



# The Best Hotels in South America ✓



South America's hotels are as varied as the vibrant cultures that call this continent home. From treeshouses nestled in the Colombian jungle to a Portuguese colonial-style hotel a stone's throw from the famed Iguazu waterfalls, you have your pick of the litter when choosing a hotel in South America. There's the historic and newly renovated **Copacabana Palace** in Brazil, which singlehandedly transformed Copacabana Beach into the chic destination it is today. In Peru, a **16th-century monastery turned hotel** promises a calm serenity within its ancient walls. In Argentina's famed Mendoza region, the line between hospitality and oenology blurs with luxury villas **tucked amongst rolling vineyards**. If you're South America-bound, look no further than these seven dreamy accommodations.



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© COURTESY OF BIO HABITAT HOTEL

## BIO Habitat Hotel

QUINDÍO, COLOMBIA

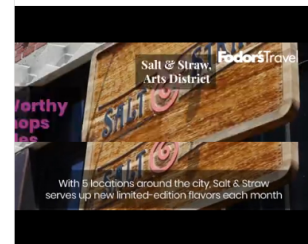
Its beautiful location in the heart of Colombia's Coffee Triangle means **BIO Habitat Hotel** ticks all the boxes for relaxation before you've even checked in. Surrounded by the lush greenery of the Andean forests, this sustainably led hotel fuses sleek, modern structures with locally sourced materials and environmental consciousness.

Check into one of the treehouse-like Bio Loft Suites, suspended among the treetops, where you'll wake up to the sweet singsong sounds of tropical birds each morning. Each suite features floor-to-ceiling windows with breathtaking views of the forest canopy and the peaks of the Andes. Or, for a more immersive experience, stay in one of BIO Habitat's cabins, where you can stargaze from your own outdoor hot tub.

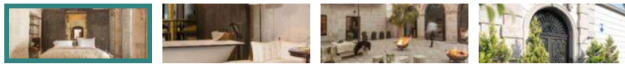
Dining-wise, expect a farm-to-table affair with an emphasis on fresh, local ingredients at El Mirador, which serves up Colombian classics with a modern twist. Its tranquil location, hidden in the jungle,

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COURTESY OF CIRQA

## Cirqa

AREQUIPA, PERU

Once you pass through the tall double doors of Arequipa, Peru's Cirqa, you're engulfed by a kind of contemplative quiet you'd think impossible so close to the city's main square, Plaza de Armas. Placards along the entrance hallways depict this building's history: the property first served as a monastery in the 16th century and, once turned into a hotel, was designed to accentuate the original design, with vaulted ceilings and the white volcanic stone walls emblematic of Arequipa. Cirqa is all about understated elegance—gray and charcoal accents in the common areas complement, rather than overpower, the parador's architecture. Inside each of the uniquely decorated rooms, stylish, tailor-made furniture blurs the line between the ancient and contemporary worlds.

Amenities include a plunge pool in the center courtyard, a massage room, and the attentive service provided by staff members who wear long, black cloaks in the chilly Arequipenean mornings. Guests can gather in Cirqa's Salón or Terraza spaces to enjoy regional dishes presented by Executive Chef Maria Fé García or spend time on El Techo de Cirqa, a rooftop hideout designed like a traditional road stop with views of the UNESCO World Heritage city and the volcanoes that preside over it.



by Zanny Steffen

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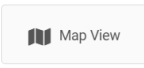
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COURTESY OF COPACABANA PALACE

## Copacabana Palace, A Belmond Hotel, Rio de Janeiro

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

Originally built by the French architect Joseph Cires to mirror the hotels that line the French Riviera



© COURTESY OF HOTEL SOL Y LUNA

# Sol y Luna

URUBAMBA, SACRED VALLEY, PERU

In the middle of the Sacred Valley in Peru lies a Relais & Chateaux collection of *casitas*, little houses in Spanish, where you can go horseback riding in the morning and lounge in the pool all afternoon. Book one of the five Premium Casitas, and you'll have your own little heated outdoor pool. All 43 luxury casitas have their own patio and garden area, with the property's lush greenery affording complete privacy.

**Sol y Luna** is an easy day trip to the famous Inca ruins at Machu Picchu, Ollantaytambo, and Pisac, though the property is so beautiful you may not be inclined to do many day trips. The Yacu Wasi spa uses locally grown medicinal herbs for a fusion of modern indulgence and traditional Andean healing. The hotel's Killawasi Restaurant is fine dining indoors by a lovely fireplace or outdoors poolside. The Rancho Wayra Restaurant is a casual affair near the stables, where you can try *Pachamanca* (meat and vegetables baked underground) while watching an afternoon horse show.

You would never guess this dazzling property was an afterthought, but it was created to support the pre-existing **Sol y Luna Foundation**. The foundation works with children in need by providing housing, meals, a school, and scholarships for higher education.

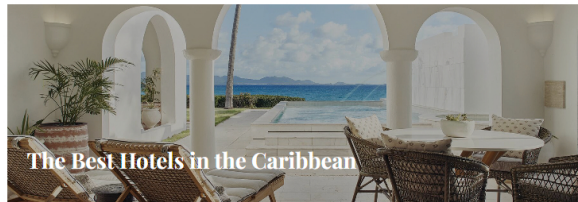
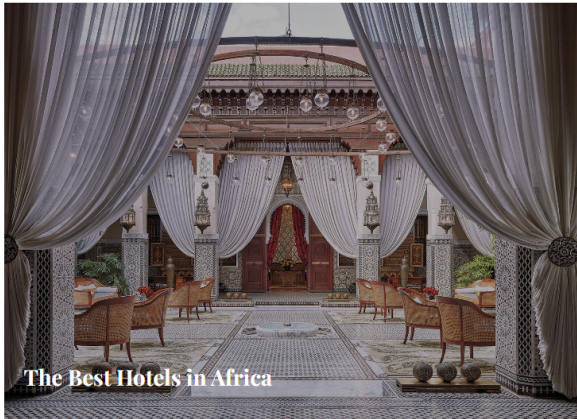


by Heather Jasper

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