

VOTE & WIN LUXE HOTEL STAYS: READERS' TRAVEL AWARDS 2015

Condé Nast Traveller

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SPA RESORT,
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50
BEST NEW
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IN THE
WORLD

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SHORT TRIPS
YOU'LL LOVE

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Where to stay

Our picks in ★ Kochi ★ New York ★ Jaipur

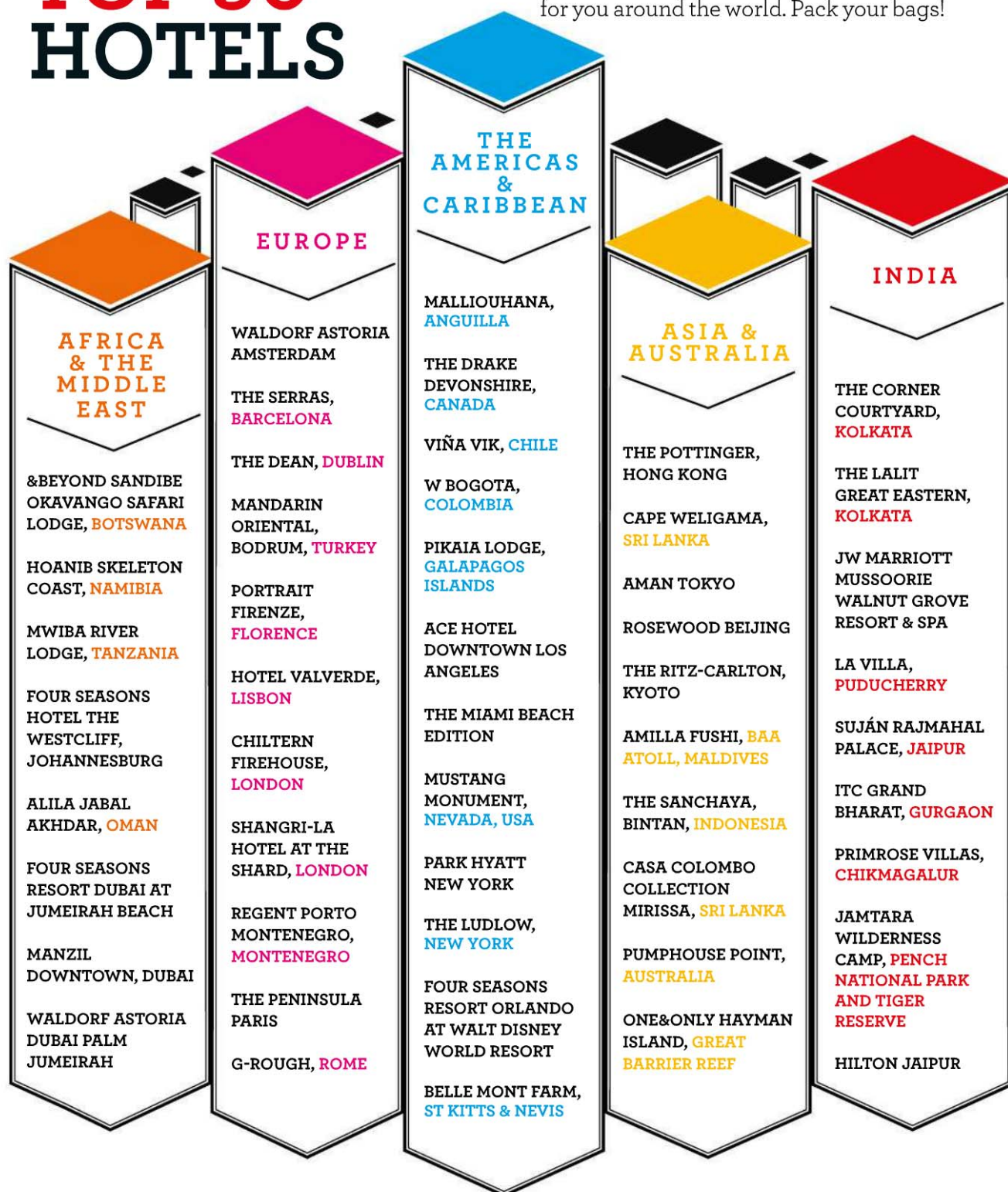
HOT

LIST

2015

THIS YEAR'S TOP 50 HOTELS

A wild horse sanctuary and eco-resort (USA), a converted hydro-electric pump house (Australia) and a royal residence (India) are just three of 50 plush new cribs we've found for you around the world. Pack your bags!



Where to stay

MUSTANG MONUMENT, Nevada, USA

The crazy-beautiful brainchild of glamorous philanthropist Madeleine Pickens, Mustang Monument is every horse-lover or wannabe cowboy's idea of heaven. Originally dreamed up as a sanctuary for 650 wild horses destined for slaughter, it's now a working ranch resort. A good 2.5 hour drive from Salt Lake City, it's in the real Wild West, and comes with its own 'Number 1 Cowboy', Clay Nannini, your guide for all things equine. **CNT TIP:** Skip the cottages and go glamping. Book one of the teepees, which comes with a modern bathroom. (www.mustangmonument.com; teepees from US\$1,200 or ₹76,000 for a minimum of four nights; cottages from US\$1,600 or ₹1,01,800)

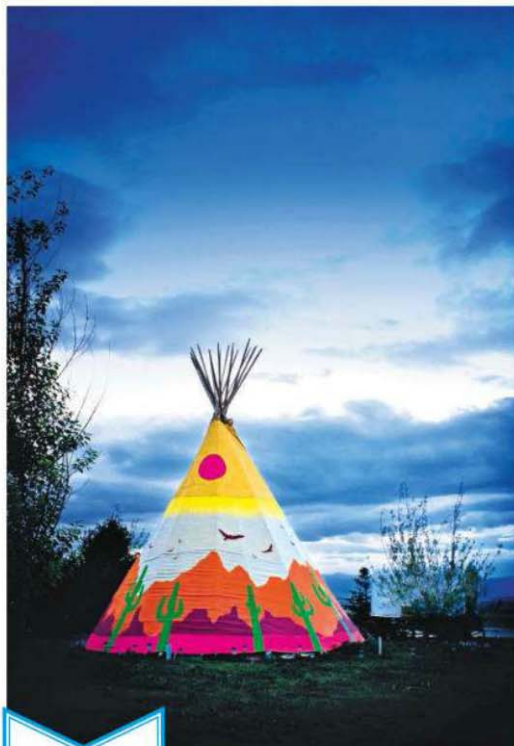
FOUR SEASONS RESORT ORLANDO AT WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT, Florida, USA

Channeling Florida's sunshine into a staggering 443 rooms, this hotel gives Orlando a new reason to be called the home of the Magic Kingdom. After a day of walking around the massive Epcot theme park and riding roller coasters, nurse your sore feet and back by soaking in a warm bath. Later, let the on-site activities centre handle your kids while you head off to the spa or the Tom Fazio-designed golf course, which make it a holiday for everyone.

CNT TIP: Dinner on the 17th floor, at Capa, is a pretty spectacular affair. Book a table that'll situate you enviably close to the daily fireworks as well. (www.fourseasons.com; doubles from US\$450 or ₹28,500)

MALLIOUHANA, Anguilla

Using a playful design sensibility and a sunny palette of robin's-egg blue and warm coral, this clifftop retreat has had a brilliant revamp. The umbrellas around the new two-level infinity pool look like yellow hibiscus blossoms, and nautical flags cover the locker doors in the spa, which has moved to a beautifully landscaped part of the resort. **CNT TIP:** Order the lobster and conch pizza at the resort's restaurant, run by Jeremy Bearman, formerly of New York's Michelin-starred Rouge Tomate. (www.malliouhana.com; doubles from XCD1,260 or ₹29,900)



Above: A teepee at Mustang Monument

BELLE MONT FARM, St Kitts & Nevis

The 42-room Belle Mont Farm opened last December, almost 1,000ft up the rainforested flanks of northern St Kitts. Tremendous views of neighbouring St Eustatius are the first point of wow, closely followed by the refined one-bedroom guest houses created by star landscape architect Bill Bensley, who has fashioned foliage-rich megahotels in Asia (Four Seasons Langkawi and The Oberoi, Mauritius, for example). Here Caribbean keynotes such as wood-shingled roofs and tropical paintings perfectly complement the New Caribbean menu that includes dishes like cinnamon-braised goat loin.

CNT TIP: The property's on a 400-acre organic farm, so head out and try your hand at picking produce. (www.bellemontfarm.com; doubles from XCD4090 or ₹97,300)

PIKAIA LODGE, Galapagos, Ecuador

Between the forest and the sea, swathed in mist on occasion, resplendent in bright Pacific light otherwise, is this astonishingly cool hotel balanced on the rim of an extinct volcano. The design is startling: wood, glass and steel

beams make the structure resemble a coastguard lookout. Staying here is a beguiling and atmospheric experience: the views of the shore and the sea are peerless; Darwin's finches hop about on the paths; giant tortoises forage where they please. Directed draughts remove the need for air-conditioning or powered ventilation, and the proximity to nature and its many moods can be eerie one moment and heavenly the next. **CNT TIP:** Make use of the lodge's two yachts; the full miracle of the Galapagos is guaranteed by profusions of birds, sea life and iguanas only a short cruise away. (www.pikaialodgegalapagos.com; doubles from US\$7560 or ₹4,81,420, for a minimum three-night stay)

VIÑA VIK, Millahue, Chile

Imagine riding on horseback through a vineyard, stopping to picnic and sampling fine Chilean reds. Or hiking through the hills during the day and dining with a view of the Andes. This would be your average day at Viña Vik, a new retreat, perched atop a hill in an 11,000-acre vineyard. You can also lounge by the pool that appears suspended over a valley, or spoil yourself silly at the spa where treatments use grapes grown in the vales below. These are hard decisions to make. We understand.

CNT TIP: Early-bird online bookings get a discount of up to 15 percent. (www.vikhotels.com; doubles from CL\$7,28,034 or ₹75,000, including horseback riding and wine tastings)

W BOGOTA, Colombia

After decades of strife, the capital of this South American country is slowly gaining a different kind of fame—as the capital of Latino cool. The opening of the W is only the most recent example. Inspired by the local legend of El Dorado, whose name means, 'the gilded one', the décor of the 168 rooms is dramatic: marble and black meet shiny rain showers and mesmerising city views. **CNT TIP:** Your four-legged family member will not just be welcomed, but thoroughly pampered, with litter boxes and wee pads, birthday cakes and toys. (www.starwoodhotels.com; doubles from US\$290 or ₹18,500)→

TEXT: AVESHA ALEEM; NIGEL TISDALL; PRASAD RAMAMURTHY; HORATIO CLARE; VICTORIA HIGGINS