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GOLD LIST

The Best Hotels and Resorts in the World: The Gold List 2024

Our global editors across four continents share their favorite places to stay and ships to sail.

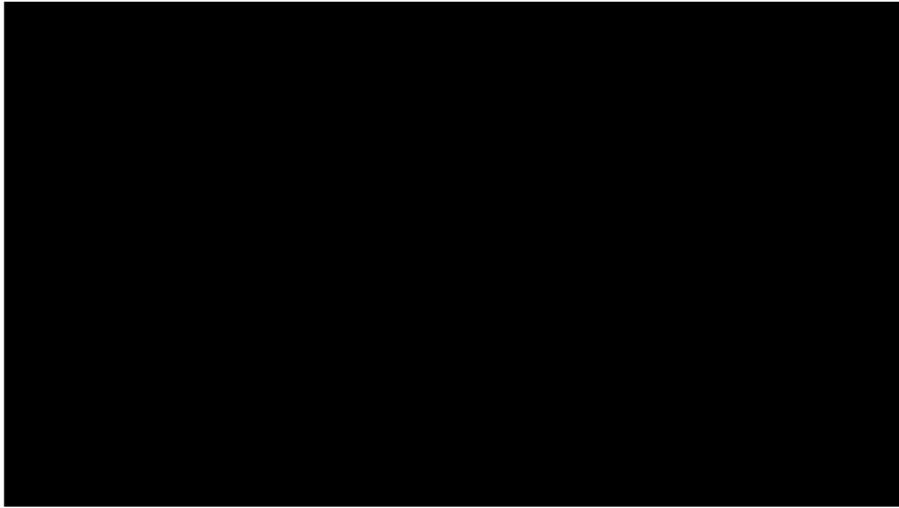
BY CNT EDITORS

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Consider Gold List the answer to the question our editors get asked more than any other: What are your favorite places to stay? Our 30th annual iteration of the world's greatest hotels and cruises captures nearly a year's worth of work: This collection of 75 resorts and hotels represents hundreds of hours of researching, scouting, and impassioned debating by our team of editors in seven cities across the globe. But more than that, it reflects our ongoing love affair with the places where we stay, which often become our gateways to entire destinations. Read on to inspire your next trip.



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Africa and the Middle East



Natelee Cocks/Bab al Shams

Bab al Shams – Dubai

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Bab Al Shams reveals herself slowly, her sandstone exterior—an ode to traditional Emirati forts half-hidden by friendly date palms and sand dunes. In a city that so often leans into excess, the

further rooms, and a new conservatory restaurant and Palm bar. Hotel Union Øye now feels altogether younger and fresher, ready for the next generation of inspirationalists to explore the fjords and high mountains right on its doorstep. *From \$302. —Pamela Goodman*

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Mexico, Central, and South America



Edgardo Contreras/Belmond



Edgardo Contreras/Belmond

Casa de Sierra Nevada, A Belmond Hotel – Mexico

The babble of a courtyard fountain, a breeze that shoulders its way through stone arches: Casa de Sierra Nevada, A Belmond Hotel is an unquestionably sensory experience. But the more elemental charms of this historical marvel, whose 17th- and 18th-century buildings are scattered across [San Miguel de Allende's](#) Centro district, are only part of its allure; the rest it owes to the human touch. I arrived at my suite—a corner unit cleaved from a former mansion—to find my wedding portrait set into a carved tin frame; one afternoon, I returned to find textured strips of paper on my reading stack—bookmarks. Chef Alejandra Puente told me about her daughter as we contemplated fresh avocados at the local market, gathering up the bounty we would need for my private cooking class. This is hospitality at its finest. *From \$630. —Betsy Blumenthal*

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Cirqa

Cirqa, Relais & Chateaux – Arequipa, Peru

In Peru's city of **Arequipa**—where colonial archways and bright white volcanic stone make the White City especially easy on the eyes—Cirqa is an extension of this unassuming yet elevated aesthetic. The 11-room boutique is set in a former monastery, which dates back to 1540 (the same year that Arequipa was founded), and that history whispers to guests at every turn: from the moment you knock on the discreet wrought-iron door to enter; as you are guided through dimly lit halls with barreled ceilings and candles flickering in the corners; and when you emerge into a hushed, light-filled courtyard, temporarily removed from the throbbing city center just outside Cirqa's walls. The rooms, meanwhile, boast gaping arched windows, free-standing tubs in some, and soothing modern designs. Nothing here agitates. On the terrace, alpaca fur is slung over washed wood chairs, while over at the restaurant, crisp white wines are always being proffered, and Arequipeño flavors like crayfish and rocoto pepper play alongside fresh produce from the valley. But after a day of climbing nearby volcanoes or embarking on fascinating art history tours, nothing calls like that sapphire dipping pool in the courtyard, traditionally called *pozas*. Suffice to say, Cirqa is in a league of its own among Arequipa's hotels—but very much in-line with its sister outposts from the same Peruvian team, which include five-star darlings **Titilaka** (in Puno) and **Atemporal** (in Lima). *From \$450. —Megan Spurrell*

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Giorgia Ascolani

“I don't think there is a hotel pool anywhere that rivals Copacabana's. The bossa nova music, the ice cream cart, and that gorgeous slip of blue may just be the chicest place in Rio.” —*Erin Florio, Executive Editor*

“Brazilian architecture firm Ivan Rezende Arquitetura oversaw more than 600 craftspeople to meticulously restore the hotel's Copacabana Palace Theatre a few years back. The whole place drips with glamor.” —*Sarah James, Deputy Digital Editor*