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TRAVEL + LEISURE

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IT LIST 2015 The Best New Hotels in the World



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THE IT LIST

There are great new hotels, and then there are game changers. For our 10th annual editors' choice awards, we picked the 43 properties that are transforming their destinations, shining a spotlight here on the 11 most remarkable newcomers.

Read about all the winners at tandl.me/itlist.

2015



The winery at Alexander and Carrie Vik's estate in Millahue, Chile, looks like a concrete-and-glass spaceship touched down amid the lush hills of Chilean wine country, a bit of architectural audacity that is matched by Viña Vik, the retreat they added on the hillside above it last fall. The swirl of titanium that marks its roofline, the room-size Anselm Kiefer in the lounge, the 22 artist-designed rooms (one a trompe l'oeil wonderland, with a riot of azulejo tiles)—the whole place is a feast for the eyes, and thrilling in its originality. A great wine-country hotel doesn't always put you in the middle of the most interesting *terroir*, but this one does: the nearby wineries of the Colchagua Valley are turning out some great vintages, so oenophiles will find plenty to keep them happily occupied. vik.cl \$\$\$\$\$

EDITED BY JENNIFER FLOWERS AND NIKKI EKSTEIN



DESIGN STAR

EL BLOK
VIEQUES,
PUERTO RICO

The term *design hotel* gets tossed around indiscriminately these days, so it's refreshing when a property truly merits the distinction. Such is the case at El Blok, the Caribbean's most stylish new lodgings, on the quiet Puerto Rican island of Vieques. The materials—colorful cement tiles, rubber-and-concrete lamps from Dutch designer Renate Vos, a 25-foot single piece of almond wood that forms the bar—show off the

gorgeous imperfection of the handmade, while perforated concrete louvers shield guest rooms from the afternoon sun and create Matisse-like shadows on the floors. Downstairs, the curves and ovals of the reception area intuitively lead guests to the bar, which faces the beach across the street and flows into the lively open-air restaurant, headed by Jose Enrique, Puerto Rico's star chef. elblok.com \$\$\$



ECO-PIONEER

PIKAIYA LODGE
GALÁPAGOS
ISLANDS,
ECUADOR

Luxury in the Galápagos Islands took an evolutionary leap with the debut of Pikaia Lodge, the archipelago's first carbon-neutral five-star resort. The setting is spectacular: set along a plateau on Santa Cruz Island, its 14 rooms put the entire lush valley and Pacific coastline on display through floor-to-ceiling windows. But what's most remarkable is that it exists at all. For decades, tourism in the Galápagos has been ruled by boats with rigid itineraries, but Pikaia lets you see the islands by both land and sea (the property owns and operates a private 100-foot yacht), a combination that allows guests to explore with fewer emissions and greater flexibility, whether snorkeling with sea lions or visiting an organic coffee farm. pikaialodge.com. \$\$\$\$\$

FROM TOP: ANNIE SCHLECHTER (8); COURTESY OF PIKAIYA LODGE



If there's one tropical island we'd fly 5,000 miles for this year, it's Tetiaroa, the speck of French Polynesia that Marlon Brando bought in the 1960s. The late actor's private refuge, a 20-minute flight from Tahiti, has been breathtakingly reimagined as the Brando, a conservationist's Eden. Each of the 35 ultra-private villas (the smallest is 1,000 square feet) was constructed with sustainable local wood, is cooled by seawater-powered air-conditioning, and faces its own secluded beach. There's a palm-shaded spa and a long list of naturalist-guided activities, but the point of the Brando is to do as Brando did: go into hiding, if only for a week. *thebrando.com*; all-inclusive; three-night minimum. \$\$\$\$



IT LIST 2015

For reviews and photos of all 43 winners, visit tandl.me/itlist.

FAR-FLUNG FANTASIES

- Alila Jabal Akhdar** Oman
- Cape Weligama** Sri Lanka
- Norden Camp** Gansu, China
- Vana Malsi Estate** Uttarakhand, India
- Viña Vik** Millahue, Chile
- Vines Resort & Spa** Mendoza, Argentina

DESIGN STARS

- Adler Mountain Lodge** Dolomites, Italy
- El Blok** Vieques, Puerto Rico
- Temple Hotel** Beijing

ECO-PIONEER

- Pikaia Lodge** Galápagos Islands, Ecuador

SAFARI SHAKE-UPS

- Namiri Plains** Tanzania
- Sandibe Okavango Safari Lodge** Botswana
- Wilderness Safaris Hoanib**
- Skeleton Coast Camp** Namibia

INSTANT CLASSICS

- Aman Tokyo**
- Four Seasons Resort** Orlando, Florida
- The Norman** Tel Aviv
- Park Hyatt** New York
- The Peninsula** Paris
- Raffles** Istanbul
- Ritz-Carlton** Kyoto
- Rosewood** Beijing
- Shangri-La Hotel at the Shard** London

INDIE DARLINGS

- Drake Devonshire Inn** Prince Edward County, Ontario
- Hotel La Semilla** Playa del Carmen, Mexico
- La Villa** Pondicherry, India

SCENE MAKERS

- Miami Beach Edition** Florida
- Thompson Miami Beach**
- 25hours Hotel Bikini** Berlin

NEW URBANISTS

- American Trade Hotel & Hall** Panama City
- Ham Yard Hotel** London

STYLE SETTERS

- Andaz Peninsula Papagayo Resort** Costa Rica
- Belle Mont Farm** St. Kitts
- Hotel Sahrai** Fez, Morocco
- Sublime Comporta** Portugal
- Waldorf Astoria** Amsterdam

COMEBACK QUEENS

- Four Seasons Hotel The Westcliff** Johannesburg, South Africa
- Hôtel Plaza Athénée** Paris
- Malliouhana, an Auberge Resort** Anguilla
- One&Only Hayman Island** Australia
- Shelborne Wyndham Grand** South Beach Miami

A-LIST ESCAPES

- The Brando** French Polynesia
- Maalifushi by Como** Maldives
- Sanchaya** Bintan Island, Indonesia