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## The best of the best: World's top hotels named by Traveller



Cape Weligama, Sri Lanka: This might be the most photogenic pool the in the world. Photo: Sebastian Posingsis

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To understand the value of a good hotel, you only have to cast your mind back to the bad ones. The boxy room with the strange smell. The spectacular vista of a worksite and a brick wall. The service that bordered on hostile.

These memories make you realise that a hotel isn't just a place to sleep: it's an institution that can make or break your holiday.

We all know these bad ones. But we're also familiar with the good hotels, the great hotels, the hotels that get things just right, the places that have thought of everything, the accommodation that turns out to be the highlight of your entire holiday.

So, *Traveller*, with the holiday season rapidly approaching, thought it high time to award these standouts. But, not content with simply awarding hotels individually, we've deconstructed them in order to recognise their most vital parts.

Collectively, the writers who have contributed to our own awards estimate they have spent thousands of nights inside hotel rooms throughout their travels. They've seen every tap fitting in every shower set-up imaginable. They've fumbled around looking for hidden light switches in establishments across the globe. In doing so, they have come to know exactly what makes a hotel exceptional, from the doorman or woman on arrival right through to breakfast the next morning. – **Ben Groundwater**

CONTRIBUTORS: Anthony Dennis, Ben Groundwater, Julietta Jameson, Brian Johnston, Catherine Marshall, Rob McFarland and Ute Junker

### THE BEST TRANSPORTATIONS

### THE NOMINATIONS

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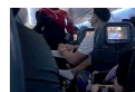
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Urban oasis: 10 spectacular islands in the middle of major cities



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### Deals of the week



**The Peninsula, Hong Kong** Its unrivalled fleet of venerable Rolls Royce limousines provide airport transfers of the most glamorous kind. And with so many heads turning as you glide grandly along city streets it's hard to resist the urge for a regal wave. See [peninsula.com](http://peninsula.com)

**Four Seasons Tented Camp, Golden Triangle, Thailand** It's a jungle out there so a Jeep is a fun and appropriate airport transfer choice. But it doesn't stop there. Well, it does actually, at a wharf where you're transferred by traditional motorised longtail boat along a Mekong tributary to the secluded lodge. See [fourseasons.com](http://fourseasons.com)

**Tea Trails Hatton and Wild Coast Lodge, Yala, Sri Lanka** The "limo" service – a seaplane – delivers superlative views of plantation-cloaked highlands sloping towards rugged coastlines. See [resplendentceylon.com](http://resplendentceylon.com)

**Shinta Mani Wild Tented Camp, Cardamom National Park, Cambodia** From a four-storey tower where your butler will strap you into a harness so you can zipline your way above treetops and into the camp. At the other end, a second butler awaits with a cold towel and a drink, as one would expect. See [wild.shintamani.com](http://wild.shintamani.com)

**Wildwaters Lodge, Kalagala, Uganda** The hotel's "limo" is a wooden canoe paddled by a staff member with the island only a hundred or so metres from the mainland. But reaching it necessitates crossing the approach channel to Kalagala Falls, a treacherous class six rapid. See [lemalacamps.com](http://lemalacamps.com)

**THE WINNER: The Peninsula Hong Kong**



*The Peninsula Hong Kong's famous fleet of Rolls-Royces. Photo: Peninsula Hotels*

## THE BEST WELCOME

### THE NOMINATIONS

**Las Ventanas al Paraíso, Los Cabos, Mexico** The welcoming committee includes a margarita butler, who offers you a welcome shot (and a second one, if you are that way inclined), so much the better. See [rosewoodhotels.com](http://rosewoodhotels.com)

**Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa, Fiji** On arrival you are serenaded by a pair of burly, angel-voiced men with frangipani flowers tucked behind their ears before a trio of grass-skirted warriors brandishing impressive war clubs leads you to check in. See [sofitel-fiji.com](http://sofitel-fiji.com)

**RAAS Devigarh, Delwara, India** Rose petals flutter down from fortress ramparts as you arrive with formalities conducted over a cool drink on the bar terrace, from which fabulous views stretch over village and countryside to purple hills beyond. See [raashotels.com](http://raashotels.com)

**Agua Arriba, El Chalten, Argentina** Owners Patricia Garcia and Ivor Matovic are waiting on the steps as guests arrive by boat at their forest-cushioned log cabin, surrounded by icefields mountain chain on the shores of Lago Desierto in southern Patagonia. See [aguasarribalodge.com](http://aguasarribalodge.com)

**Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge, Vancouver Island, Canada** When your floatplane lands at the tiny jetty at the far end of the forest-covered fjord, a horse-drawn cart is waiting at the foot of a dirt road. Hop aboard for a drive through the wilderness that ends at the homestead where the lodge's entire staff is waiting to greet you. See [clayoquotwildernesslodge.com](http://clayoquotwildernesslodge.com)

**THE WINNER: Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa, Fiji**

Get \$2500 in extra value at stunning Palm Cove retreat

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Save \$6000 on spectacular luxury Kimberley cruise

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Get \$1800 in bonus value on stay at Samoan private island resort

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*Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa, Fiji.*

## THE BEST DOORPERSON

### THE NOMINATIONS

**The Connaught London, UK** A luggage-laden traveller, bedraggled from months on the budget road, was greeted here as if she were arriving royalty.

**Fingal, Edinburgh, Scotland** It's not so much a doorman at this five-star hotel set aboard a former lighthouse tender and more a gaggle of smiling and helpful staff positioned by the entry at all times.

**Raffles, Singapore** The traditional, tall and at times faintly intimidating (if you're a non-staying, non-paying interloper, that is) Sikh doorman at this official national Singaporean man-made treasure is not only an emblem of the hotel there's also a souvenir toy based on him at the inhouse gift shop. See [raffles.com](http://raffles.com)

**Plaza Athenee, Paris, France** When a doorman also greets you by name – even though this is your first visit to the hotel – you know you have arrived at a next-level property. See [dorchestercollection.com](http://dorchestercollection.com)

**Illa Experience Hotel, Quito, Ecuador** Juan David Chang, a 2.1-metre-tall former national basketball player sporting a long grey overcoat and a black top hat, towers over you as you're ushered into the inner courtyard of this converted historic mansion. See [illaexperiencehotel.com](http://illaexperiencehotel.com)

### THE WINNER: Raffles Singapore



*The traditional, tall and at times faintly intimidating Sikh doorman at Raffles Singapore. Photo: AP*

## THE BEST LOBBY

### THE NOMINATIONS

**The Langham, London, UK** The lobby of Europe's first grand hotel feels both glamorously five-star and cosily homely. See [langhamhotels.com](http://langhamhotels.com)

**Reverie Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam** The fantasy lobby here is mind-bogglingly ostentatious yet somehow the hotel pulls it off, Murano glass chandeliers and blue Bolivian marble tiles and all. See [thereveriesaiagon.com](http://thereveriesaiagon.com)

**JK Place Roma, Italy** Settle into one of the sink-into sofas in the lobby any time of day or night and a staffer will bring you a coffee to sip as you flick through the coffee table books. See [jkroma.com](http://jkroma.com)

**Hotel Britomart, Auckland, New Zealand** Over a welcome cup of kawakawa iced tea, admire the striking black sand feature wall,



artwork by renowned Kiwi painter Shane Cotton, a native totara tree growing out of the reception desk and coffee table fashioned from a three-tonne slab of Timaru bluestone. See [thehotelbritomart.com](http://thehotelbritomart.com)

**Mandarin Oriental Singapore** Many lobbies are showier, more glamorous and more contemporary but, if you belong to the pre-Instagram era, you'll love this hotel's old-fashioned central atrium, soaring 21 floors up and surrounded by wrap-around corridors. See [mandarinoriental.com](http://mandarinoriental.com)

**THE WINNER: Reverie, Saigon**



*The Reverie's lobby.*

## THE BEST WELCOME DRINK

### THE NOMINATIONS

**The Library, Phuket, Thailand** You're presented with a lidded goblet and, on lifting the lid, dry ice vapour swirls and entices, a whispering hint of what lies ahead at a place where detail is of the essence.

**La Residence, Franschhoek, South Africa** The welcome drink here is quite simple: it's a glass of wine, local of course, sourced from one of the surrounding vineyards in this gorgeous part of South Africa. See [theroyalportfolio.com](http://theroyalportfolio.com)

**Illa Experience Hotel, Quito, Ecuador** Don an apron and stir a mixture of naranjilla juice, cloves, cinnamon and Norteno (a distilled sugarcane-based spirit) in order to make canelazo, a traditional Ecuadorian hot drink. Serve in small copper mugs. See [illaexperiencehotel.com](http://illaexperiencehotel.com)

**The Clan Hotel, Singapore** At this hotel, which salutes Singapore's historic Chinese diaspora guilds, guests are not merely served a restorative welcome tea but an entire, though not too extended, welcome Chinese tea ceremony, served by a schooled inhouse tea master. See [theclanhotel.com.sg](http://theclanhotel.com.sg)

**Abbaye de la Bussiere, Burgundy, France** At this mediaeval former abbey, you're installed on the lawn with a half-bottle of champagne and small jug of cassis. Pop the cork as a pony munches on grass, bees buzz and swans paddle on the pond. See [abbayedelabussiere.fr](http://abbayedelabussiere.fr)

**THE WINNER: The Clan Hotel, Singapore**



*Get a welcome tea ceremony at The Clan Hotel, Singapore.*

## THE BEST ROOM

### THE NOMINATIONS

**The Raj Mahal Palace RAAS Jaipur, India** At nearly 300 square metres, the awe-inspiring multi-room Maharaja Suite at this



confection with 18th century roots is big in area and giant in personality. See [raashotels.com](http://raashotels.com)

**Hoshinoya, Tokyo, Japan** Rooms at this beautiful "modern ryokan" feature soft light filtered through paper screens, tatami-mat floors, traditional futon beddings and spartan yet perfectly chosen furnishings. See [hoshinoya.com](http://hoshinoya.com)

**Bensley Collection pool villas, Siem Reap, Cambodia** Secluded behind high walls, each villa offers a wealth of delightful design details such as walls moulded like the folds in a monk's gown – as well as an indoor-outdoor bathroom, a lap pool and a rooftop terrace. See [angkor.shintamani.com](http://angkor.shintamani.com)

**Joali Maldives, The Maldives** Joali Maldives is the Maldives' first "art island", and the sheer scale of your villa, with its massive rooms flowing into each other and its expansive deck area, all with point-blank water views, is matched only by the serene design. See [joali.com](http://joali.com)

**Chedi Muscat, Oman** Moorish, whitewashed villas offer cool respite from Oman's heat with their domed roofs, Zen-like bedrooms and vast bathrooms fitted with sunken terrazzo bathtubs and scented with heavenly Acqua di Parma toiletries. See [lhw.com](http://lhw.com)

**THE WINNER: Bensley Collection, Siem Reap, Cambodia**



Your private villa pool at the Bensley Collection Shinta Mani, Siem Reap. Photo: Bjorn Teufel

## THE BEST BED

### THE NOMINATIONS

**Elewana Loisaba Star Beds, Kenya** Your handcrafted four-poster bed is moved each evening from your hut onto a deck where there's just the stars and a mosquito net separating you from the Kenyan bush. See [elewanacollection.com](http://elewanacollection.com)

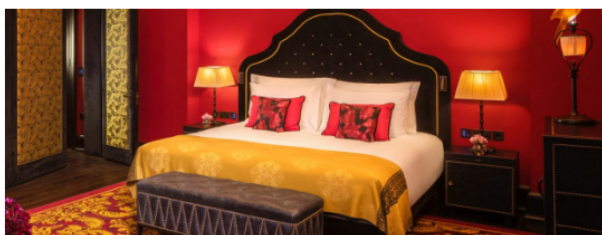
**The Fairmont, Singapore** The beds throughout the Fairmont chain are not too hard, not too soft and just right. They're so widely loved you can buy them for home. See [fairmont.com](http://fairmont.com)

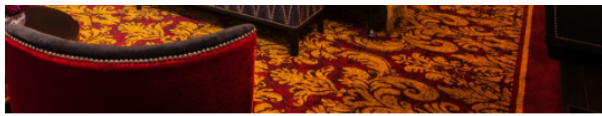
**L'Oscar, London, UK** What you'll remember most from your stay here is the bedding, and in particular the Doona, which is filled with Icelandic eiderdown that takes two and a half years to collect and costs a staggering £5000. See [loscarlondon.com](http://loscarlondon.com)

**Schloss Elmau, Bavaria, Germany** Here the focus is on comfort and relaxation rather than pretension, and it shows in the bed. It's big, unadorned with annoying cushions and sits squarely in the middle of the room and faces a fabulous mountain view, inviting breakfast-in-bed indulgence. See [schloss-elmau.de](http://schloss-elmau.de)

**The Moso, Vanuatu** The king size beds here invite lazy lie-ins and languid afternoon naps with their Goldilocks springs (not too hard, not too soft), sensuous bedlinen, driftwood headboards and a cooling breeze through louvred windows. See [themosovanuatu](http://themosovanuatu)

**THE WINNER: L'Oscar, London, UK**





*L'Oscar, London: What you'll remember most from your stay here is the bedding, and in particular the Doona.*

## THE BEST VIEW

### THE NOMINATIONS

**Sir Victor, Barcelona, Spain** Gaudi to the left, Gaudi to the right – the rooftop bar presents a diorama of some of the avant garde artist's beautiful Barcelona landmarks, notably the iconic Casa Mila apartments buildings. See [sirhotels.com](https://sirhotels.com)

**Marriott Mena House, Cairo, Egypt** Wake up, draw the curtains and step out onto your balcony and find the one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World right there in front of you. See [marriott.com](https://marriott.com)

**Shakti 360 Leti, Uttarakhand, India** This extraordinary mountaintop retreat is surrounded by a dramatic halo of snaking glaciers, snow-capped peaks and plunging forested valleys. All of which can be admired in unexpected luxury from one of four glass-fronted stone cabins. See [shaktihimalaya.com](https://shaktihimalaya.com)

**Bebek Hotel by the Stay, Istanbul, Turkey** Watching the Bosphorus never gets old and from your riverfront room at this glam boutique hotel, you can take in 180-degree water views. See [thestay.com.tr](https://thestay.com.tr)

**Chateau de la Chevre d'or, Eze, France** Eze teeters in mediaeval splendour atop a cliff above the French Riviera, looking over Cap Ferrat and squinting at distant Corsica with views unfurling from the moment you totter along a vertigo-inducing path towards the reception. See [relaischateaux.com](https://relaischateaux.com)

**THE WINNER: Marriott Mena House, Cairo**



*Marriott Mena House: One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World is right there in front of you.*

## THE BEST RESTAURANT

### THE NOMINATIONS

**Amber, The Mandarin Oriental Landmark, Hong Kong** Two Michelin-starred Amber won a 2022 Michelin Green Star in 2022 for its sustainable focus. It now offers a dairy and gluten-free vegetarian menu with reduced salt and sugar.

**Troisgros, Ouches, France** The restaurant, which has held three Michelin stars for over 50 years, is the heart of the hotel and the extraordinary food isn't the only attraction. This must be the only restaurant in France designed as an artificial forest where each table sits under its own spotlight. See [troisgros.com](https://troisgros.com)

**Keio Plaza, Tokyo Japan** So many of the great hotels of Tokyo offer high-quality dining experiences across a range of styles and cuisines. None are quite as exciting as the Keio with its 16 different restaurants, the highlight of which is Kyubey, a legendary Tokyo sushi restaurant, founded in 1935.

**MGM Grand, Las Vegas, US** Every dish is a culinary artwork (think immaculate towers of couscous topped with inky black Osetra caviar) while the overall experience is one of unrestrained excess (a sweet cart with 40 different petits fours; a 33-page wine list with bottles costing \$US20,000). See [mgmgrand.com](https://mgmgrand.com); [mgmresorts.com](https://mgmresorts.com)

**The Fullerton Hotel, Singapore** Jade is one of the world's prettiest hotel restaurants thanks to its light, pastel-shaded and gilt-free decor including wallpaper on which flowers bloom and birds twitter. The top-quality is a superb showcase of classic Cantonese cuisine with deft contemporary influences and stylish plating. See [fullertonhotels.com](http://fullertonhotels.com)

**THE WINNER: Troisgros, Ouches, France**



*The kitchen team at Troisgros. Photo: Felix Ledru*

## THE BEST ROOM SERVICE

### THE NOMINATIONS

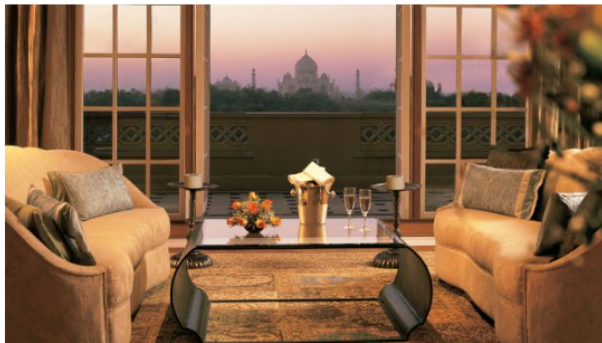
**Ceylon Tea Trails, Sri Lanka** Ah, bed tea. A pre-rising Indian tradition, in Sri Lanka it's taken to elegant heights at Ceylon Tea Trails' restored historic tea planter residences.

**The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra, India** Served by an immaculately attired butler, the candlelit four-course feast would be memorable enough on its own, but when it's served on your suite's private balcony with captivating, uninterrupted views of the Taj Mahal, it becomes legendary. See [oberoihotels.com](http://oberoihotels.com)

**Le Bristol, Paris, France** Its inhouse restaurants boast a collective four Michelin stars so you'd expect a spectacular 24-hour room service offering and Le Bristol Paris doesn't disappoint.

**Windamere Hotel, Darjeeling, India** There's nothing more annoying than bad, fussy, pretentious or tip-seeking room service but you won't get that in this 1930s hotel. Food arrives on trays carried by a white-gloved waiters who engage you in eccentric concentration. Wonderful. See [windamerehotel.com](http://windamerehotel.com)

**THE WINNER: The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra, India**



*Enjoy room service with a view of the Taj Mahal at the Oberoi Amarvilas Agra.*

## THE BEST DECOR

### THE NOMINATIONS

**Hotel Marques de Riscal Elciego, Spain** With the hotel itself designed by Frank Gehry, you'd have to work hard to make the interior décor stand out. Hotel Marques de Riscal does just that, with high-end, unique furnishings and interior design accentuating Gehry's brilliance. See [marriott.com](http://marriott.com)

**Ritz Paris, France** Opened in 1898 and the home of Coco Chanel, a 2016 overhaul upheld the legendary hotel's traditional 18th century French decor and immaculate opulence. See [ritzparis.com](http://ritzparis.com)

**TWA Hotel, New York, US** Designed by Finnish-American architect Eero Saarinen, the striking wing-shaped former TWA 1960s terminal building has been transformed into a playful



homage to the dawn of the Jet Age era of travel. See [twahotel.com](http://twahotel.com)

**Il Tornabuoni, Florence, Italy** The hotel may be housed in a renaissance palace but the dazzling interiors – done in vibrant colour combinations like blue and green, pink and peacock blue, or yellow and grey – are resolutely contemporary. See [hyatt.com](http://hyatt.com)

**RAAS Jodhpur, India** Knockout 17th-century Rajasthan architecture in ornately carved sandstone fuses with contemporary additions, including a glass-box reception area, magnificent pool and two chic restaurants. Look up and the vulture-circled Mehrangarh Fort looms. See [raashotels.com](http://raashotels.com)

**THE WINNER: RAAS Jodhpur, India**



*RAAS Jodhpur, India Knockout: 17th-century Rajasthan architecture in ornately carved sandstone fuses with contemporary additions.*

## THE BEST BAR

### THE NOMINATIONS

**Cielo, Hotel de la Ville, Rome, Italy** "Unrivalled views" is an oft bandied term but Cielo, the rooftop bar at the Hotel de la Ville can truly claim it in the Eternal City. Mingle with the beautiful people, sip an aperitif and dine on scrumptious signature dishes. See [roccofortehotels.com](http://roccofortehotels.com)

**Palace Hotel Tokyo, Japan** Though the New York Bar at the Park Hyatt Hotel in Shinjuku attracts all the attention – thanks to *Lost in Translation* – the bar at the Palace Hotel Tokyo is far more personal and refined. See [palacehoteltokyo.com](http://palacehoteltokyo.com)

**InterContinental Hotel Dieu, Lyon, France** Le Dome bar is all about the dome. Built into an 800-year-old chapel topped by a 32-metre high dome, Le Dome's architecture is nothing less than monumental. The glamorous fit-out includes an alabaster bar with sophisticated cocktails. See [lyon.intercontinental.com](http://lyon.intercontinental.com)

**So Sofitel Vienna, Austria** This minimalist hotel's crowning glory – literally – is Das Loft bar, perched atop the hotel's tower with views over Vienna's old town. The ceiling's entirely taken up with a video installation: a giant eyeball blinks, goldfish swim past, forests rise up and disappear. See [so-vienna.com](http://so-vienna.com)

**Pier 24, Amerikalijnen, Oslo Norway** Norwegian immigrants passed through this former shipping building en route to New York, where they'd alight on Pier 24 (for which the bar is named). Their stories are conjured in a cocktail menu celebrating the building's history, See [amerikalinjen.com](http://amerikalinjen.com)

**THE WINNER: Hotel de la Ville, Rome**



*Mingle with the beautiful people at Hotel de la Ville's rooftop terrace.*

## THE BEST POOL

## THE NOMINATIONS

**Somalisa Camp, Hwange, Zimbabwe** Slip into that pool – or even lounge on its sides – and watch the elephants, herds of which regularly roam the plain directly behind the pool. No infinity pool compares. See [africanbushcamps.com](http://africanbushcamps.com)

**Burgenstock Resort, Lucerne, Switzerland** The infinity pool makes you feel you're swimming off into the sunset as Lake Lucerne glimmers silver far below and snowy peaks fade into the night. With a pool like this in which to wallow and soothe your soul, you won't need a spa treatment. See [burgenstockresort.com](http://burgenstockresort.com)

**Marina Bay Sands, Singapore** Suspending a 1.4-million-litre, 150 metres long infinity pool almost 200 metres above a triumvirate of sentinel towers is technically impressive and as an actual immersive experience, unforgettable. See [marinabaysands.com](http://marinabaysands.com)

**Cape Weligama, Sri Lanka** This may be the most photogenic swimming pool in the world – a 60-metre crescent moon infinity pool with spectacular, uninterrupted sunsets across the ocean. See [resplendenceceylon.com](http://resplendenceceylon.com)

**Thanda Safari Lodge, Hluhwe, South Africa** The aqua infinity pool is suspended amid a swathe of knob thorn bushes and marula trees with private plunge pools recessed into each of the nine bush suites' decks. See [thandasafari.co.za](http://thandasafari.co.za)

**THE WINNER: Cape Weligama, Sri Lanka**



*Cape Weligama may have the most photogenic swimming pool in the world. Photo: Tom Parker*

## THE BEST SPA

**Tierra Atacama, San Pedro de Atacama, Chile** It feels soothing enough to stare at the Licancabur Volcano at Tierra Atacama but add in the experiences and treatments at the Uma Spa and you have a holistic wellness experience. See [tierrahotels.com](http://tierrahotels.com)

**Bliss, W Hong Kong, China** Started in Soho in 1996, this cheeky, irreverent wellness brand was a perfect fit for the equally exuberant W Hotel group. Move over celery sticks and whale soundtracks; bring on brownies and the blues. See [marriott.com](http://marriott.com)

**Nihi Sumba, Nihi, Indonesia** Why did Nihi Sumba locate its spa on the other side of the island from the rest of the resort? So it could create a "Spa Safari", of course. Start with an early-morning hike through rice fields and villages. On arriving at the spa, cool off in the pool and tuck into breakfast before enjoying your treatment. See [nihi.com](http://nihi.com)

**Hotel Hermitage Monte-Carlo, Monaco** This four-storey glass-and-marble wonderland of healthy hedonism has hot tubs and saltwater pools under a shell-shaped roof from which you can gaze at the princely palace and mega-yachts in the harbour. See [montecarlosbm.com](http://montecarlosbm.com)

**Gangtey Lodge, Phobjikha Valley, Bhutan** Sink into the pinewood bathtub at the Australian-designed bathhouse and submit to dotsho, a traditional hot stone bath ritual. The bath is filled with soothing forest-foraged wormwood and heated with river rocks and baked in a fire. See [gangteylodge.com](http://gangteylodge.com)

**THE WINNER: Tie Gangtey Lodge, Bhutan and Nihi Sumba, Nihi, Indonesia**





*Gangtey Lodge, Phobjikha Valley, Bhutan: Sink into the pinewood bathtub at the Australian-designed bathhouse.*

## THE BEST BUILDING/ARCHITECTURE

### THE NOMINATIONS

**Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur, India** This is an actual palace, called Jig Nawas, built in 1746 as a summer retreat for the Mewar royal family. Fashioned entirely from marble in the Mughal style, the building featured in the Bond film Octopussy. See [tajhotels.com](http://tajhotels.com)

**Benesse House, Naoshima, Japan** Art, architecture and nature coexist peacefully in this national park in Japan's Seto Inland Sea. Concrete-and-stone angles protrude futuristically from the emerald hillocks in which much of the Tadao Ando-designed museum-hotel complex is embedded. See [benesse-artsite.jp](http://benesse-artsite.jp)

**Marina Bay Sands, Singapore** There aren't many contemporary buildings that 12 years on still look as audacious and arresting as the day they were built. But thanks to a visionary design by Israeli-Canadian architect Moshe Safdie, Marina Bay Sands still resembles an ambitiously futuristic artist's impression.. See [marinabaysands.com](http://marinabaysands.com)

**Bisate Lodge, Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda** There are few things as exhilarating as trekking with gorillas. Coming home to Bisate Lodge afterwards comes close. Each room, set on a ridge line above the landscape and resembling a woven basket, has curved walls, magnificent views, and a volcanic stone fireplace. See [wilderness-safaris.com](http://wilderness-safaris.com)

**Hotel Borgo San Felice, Tuscany, Italy** Few other hotels boast a Romanesque chapel and mediaeval olive press. The atmosphere is rustic but terracotta and stone interiors are enlivened with rich fabrics and Tuscan furnishings. See [relaischateaux.com](http://relaischateaux.com)

**THE WINNER: Taj Lake Palace, India**



*Taj Lake Palace is fashioned entirely from marble in the Mughal style.*

## THE BEST BREAKFAST

**Palace Hotel, Tokyo, Japan** There's a Western-style buffet here but you would be crazy to go past the set meal of traditional offerings: a piece of perfectly grilled fish, seasonal condiments, salted plum and pickles, miso soup, rice and toasted nori. Perfection. See [en.palacehoteltokyo.com](http://en.palacehoteltokyo.com)

**Crown Sydney, Australia** Nine open kitchens, serving everything from omelettes and waffles to curries and dumplings; an enormous selection of fresh fruit and juices; the maple glazed gammon; the salted egg custard buns; the heavenly chocolate croissants. The defence rests. See [crownhotels.com.au](http://crownhotels.com.au)

**Hotel Metropole, Monte Carlo, Monaco** Forget the breakfast buffet and say hello to the breakfast trolley, laden with delights including half a dozen different types of bread, cheeses, fruits and cold cuts. It gets even better with a choice of hot chocolate.



cold cuts. It gets even better with a choice of hot chocolate ("French or Italian style, madam?") and hard-boiled eggs that arrive in silver egg cups, already peeled. See [metropole.com](http://metropole.com)

**Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi, India** Is it the lentil-stuffed masala dosa or finger millet-style ragi dosa or the medu vada (deep-fried lentil dumpling)? There's no wrong answer in this deeply ambrosial establishment. See [tajhotels.com](http://tajhotels.com)

**Hotel Chateau Monfort Milan, Italy** Custard-filled croissants, hazelnut cake, sponges and biscuits induce a sugar coma though you can have to-order hot dishes too. Every ingredient is top quality, from the finest Parma ham to the coffee served in silver pots. See [relaischateaux.com](http://relaischateaux.com)

**THE WINNER: Hotel Metropole, Monte Carlo, Monaco**



Hotel Metropole Monte Carlo.



Oct 14 2022

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## Recommended

Outbrain



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