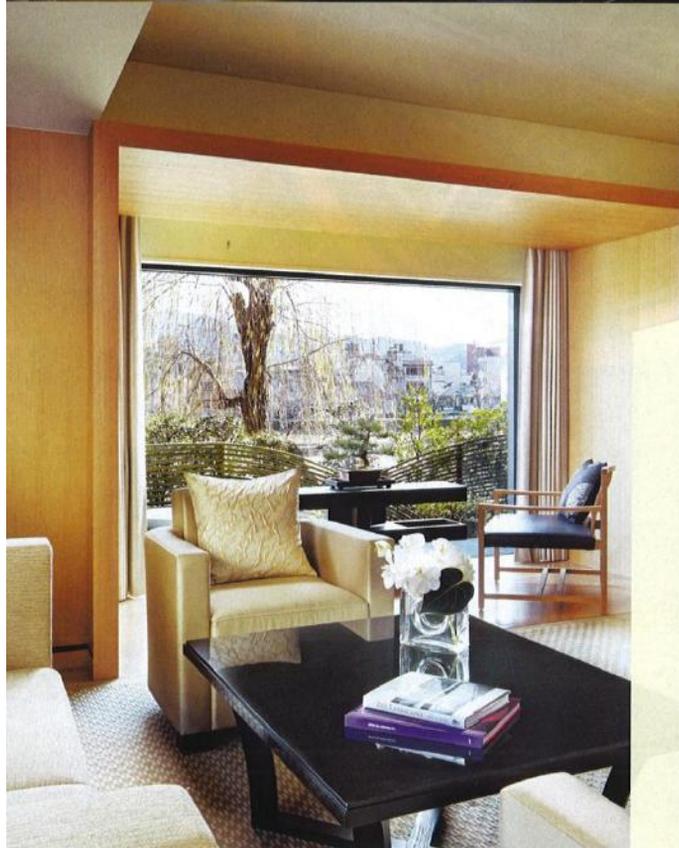
An architectural marvel high above the tony Nihonbashi district, the Mandarin Oriental features 178 rooms and suites that incorporate traditional Japanese elements of wood and water. Panoramic views spanning all the way to Mt. Fuji are most impressive from the hotel's three Michelin-starred restaurants. (\$355–\$12,400) mandarinoriental.com

Varanasi, India Nadesar Palace

Set near the Ganges River, this 19th-century former maharaja's palace is home to just 10 suites adorned with colorful fabrics and four-poster beds. Participate in morning yoga in the jasmine-scented gardens and traditional *aarti* ceremonies at sundown. (\$650–\$1,050) tajhotels.com



The Peninsula Shanghai



Kyoto, Japan
NEW OPENING
The Ritz-Carlton, Kyoto

SET ALONG THE cherry-tree-lined banks of the Kamo River, the Ritz-Carlton, Kyoto, channels the subdued ambience of the former imperial capital's *ryokan*, or inns. A commitment to tradition is apparent at every turn, from the lattice-framed lobby lounge decorated with *washi*-paper artwork to the garden-filled courtyard with its three-story stone waterfall. Japanese minimalism reigns in the 134 guest rooms, each of which is adorned with the customary light-wood-paneled walls, calligraphy hangings, and bonsai trees. Following a bicycle tour of Kyoto's many temples and shrines, guests can retire to the tranquil spa, where *Espa* therapies incorporate matcha green tea from nearby Uji. For more local flavor, sample traditional *kaiseki* cuisine in the Mizuki restaurant's four private dining rooms lined with shoji sliding doors and kimono-inspired wall motifs. (\$700-\$9,000) ritzcarlton.com —ELAINE GLUSAC



Caribbean & Latin America

Buenos Aires, Argentina Palacio Duhau—Park Hyatt Buenos Aires

Two structures—a sleek glass tower and a belle époque mansion linked by a Carlos Thays-designed garden—house 165 guest rooms, a 7,000-bottle wine cellar, and a contemporary-art gallery. Accommodations in the 23-room Palacio, with their marble floors and glass chandeliers, are the most refined. (\$520–\$6,500) park.hyatt.com



Belmont Copacabana Palace

Lima, Peru Hotel B

This historic mansion in the emerging Barranco arts district opened as a stylish 17-room hotel in 2013. The restaurant serves the exquisitely experimental cuisine of chef Oscar Velarde; a rooftop terrace is the perfect place to sip pisco sours. (\$450–\$700) hotelb.pe

Mexico City The St. Regis Mexico City

This 189-room hotel, located within César Pelli's gleaming tower on Paseo de la Reforma, brings signature St. Regis style to the capital with 24/7 butler service, a Remède Spa, and Jean-Georges Vongerichten's J&G Grill. The King Cole Bar tips its hat to the Manhattan original. (\$605–\$5,500) stregis.com

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Belmont Copacabana Palace

The place to stay in Rio since 1923, this 241-room grande dame on Copacabana Beach has hosted everyone from Fred Astaire to the Rolling Stones. Dine on Brazilian-Italian fusion cuisine at Cipriani or request the hotel's sunrise picnic atop Corcovado. (\$555–\$3,925) belmond.com

Hotel Fasano Rio de Janeiro

Havaianas and high heels are equally welcome at this effortlessly chic hotel on Ipanema Beach, where the 89 rooms are the work of Philippe Starck. Public spaces include Baretto-Londra, one of Rio's most coveted reservations. Enjoy predinner caipirinhas at the guest-only rooftop bar. (\$820–\$4,100) fasano.com.br

San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

Rosewood San Miguel de Allende

(See opposite)

Santiago, Chile The Ritz-Carlton, Santiago

El Golf's top spot for business and leisure, this 205-room English-mansion-style hotel is a warm retreat brimming with Chilean charm. A rooftop swimming pool overlooks the Andes Mountains. Tapas and regional wines are served at Estro. (\$550–\$5,000) ritzcarlton.com

São Paulo, Brazil Hotel Fasano São Paulo

A sleek and sexy hideaway in the fashionable Jardins enclave featuring 60 rooms and suites with designer furnishings and floor-to-ceiling views of the verdant surrounds. Just off the lobby, the Baretto jazz bar showcases big-time bossa nova acts. (\$820–\$3,080) fasano.com.br

INTERNATIONAL EDITOR'S CHOICE

Begoña Cosío, *Robb Report Mexico*

LAS ALCOBAS, Mexico City

"Located in the upscale Polanco shopping district, this luxury boutique hotel offers Mexico City's best service. The rooms are spacious and contemporary—perfect for a long stay in the city." (\$295–\$425) lasalcobas.com



San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

Rosewood San Miguel de Allende

THOUGH NEWLY CONSTRUCTED in 2011, the Rosewood San Miguel de Allende blends right in with the historic Spanish structures of Mexico's most iconic colonial town. The rose-hued limestone property, which is set on a picturesque hill above cobblestone streets and pastel-colored villas, is an authentic interpretation of the city's handcrafted haciendas, with its *cantera*-stone colonnades, arched porticos, and courtyards crowned with bubbling fountains. Inside, wrought iron, tooled leather, and dark wood adorn the 67 guest rooms and suites, each of which features a balcony or patio with views of the bright-pink spires of the town church or the distant foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains. On cool evenings, guests wrapped in pashminas sip blue-agave tequila at the Luna rooftop bar; during the summer, fruit-infused margaritas are served in custom-blown glasses. More local indulgences can be found at the spa, where therapies include a mole-spice-and-cocoa scrub, and at the 1826 restaurant, which helped launch San Miguel's newfound farm-to-table movement. (\$385-\$1,885) rosewoodhotels.com —IRENE RAWLINGS





Africa & the Middle East

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Emirates Palace
 Set on nearly a mile of Arabian Gulf beachfront, this 394-room palace by Kempinski Hotels abounds with extravagances, including a private marina and a fleet of Rolls-Royces. In the lobby, the over-the-top Caviar Bar is Emirati excess at its finest. (\$545–\$14,975) kempinski.com

Cape Town, South Africa
Ellerman House
 Priceless art and antiques

decorate this immaculate Cape Edwardian mansion perched high above Bantry Bay just minutes from Table Mountain. Terraced gardens wind throughout the estate, which features 11 rooms, two villas, two suites, and a striking wine gallery. (\$495–\$6,930) ellerman.co.za

Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Armani Hotel Dubai
 Occupying the base of the Burj Khalifa tower, Giorgio Armani's 160-room hotel is a dark

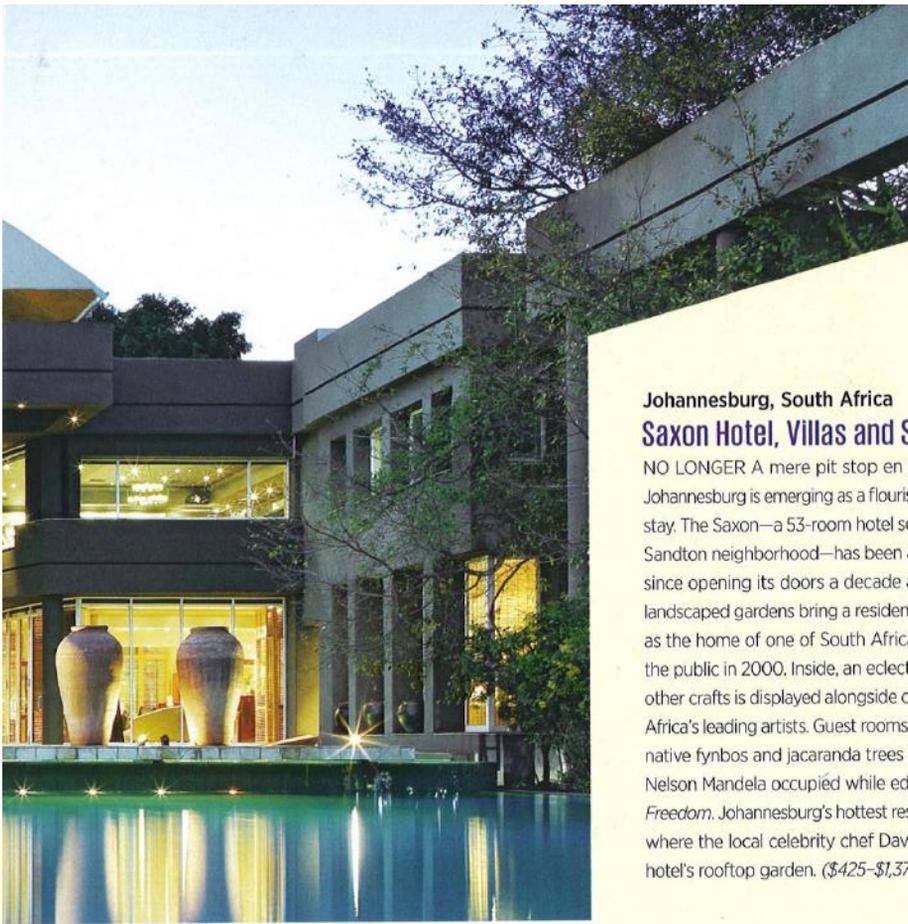
and moody haven filled with bespoke furnishings and Armani-branded accoutrements. The designer's obsessive attention to detail is especially apparent in the 12,000-square-foot spa, where all treatments are tailor-made. (\$1,225–\$12,250) armanihotels.com

Johannesburg, South Africa
NEW OPENING
 ♦ **Four Seasons Hotel the Westcliff, Johannesburg**
 Four Seasons' 18-month

renovation of the beloved hilltop Westcliff Hotel brings local provenance and top-notch service to South Africa's largest city. Four restaurants specialize in seasonal fare, and a new rooftop garden is one of the area's top spots for sundowners. (\$400–\$1,100) fourseasons.com

Saxon Hotel, Villas and Spa
(See opposite top)

Marrakech, Morocco
La Mamounia
 Redesigned by Jacques



Johannesburg, South Africa
Saxon Hotel, Villas and Spa

NO LONGER A mere pit stop en route to South Africa's safari parks, Johannesburg is emerging as a flourishing metropolis worthy of an extended stay. The Saxon—a 53-room hotel set on 10 lush acres in the city's affluent Sandton neighborhood—has been at the forefront of that transformation since opening its doors a decade and a half ago. Latticed shutters and landscaped gardens bring a residential style to the property, which served as the home of one of South Africa's wealthiest men before opening to the public in 2000. Inside, an eclectic collection of baskets, ceramics, and other crafts is displayed alongside contemporary works by some of South Africa's leading artists. Guest rooms range from garden villas that overlook native fynbos and jacaranda trees to the Mandela Platinum Suite, which Nelson Mandela occupied while editing his autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*. Johannesburg's hottest reservation can be found at Five Hundred, where the local celebrity chef David Higgs highlights produce from the hotel's rooftop garden. (\$425–\$1,375) saxon.co.za —JANE BROUGHTON

Garcia in 2009, this famed retreat within the walled city features restaurants helmed by Michelin-starred chefs, an otherworldly spa, and magnificent private gardens. Of the 209 accommodations, the three private *riads* are the most impressive examples of ornate Moroccan

craftsmanship. (\$680–\$9,430) mamounia.com

Royal Mansour

Not a single corner was cut in the creation of this extravagant hotel commissioned by King Mohammed VI of Morocco. Most of the 53 *riad*-style accommodations feature silk wall

coverings and *zellige* mosaics; three restaurants serve cuisine by the three-Michelin-starred chef Yannick Alléno. (\$1,175–\$11,400) royalmansour.com

Nairobi, Kenya
Hemingways Nairobi

Set among the fabled hills from Karen Blixen's

Out of Africa, this 45-room colonial-style retreat established a new standard for the Kenyan capital when it opened in 2013. A tranquil pool and elegant brasserie are among many diversions for pre- and post-safari stays. (\$555–\$2,500) hemingways-nairobi.com 

INTERNATIONAL EDITOR'S CHOICE

Tania Najia, *Robb Report Arabia*

FOUR SEASONS RESORT DUBAI AT JUMEIRAH BEACH

"A perfect blend of contemporary and Arabian styles, with 237 accommodations including the spectacular Royal Suite adorned with Venetian chandeliers and hand-tufted wool-and-silk rugs. Do not miss the traditional healing rituals at the Pearl Spa." (\$335–\$73,000) fourseasons.com



Four Seasons Resort Dubai