

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

CONDÉ NAST

MAY 2017

Traveler

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2017 — OUR BEEN-THERE, SLEPT-THERE GUIDE TO THE 75 BEST NEW HOTELS AND RESORTS



Turn and open the page for all of the winners...followed by reviews and photos that'll have you booking rooms now. ▶



WHERE YOU'LL FIND

UNITED STATES & CANADA

1. **11 Howard**, New York, N.Y.
2. **Ace Hotel New Orleans**, La.
3. **Andaz Scottsdale Resort & Spa**, Ariz.
4. **The Beekman, A Thompson Hotel**, New York, N.Y.
5. **Brentwood**, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
6. **Casa Grande at Vermejo Park Ranch**, N.M.
7. **Casa Laguna Hotel & Spa**, Laguna Beach, Calif.
8. **The Dewberry**, Charleston, S.C.
9. **EAST**, Miami, Fla.
10. **Four Seasons Resort Lanai**, Hawaii

11. **Greydon House**, Nantucket, Mass.
12. **Hotel Saint George**, Marfa, Tex.
13. **Hôtel William Gray**, Montreal, Canada
14. **Malibu Beach Inn**, Calif.
15. **The Peninsula Chicago**, Ill.
16. **The Robey**, Chicago, Ill.
17. **Scribner's Catskill Lodge**, Hunter, N.Y.
18. **SingleThread Farm-Restaurant-Inn**, Sonoma, Calif.
19. **Taylor River Lodge**, Crested Butte, Colo.
20. **Thompson Nashville**, Tenn.
21. **Thompson Seattle**, Wash.
22. **Timber Cove Resort**, Sonoma, Calif.

CARIBBEAN & MEXICO

23. **Chablé Resort**, Yucatán, Mexico
24. **Hotel Le Toiny**, St. Barts
25. **Le Barthélemy Hotel & Spa**, St. Barts
26. **Mar Adentro**, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
27. **The Other Side**, Bahamas
28. **The Shore Club Turks and Caicos**
29. **Villa Marie Saint-Barth**, St. Barts
30. **Zemi Beach House**, Anguilla

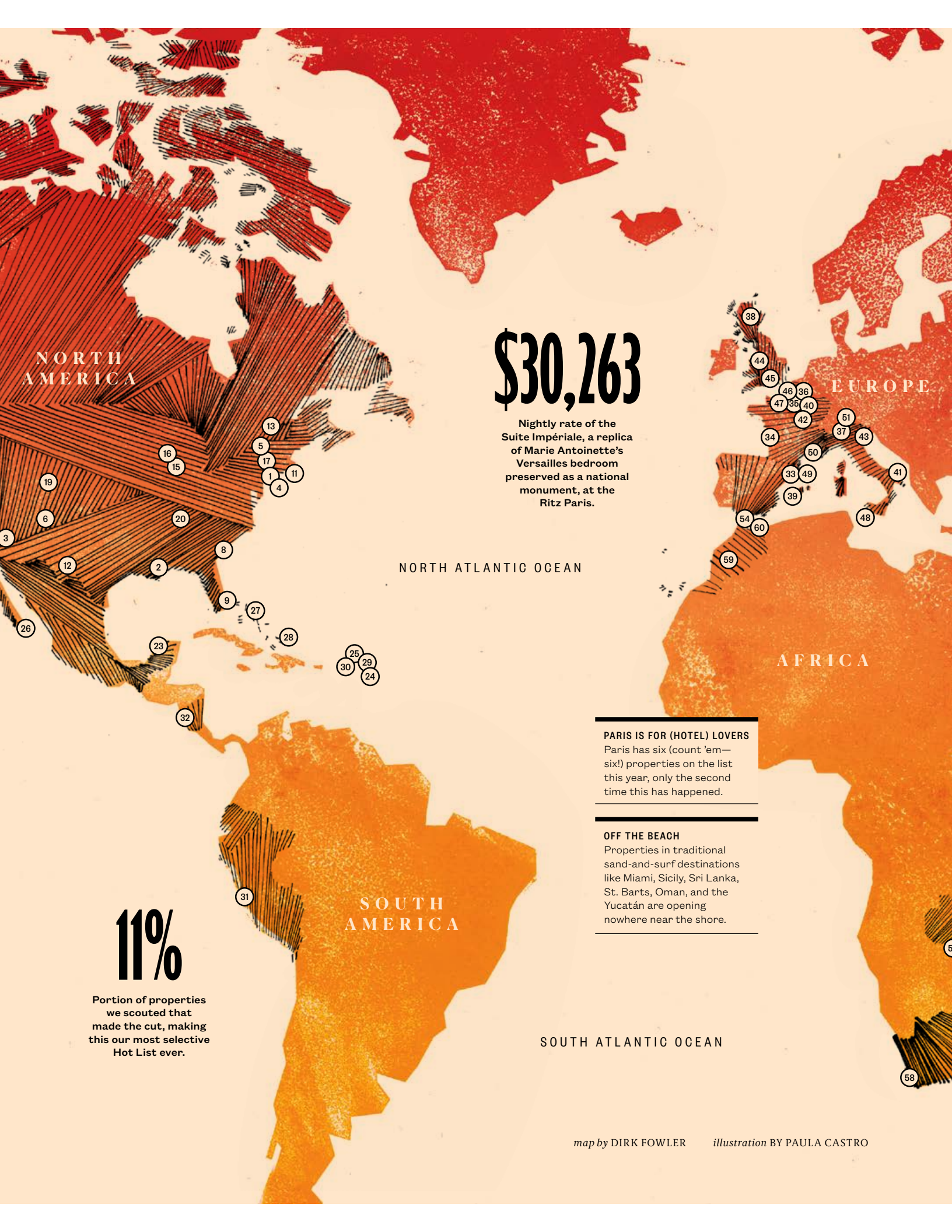
CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA

31. **Atemporal-Hotelito in Lima**, Peru
32. **Nekupe Sporting Resort and Retreat**, Nandaime, Nicaragua



NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN



NORTH AMERICA

\$30,263

Nightly rate of the Suite Impériale, a replica of Marie Antoinette's Versailles bedroom preserved as a national monument, at the Ritz Paris.

EUROPE

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

AFRICA

PARIS IS FOR (HOTEL) LOVERS
Paris has six (count 'em—six!) properties on the list this year, only the second time this has happened.

OFF THE BEACH
Properties in traditional sand-and-surf destinations like Miami, Sicily, Sri Lanka, St. Barts, Oman, and the Yucatán are opening nowhere near the shore.

SOUTH AMERICA

SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

11%

Portion of properties we scouted that made the cut, making this our most selective Hot List ever.

ABOUT NEXT YEAR

This is the first time London did not have a single property on our Hot List. Expect it to come back in a big way (we're already gaga for The Ned).

THINK SMALL

More than half of the hotels on the list this year have fewer than 50 rooms.

ASIA

800

Years in age of the *ikenwa* (pond garden) at the Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto.

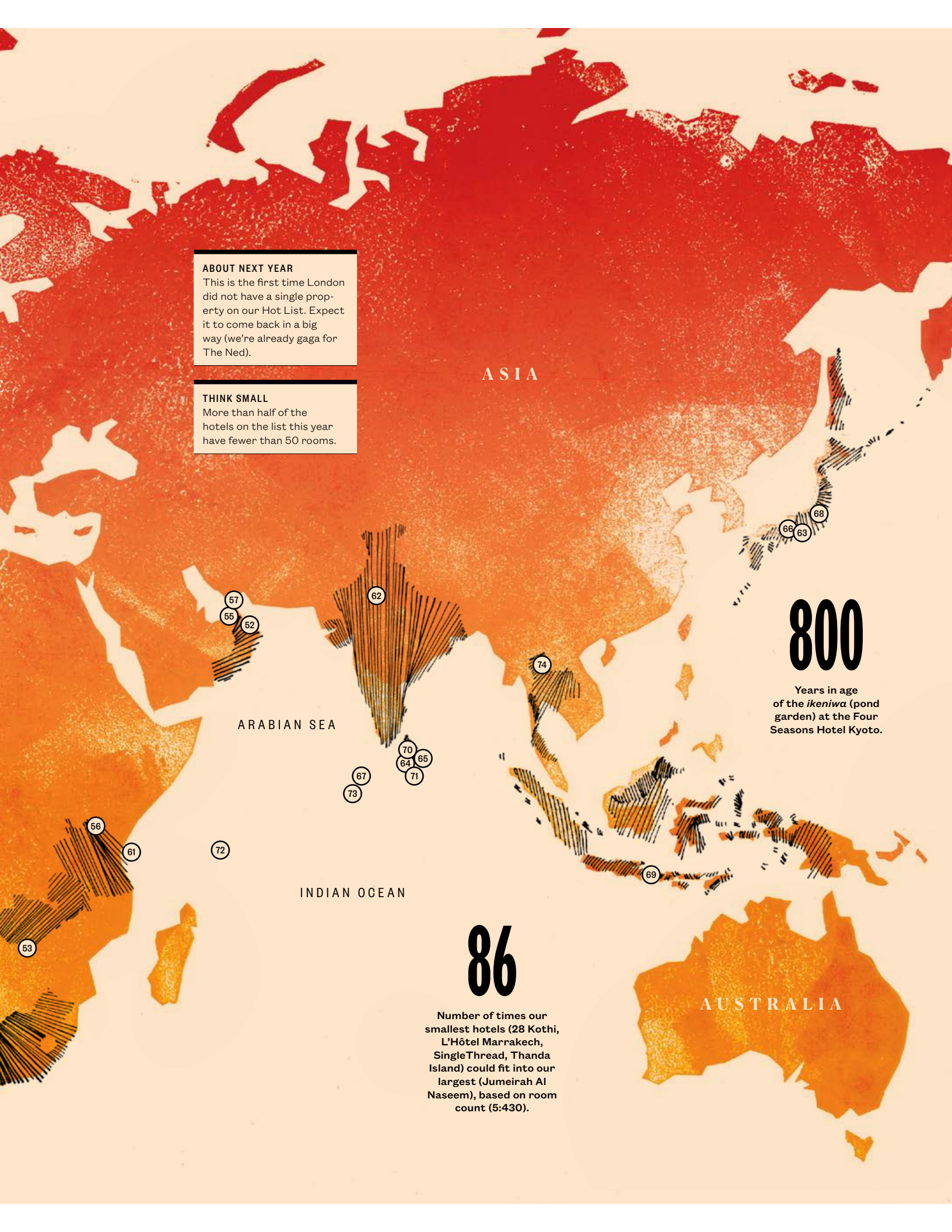
86


Number of times our smallest hotels (28 Kothi, L'Hôtel Marrakech, SingleThread, Thanda Island) could fit into our largest (Jumeirah Al Naseem), based on room count (5:430).

ARABIAN SEA

INDIAN OCEAN

AUSTRALIA





NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

EUROPE

- 33. **Casa Bonay**,
Barcelona, Spain
- 34. **Ha(a)itza**,
Pyla-sur-Mer, France
- 35. **Hôtel Panache**,
Paris, France
- 36. **Hôtel Saint-Marc**,
Paris, France
- 37. **Il Sereno**,
Lake Como, Italy
- 38. **Killiehuntly
Farmhouse &
Cottage**, Scotland
- 39. **La Granja**
Ibiza, Spain
- 40. **Le Saint**,
Paris, France
- 41. **Masseria Le
Carrube**, Ostuni, Italy
- 42. **Nolinski Paris**,
France
- 43. **Palazzo Venart**,
Venice, Italy
- 44. **Palé Hall**,
Gwynedd, Wales
- 45. **The PIG at Combe**,
Devon, England
- 46. **Ritz Paris**, France
- 47. **Roch Hôtel & Spa**,
Paris, France
- 48. **Sikelia**,
Pantelleria, Italy
- 49. **Soho House
Barcelona**, Spain
- 50. **Villa La Coste**,
Provence, France
- 51. **Villa Pliniana**,
Lake Como, Italy

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

- 52. **Anantara Al Jabal
Al Akhdar Resort**,
Nizwa, Oman
- 53. **andBeyond Matetsi
River Lodge**, Zimbabwe
- 54. **Banyan Tree
Tamouda Bay**,
Fnideq, Morocco
- 55. **Four Seasons
Hotel Abu Dhabi at Al
Maryah Island**, U.A.E.
- 56. **The Highlands**,
Ngorongoro, Tanzania
- 57. **Jumeirah Al Naseem**,
Dubai, U.A.E.
- 58. **Leeu Estates**,
Franschhoek, South Africa
- 59. **L'Hôtel**
Marrakech, Morocco
- 60. **Sofitel Tamuda Bay
Beach and Spa Hotel**,
M'diq, Morocco
- 61. **Thanda Island**, Tanzania

ASIA

- 62. **28 Kothi**, Jaipur, India
- 63. **Amanemu**,
Shima, Japan
- 64. **Anantara Peace
Haven Tangalle
Resort**, Sri Lanka
- 65. **Chena Huts**,
Sri Lanka
- 66. **Four Seasons
Hotel Kyoto**, Japan
- 67. **Four Seasons
Private Island Maldives
at Voavah, Baa Atoll**,
Maldives
- 68. **Hoshinoya Tokyo**,
Japan
- 69. **Katamama**,
Bali, Indonesia

THE HOT 75

- 70. **KK Beach**,
Habaraduwa, Sri Lanka
- 71. **Santani Wellness
Resort & Spa**, Kandy
District, Sri Lanka
- 72. **Six Senses Zil
Pasyon**, Seychelles
- 73. **The St. Regis
Maldives Vommuli
Resort**, Maldives
- 74. **Villa Mahabhirom**,
Chiang Mai, Thailand

AUSTRALIA & THE SOUTH PACIFIC

- 75. **Helena Bay Lodge**,
Northland, New Zealand



75

THE NEW HOT LIST HOT LIST STAYS THAT WILL SHAPE WHERE YOU'RE GOING AND HOW YOU'RE TRAVELING

The day after we put last year's Hot List to bed, we began casting a net for this year's favorites. We flew a collective 529,500 miles, sausage in coach, slept in roughly 200 beds, and had passports stamped in more than 50 countries between our team of 60 reporters, editors, and photographers. And yes, we had our share of knock-down, drag-out debates that got us from the 675 contenders we started with to the 75 you see before you. The 2017 Hot List is longer (by about 25 percent) than in years past, and contains an arguably wider range of hotels; yet all passed the ultimate litmus test of whether they made us giddy. Not just because they have *onsen* big enough to swim laps in, the piano where Rossini composed *Tancredi*, or Louise Bourgeois sculptures, but because they helped us become the kind of travelers we want to be. They let us explore remote parts of New Zealand's Bay of Islands and Nicaragua's cloud forests, places that unless you were up for bivouacking were previously hard to access. They showed us a side of the Middle East that had nothing to do with boardrooms or sweating out a layover on the way to the Maldives, and they placed us in the middle of the Parisian neighborhoods that made us feel like we actually lived there. These 75 are our new go-tos, recommended to colleagues and friends, and now to you. We stand behind every single one of them, and we think you will too.



Photograph by Joe Fletcher/courtesy of Mar Adentro



THE YEAR OF THE HEAVYWEIGHT DESIGNER

Both legends and icons-in-the-making created some of the most visionary spaces we've seen—and suddenly architecture nerds everywhere are reshuffling their hotel bucket list (sorry, Hotel Lautner).

Ha(a)itza, Pyla-sur-Mer

Philippe Starck does puckish comfort (blond wood and gummy bear-colored stained glass) at this seaside escape.

Il Sereno, Lake Como

Spanish architect Patricia Urquiola reimagines what a vacation on Italy's most cinematic lake should look like with vertical gardens, geometric armchairs, and a floating staircase.

L'Hôtel Marrakech

British luminary Jasper Conran's take on the *riad*—with four-poster beds and bold patterns everywhere.

Mar Adentro, Cabo San Lucas (left)

Not a trace of stucco at this hyper-futuristic resort where designer Miguel Ángel Aragonés makes you feel as if you're walking on water.

Villa La Coste, Provence

A light-filled food-and-wine hotel alongside a Tadao Ando-designed art gallery and a 500-acre sculpture park.



A TASTE OF HOME

A 4:1 staff-to-guest ratio will make you feel you've escaped everyday life, but an intimate *sit by the fire and help yourself to a drink* hotel can be just as transportive.

28 Kothi, Jaipur, India
The formality of India's grand hotels can be a bit much. This cheerful "Rajasthani *riad*" eschews local design clichés, swapping in sunlit minimalism for expected dazzle.

Atemporal, Lima, Peru
With front and back yards, house bikes, and a Mini Cooper for

cruising around, this converted Tudor is move-in ready.

Casa Laguna Hotel & Spa, Laguna Beach, California

While relaxing with a glass of white in the lobby's patinaed club chairs, arriving guests walked in, out, and back in. They thought they'd stumbled into our living room. It's *that* cozy.

Killiehuntly Farmhouse & Cottage, Cairngorms National Park, Scotland

Danish owners mix Orkney chairs with shaggy sheepskin and mid-century touches at this centuries-old farmhouse. And Highland *hygge* is born.

The PIG at Combe, England (above)

Loaner wellies, an always-stoked fire, a pint of ale when you arrive—it's as if your best friend inherited a grand country estate (and a knack for impeccable service).

HOT LIST



WHAT'S BETTER than a HOTEL WITH AMAZING FOOD?

One that's also in the middle of wine country.

Leeu Estates, Franschhoek, South Africa

Still dreaming about: tempura langoustines with smoked leeks, wild garlic, and parsley, and that bottle of Mullineux & Leeu chenin blanc.

SingleThread Farm-Restaurant-Inn, Sonoma, California

Go with: owner-chef Kyle Connaughton's hyperlocal 11-course Japan-meets-No Cal tasting menu with a pinot from Hirsch Vineyards.



TAKING THE (JAPANESE) WATERS

Three hydro-heavy spas to cure any *shochu* hangover: Take a dip in Hoshinoya Tokyo's hot spring-fed pool, steep in a sake bath at Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto, and go for a Watsu session (aquatic bodywork, for the uninitiated) at Amanemu in Ise-Shima National Park.

photograph by KATE CUNNINGHAM

If EXPLORING the TEMPLES of CHIANG MAI, you'll want to sleep in one of VILLA MAHABHIROM'S CENTURY-OLD Thai homes, raised on stilts and MADE OF TEAK.



With its embarrassment of Buddhist temples, elephant safaris, tea plantations, and stunning beaches, it's no surprise that this check-all-the-boxes destination is having a hotel boom.

Anantara Peace Haven Tangalle Resort (right)

This serene escape with a split-level pool sits on an epic stretch of southern coast.

Chena Huts, Yala

Wedged between jungle and ocean, it's the most luxe jumping-off point for game drives in Yala National Park.

KK Beach, Habaraduwa

This laid-back six-roomer makes up for what it lacks (spa, gym) with barefoot proximity to the beach.

Santani Wellness Resort & Spa, Kandy District

Set on a working tea estate, Sri Lanka's first high-end wellness resort has Ayurvedic-based spa treatments and a chef who serves exceptional vegan dishes (and plenty of biodynamic wine).



THIS IS
SRI LANKA'S
HOTTEST
YEAR

HOT LIST

CARIBBEAN





AND THEN SOME

With Caribbean resorts, there are a few things we've come to expect (prime access to pool *and* beach, food that isn't exclusively flown in from the States) and accept (the odd seashell motif, rum in cocktails that really shouldn't have rum). When we find one that has some totally unexpected element, we take notice.

The Other Side, Bahamas (left)

Instead of rooms, there are luxe safari-style canvas tents with hardwood floors and rain showers.

The Shore Club Turks and Caicos

Its tree house-style spa, high in the canopy and away from the shore, is the most serene place for a massage this side of Ubud.

Zemi Beach House, Anguilla

Has a 300-year-old teak Thai cottage with a Turkish hammam right off the shore.



aristo living (FORTUNE OPTIONAL)

Play at peerage in these reborn manors.

Palazzo Venart
Silk wallpaper, parquet floors, and Grand Canal views.

Palé Hall
Victorian-era frescoes and the poshest Sunday tea in Wales.

Villa Pliniana
A 16th-century palace on Lake Como.



a TACK-ON to the BUSINESS TRIP

Going to Abu Dhabi or Dubai for work can mean you're on the ground for about as long as it took you to fly there. But three new subtly luxe resorts (read: no gold-on-gold-on-marble) made for a cocoon-yourself me-time vacation are now giving us a reason to stay the weekend. **Jumeirah Al Naseem** has 430 rooms but first name-basis service. You'll de-stress from every pore in the eucalyptus steam rooms at **Four Seasons Hotel Abu Dhabi at Al Maryah Island**, where heated spa loungers have epic city views. Or if you have a few extra days, take in the sunsets of Oman's Green Mountain from your private pool at **Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort**.

PARIS

JUST SERIOUSLY REDEFINED ITS HOTEL SCENE

HOT LIST

Hôtel Panache
It Parisian designer Dorothee Meilichzon delivers another spot-on hotel in the buzzy ninth.

Hôtel Saint-Marc
A mansion in the heart of the second and the former home of the duc de Choiseul.

Le Saint
A St. Germain hotel that feels like Paris—part tassels and velvet, part abstract black-and-white photography.

Nolinski Paris
Suitably elegant (silver-leafed ceiling, gorgeous spa) but far less fussy than its Avenue de l'Opéra address suggests.

Roch Hôtel & Spa (below)
A much needed boutique property in the first with spacious rooms and private hammams in suites.

While a number of Paris's grandes dames were shuttered for massive renos, a new breed of intimate, modern hotel (more green juice than domed eggs Benedict) opened with decidedly nonpalatial room rates. All nod to contemporary deco with graphic wallpaper and bursts of color, and most have sceney bars and restaurants that are as much for the neighborhood as they are for the guests.



photograph by ADRIAN GAUT



THESE

LANDMARK

HOTELS LOOK BETTER THAN EVER

When we hear that a beloved hotel is getting major work done, we hold our breath. What happens if they ditch those period brass door-knobs in favor of brushed-steel ones, or swap vintage sconces for “contemporary” halogens that will kill the lobby’s vibe? Lucky for us, these properties got it right.

andBeyond Matetsi River Lodge, Zimbabwe

The thatched-roof resort has a new riverside pool on a private reserve.

Four Seasons Resort Lanai

It now has Polynesian art, indigenous landscaping, and technologically tricked-out rooms (it is owned by Larry Ellison).

Hotel Le Toiny, St. Barts (above)

The only hotel on the Côte Sauvage got a breezy design refresh and a new beach club.

The Peninsula Chicago

A neutral palette, hand-painted floral wall panels, and tablets loaded with international newspapers and mags breathe new life into the formerly dark, stodgy rooms.

Ritz Paris

It added a Chanel spa and an underground ballroom, and thankfully kept those swan faucets.



the new WEEKENDERS

When you live in a city, come Friday, you’re craving a little nature and wishing you’d held out for a fireplace before signing your lease. New Yorkers can now head to two places for that retreat high:

Scribner’s Catskill Lodge, a former 1960s motor lodge turned modernist skier’s refuge, with fluffy duvets and mountain-facing deck chairs; and the 12-room **Brentwood** in Saratoga Springs, which subtly nods to the area’s equestrian roots (the famed racetrack is across the street). Those on the other coast now have **Timber Cove Resort**, a renovated A-frame on the cliffs looking out at the Pacific, with a long, inviting bar where you could easily spend an entire weekend drinking too much Sonoma wine. There’s also the **Malibu Beach Inn**, one of the few places to stay in this enviable zip code, which underwent a spot-on renovation but still has those epic ocean views pretty much wherever you look.

photograph by YOLANDA EDWARDS

BY THE LOCALS, 'STOOD BUT WITH YOU IN MIND

It's almost a given that a hotel will make some claim of localism (we don't think stocking the minibar with regional craft beer really counts). These properties, however, are implementing more considered collaborations that actually resonate with the guests.

Andaz Scottsdale Resort & Spa

Those colorful oil canvases and ceramic mugs you're sipping coffee from (even the staff's name tags and bracelets) come from the 81-year-old art collective Cattle Track, down the road.

Casa Bonay, Barcelona

The 67-room hotel taps into new-wave Catalan design with yak's-wool bedcovers

loomed in neighboring Terrassa and prints by designer Clara Arnús.

Hotel Saint George, Marfa (below)

The Marfa Book Company, a 21-year-old local institution, moved into the hotel lobby where it shares space with paintings by Texan Jeff Elrod.

Hôtel William Gray, Montreal

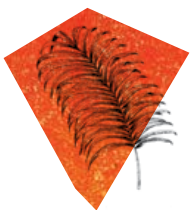
Savvy Quebecois know the most buttery croissants come from Café Olimpico, whose latest outpost is next to the lobby.

Thompson Nashville

You'll need jeans in this town. And the in-room fittings with homegrown brand Imogene + Willie will make it impossible to shop for denim at a store ever again.



Photograph by Casey Dunn/courtesy of Hotel Saint George



FEW THINGS are more divine than an **OUTDOOR MASSAGE**, shrouded by **PALMS** IN THE GARDEN at **SIKELIA**, the first luxury resort on **SICILY'S PANTELLERIA ISLAND**.

HOT LIST

For years, stylish sun-starved Europeans have been fighting for towel space on Mediterranean beaches from Mallorca to Mykonos. Now, with the opening of the all-villa **Banyan Tree** (right) and the **Sofitel Beach and Spa Hotel** on Tamouda Bay (and a Ritz-Carlton Reserve on the way), the less-touristed golden beaches of Morocco's northeast are the place to be. Americans will surely follow suit.



MOROCCO'S

MED COAST IS
OFFICIALLY ON OUR RADAR





THE NEW AESTHETIC

As the interiors world drifts away from that ubiquitous hippie-meets-hipster look, hotels too are favoring more sophisticated, neo-traditional design. Industrial becomes a considered accent, not the default. Bulbs get shades. Brass gets polished. Succulents are replaced by ficus, and Pendleton blankets are swapped for kitten-soft throws in grown-up hues like blush and loden.

11 Howard, New York City
There's a huge mural spearheaded by Koons, a Calder mobile in the lobby, the buzzy street-level restaurant Le Coucou, all before you get upstairs to the hotel proper—a Scandi-chic oasis of soft pink, dove gray, and blond wood.

The Robey, Chicago
This Art Deco building with its moody lighting, Hopperesque palette, and glassed-in roof bar speaks to the sexier side of Chicago.

Thompson Seattle
With thoughtful maritime touches and floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking Elliott Bay, it's exactly the kind of sleek hotel we've been waiting for in this city.

Soho House Barcelona
The mixed patterns and club chairs are Soho House go-tos, but the brand's "cool frumpery" gets a refresh with terra-cotta barrel-vaulted ceilings and washed-out blues, reds, and golds that feel distinctly Catalan.

COME FOR THE BAR,

STAY FOR THE BED

It wasn't the service or the rooms that stood out to us at these hotels (though they nailed both). Rather it was the bar that made the biggest impression. Hear us out. These hotels are in New York, Charleston, and New Orleans, where fantastic bars are around every corner, and yet these newcomers—moody and glow-y, making you feel like a real grown-up—have become the heart and soul of their neighborhood.

Ace Hotel New Orleans

In true Ace fashion, this lobby bar is the hotel's pulse point. It's where you'll find us—and guests from *other* hotels—hitting the Sazeracs.

The Beekman, A Thompson Hotel, New York (below)

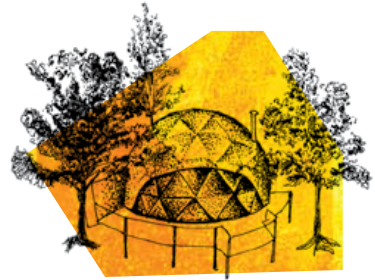
You can't help but look like a million bucks at the emerald-and-brass Deco bar, under a skylight that's nine stories up.

The Dewberry Charleston

Bartenders in white jackets make drinks the old-fashioned way: They're stirred. Which just feels right for a hotel in a 1960s federal building.



HOT LIST



YOU'RE REALLY GOING FOR THE NATURE

Sometimes a hotel makes this list not for what's under its roof but for what's outside its doors. Like those brighter-than-bright green hills seen after helicoptering to your seaside villa at New Zealand's **Helena Bay Lodge**. It's a different view entirely from the geodesic dome-like tents at **The Highlands**, the only luxury camp on Tanzania's Olmoti Volcano, which has Africa's highest lion density. In Nicaragua, you'll ride a horse past sloths and howler monkeys on **Nekupe's** 1,300 acres, whose owners took inspiration from the ranches of America's West—like those near Colorado's **Taylor River Lodge**, where you'll rise at dawn in your timber cabin for fly-fishing (followed by a steam in the bathhouse). Just south, New Mexico's sunsets are most vivid when seen from the Sangre de Cristo Mountains near Ted Turner's turn-of-the-century **Casa Grande**, where you'll return to pan-seared bison after your hike.

Proof that Miami has more to offer than beaches and buzzy clubs—the city's biggest opening last year, EAST, happened in downtown's Brickell City Centre.





HOT LIST

This year, a number of resorts took over sand-rimmed isles from Africa to the South Pacific. These, however, have that extra something that goes beyond an empty beach.

Four Seasons Private Island Maldives at Voavah, Baa Atoll

Your own 62-foot yacht and on-site marine biologists.

Six Senses Zil Pasyon, Seychelles (left)

A raised saltwater spa pool and treatment bungalows built into the granite boulders.

The St. Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort

Forty-four overwater suites with dolphins and manta rays swimming under your deck.

Thanda Island, Tanzania

Solar-powered rooms, snorkeling with whale sharks, and a serious coral-rehabilitation program.

PRIVATE

ISLANDS

ARE HAVING
A MOMENT

Every year some sort of dog whistle reaches the gold-cuffed ears of bohemian nomads, luring them to laid-back, about-to-crest beaches and bazaars from Agadir to Tulum. Next you'll see those lithe, tanned wanderers headed across the Yucatán to the 38-casita **Chable Resort** (below), on a colonial estate near Mérida, where the cenote-centered spa is the draw. Come summer, they'll be at **La Granja Ibiza**, on the island's woody north side. At

this centuries-old farmhouse, with studiously simple gray paneled walls and ruffled linens, guests chill by the pool when they're not in a shaman session. Or at **Masseria Le Carrube** in Puglia: The pared-down, tufa-and-reclaimed-wood version of sibling Borgo Egnazia feels like a private house party with its 19 rooms, two sleek pools, and all-veg meals served in a vaulted candlelit room. And when temperatures dip, it's off to **Katamama** on Bali's marquee Seminyak Beach, which has a smart mix of local design and mid-century flair, and where an in-house *pemangku*, or priest, "maintains the spiritual balance" of the hotel, of course.

WHERE YOU'LL FIND THE

GYP-SET



GREYDON HOUSE,
NANTUCKET

Design team Roman and Williams outfits an 1850s Greek Revival with Ivory Coast chieftain chairs, Les Indiennes bedding, blue-and-white Portuguese tiles—and not a whale print in sight.



ST. BARTS face-off

New properties on our fave Euro-inflected isle work two angles.

Le Barthélemy Hotel & Spa

Clean-lined minimalism with crisp white bedding, mid-century

furniture, and teak shutters overlooking the cyan waters of Grand Cul-de-Sac.

Villa Marie Saint-Barth

Just inland and Caribbean chic with rattan furniture, ceiling fans, wainscoting, and pops of hot pink and canary yellow. ♦