



HOTELS + RESORTS

It List 2020: Our Editors' Picks of the Best New Hotels in the World

By [Travel + Leisure Editors](#) | Published on February 19, 2020



PHOTO: COURTESY OF CAMISSA HOUSE

A great hotel offers more than merely a place to rest your head and stow your stuff between sightseeing excursions. [A truly standout property](#) can offer new insight into a beloved place; bring fresh energy to a been-there, done-that neighborhood; even become a destination in its own right. That's why we here at T+L spend months obsessively tracking [new openings](#) and major overhauls, consulting our trusted network of travel pros and jetsetting writers, and traversing the globe in search of the most memorable, game-changing hotels of the year for our annual It List.

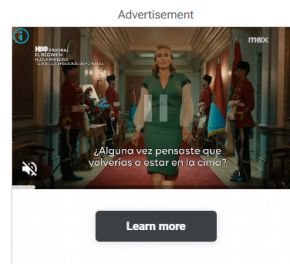
This year, our guide to the essential openings (and reopenings) of the past year took us to 32 countries in pursuit of the unforgettable. Over the course of 2019, T+L writers and editors have trekked to a remote West Texas escape that feels like a supersize Donald Judd sculpture, hooked trout at a fly-fishing retreat in remote Patagonia, and soaked in the spring-fed baths of a Taiwan resort until their fingers went pruned — tough work, but we're just *that committed* to the cause. This isn't merely a list of the most high-end resorts, nor is it a who's-who of major [hotel chains](#), though you'll find both splurgey stays and familiar brands in the mix. Instead, we've aimed to showcase the properties that are at the top of their game and adding something new to the conversation, whether they're century-old stalwarts fresh off a major reno or intimate family-run boutiques that hit the sweet spot between hotel hospitality and vacation-rental hominess.

Ahead, you'll find a stay for every style and mood. There's a Loire Valley chateau, reborn as a grande dame for the modern era. A sleek beach retreat in Asbury Park challenges the notion that the Jersey Shore is merely a regional summer hang for the tri-state area, and in Queens, the converted TWA terminal has thrown down the gauntlet for airport hotels the world over. We've got end-of-the-world escapes in Bolivia and Namibia, chic city hotels in Cape Town and the UAE, and wellness resorts that will suit both hardcore health nuts and the merely spa-curious. Read on for all 72 properties on the 2020 It List — your next vacation spot awaits.

Edited by Lila Harron Battis & John Wogan

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PHOTO: CHARISSA FAY

It's fair to say Costa Rica has nothing else like [Nayara Tented Camp](#), the 31-suite eco-retreat that opened in December near sister properties Nayara Gardens and Nayara Springs. Floating on stilts among the treetops, these are tents in name only: fully climate controlled, with wood floors, king size canopy beds, freestanding tubs in the marble bathrooms, and two-headed outdoor showers. Handloomed rugs, leather-strap chairs, and a steamer trunk reimagined as a fold out bar allude to colonial-era safari lodges. Yet the effect is lighter, airier—not least because of the tents' sheer size and the wall of glass that opens onto the private deck, where a spring-fed plunge pool hovers between 82 and 94 degrees. From that lofty perch one can gaze across the canopy of trees to the water's source: the steep charcoal slopes of Arenal Volcano. But the star attraction is the enveloping green and all that dwells within it. A simple walk to breakfast is soundtracked by the chatter of parrots, the thrum of hummingbirds, the *hhwwaaammpp* of howler monkeys. Orchids and heliconia seem to bloom as you watch. That's just on the property itself—beyond the gates, the rain-forested expanse of Arenal Volcano National Park contains countless bird species, rivers, waterfalls, and the near-perfect cone for which it was named. *Doubles from \$1,200.* — Peter Jon Lindberg

PHOTO: ANDREW HARRIS

Cirqa — Arequipa, Peru



PHOTO: COURTESY OF CIRQA ©

The layers of history embedded in the white sillar rock of this 1583 building add character to the new 11-room Relais & Châteaux hotel, nestled in a narrow street at the heart of the colonial city of Arequipa. The décor at [Cirqa](#) epitomizes organic luxury; each of its rooms is uniquely outfitted with sculptural wooden furnishings, linens in earthy hues, and contemporary fixtures; superior rooms have standing bathtubs and barrel-vaulted ceilings. Cocktails and alfresco meals are served on the arched lounge patio, with its alpaca-throw-laden sofas and pit fires; follow the terrace and you'll come to a glass-walled restaurant nestled alongside a wine cellar and smaller private dining area. The cuisine is fresh and Peruvian-inspired, featuring dishes like river crayfish ceviche and yellow chili quinotto. The ambiance is appropriately meditative and peaceful for a place that was once a monastery, and it would be easy to breeze through a stay alternating between dips in the plunge pool, expert massages, and sunset cocktails on the soon-to-open rooftop bar — but you'd be remiss to skip the singular discoveries to be had on one of the property's bilingual guided tours. *Doubles from \$370.* —Juliana A. Saad

EUROPE

August — Antwerp, Belgium



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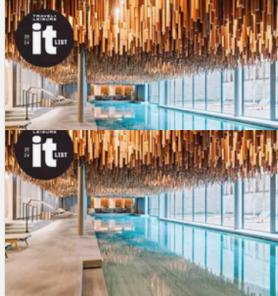
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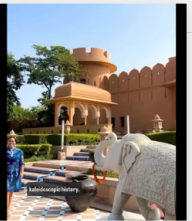
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