

**TRAVEL CONFIDENTIAL**

THE NAKED TRUTH—FROM GUIDES, WAITERS, MAIDS, FLIGHT ATTENDANTS, AND MORE

# Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

MAY 2013

## HOT LIST 154 BEST NEW HOTELS IN THE WORLD

INCLUDING 62 UNDER \$300

PLUS

35 BLISSFUL SPAS

**AUSTRALIA'S  
SEXIEST CITY**  
(NO, IT'S NOT SYDNEY)

**BRAZIL'S  
SWEETEST BEACH**  
(A REAL BEAUTY IN BAHIA)

**NEW YORK'S  
NEW RIVIERA**  
(THRILLS ON THE WATERFRONT)



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# Hot HOTELS

## Hot LIST EXTRAS

LOOK FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS THROUGHOUT THESE PAGES:

### THE HOTTIES

Thirteen hotel details we loved this year. Starting on page 71.

### THE PREDICTORS

A designer, architect, restaurateur, spa maven, and hotshot Hollywood director (turned hotelier) on what's next for luxury lodging. Starting on page 80.

### THE INNOVATION REPORT

Four hotels, from New York to Stockholm, that are making their own rules. Starting on page 100.



DOWNLOAD OUR DIGITAL EDITION FOR A STUNNING PHOTO PORTFOLIO OF THIS YEAR'S 23 HOTTEST PROPERTIES—THEN VISIT [CONDENASTTRAVELER.COM/HOTLIST](http://CONDENASTTRAVELER.COM/HOTLIST) FOR PHOTOS OF EVERY HOTEL, STANDOUTS FOR FOOD AND HISTORY, AND A WHOLE LOT MORE. SEE PAGE 14 FOR DETAILS.

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Dorado Beach, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, Dorado

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#### 100 SINGAPORE

W Singapore-Sentosa Cove, Singapore

#### 100 SLOVENIA

Vander Urbani Resort, Ljubljana

#### 100 SOUTH AFRICA

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Adahan, Istanbul  
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Inn at the Presidio, San Francisco, California  
Mandarin Oriental, San Francisco, California  
James Royal Palm, Miami Beach, Florida  
St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort, Miami Beach, Florida  
SLS Hotel South Beach, Miami Beach, Florida  
Nantucket Hotel & Resort, Nantucket, Massachusetts  
Wythe Hotel, Brooklyn, New York  
Conrad, New York, New York  
The NoMad, New York, New York  
21c Museum Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio  
The Attwater, Newport, Rhode Island  
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Heywood Hotel, Austin, Texas

#### 116 VIETNAM

InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort, Danang  
An Lam Saigon River Private Residence, Ho Chi Minh City  
Banyan Tree, Láng Cỏ

HER DRESS BY BRUNELLO CUCINELLI, \$1,460 (BRUNELLO CUCINELLI N.Y.C.); SHOES BY CANFORA, \$180 (CANFORA.COM)



The sumptuous Selman hotel, one of five new properties in Morocco to land on this year's Hot List.

The sumptuous Selman hotel, one of five new properties in Morocco to land on this year's Hot List.

HER DRESS BY BRUNELLO CUCINELLI. \$1,460 (BRUNELLO CUCINELLI N.Y.); SHOES BY CANFARA. \$160 (CANFARA.COM)

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# CHILE

## Hotel Refugia, Chiloé

**AAA The specs:** A 12-room luxury lodge on the Illan Peninsula in northern Patagonia's Chiloé Archipelago. **The look:** Chiloé's iconic palafitos houses inspired this partially stilted wood-shingled structure, which pays tribute to the woodworking mastery of island carvers with original furniture commissioned by the lodge. The earth-tone decor incorporates Chilote textiles made from hand-spun, naturally dyed wool. Views of wild-flower-covered hills and blue sea take in the snowcapped cordillera on the mainland. **The experience:** Well-traveled guests come to this remote adventure lodge for the thrill of discovery, and guides work hard to see that they are not disappointed. There are wetlands to explore on horseback, old-growth forests to hike, and a wooden vessel that navigates the channels and bays, sailing by schools of dolphins and stopping at remote island villages. Meals are exquisite, made from locally farmed or foraged ingredients and served with as much Chilean wine and pisco as you want. **Only:** The weather was more predictable. **The room to book:** No. 1, a corner room, has the best view of the inlet and catches the evening sun (\$6-65-772-080; doubles from \$1,060, all-inclusive). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

## Hangaroa Eco Village & Spa, Easter Island

🔥 562-2957-0300; doubles from \$632. 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

## Surazo, Matanzas

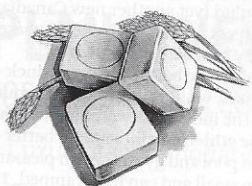
**UNDER \$300** 🔥 56-992-77-87-06; doubles from \$110. 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

## Palacio Astoreca Hotel, Valparaíso

**🔥 The specs:** A newly restored 23-room mansion next to the Fine Arts Museum and the Paseo Yugoslavo in the happening Cerro Alegre neighborhood (known for its nineteenth-century mansions and century-old funicular elevators). Hotel amenities include a piano bar, a spa with a heated pool, and an exceptional restaurant by El Bulli-trained Spanish chef Sergio Barroso. **The look:** In a city of colorful architecture, this 1920s Victorian-style mansion is distinguished by its ornate facade of brick, stucco, and wood painted a fire-engine red with white trim. **The experience:** With the opening of this elegant hotel, arts-and-culture lovers have a luxurious base from which to explore the historic district of this pretty but gritty seaport city, parts of which have been declared a World Heritage Site. Guests are an international mix, many of them on their way to the wine country or the beach. Alegre Restaurant specializes in superb avant-garde seafood dishes. **If only:** The restaurant were open on Mondays, when many dining establishments in town are closed. **The room to book:** No. 14 or 15, third-floor suites with unparalleled views of the bay and the multicolored houses hugging the hillsides (56-32-327-7700; doubles from \$230). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

# Hot HOTELS

## THE HOTTIES



## 5/13 Most Heavenly Bathroom Amenities

The Santa Maria Novella products—the holistic potions and lotions made by friars in Florence since the thirteenth century—found in Palazzo Margherita's guest rooms in Bernalda, Italy.

## 6/13 Most Extravagant Greeting

A salute from the Fairmont Jaipur's colorfully painted elephant, who raises her trunk in a trumpeted welcome as you arrive. Meanwhile, two Rajput horsemen gallop by waving flags as rose petals shower down from the entryway.

## 7/13 Best Environmentally Safe Dental Hygiene Method

The antimicrobial, eco-friendly, and all-natural neem twigs handed out at Lakshman Sagar in Rajasthan, India, with which guests can brush their teeth.

## 8/13 Best Reason to Hold Your Breath

Viennese waltzes piped in underwater for swimmers at the Ritz-Carlton, Vienna's 59-foot pool—an auditory reminder of the city you're splashing through.

## 9/13 Best Way to Warm Your Toes

The stretchy sheep's wool slippers, hand woven by local artisans and given out to guests at the Hotel Refugia in Chiloé, Chile (yes, you can keep them).

# CHINA

**UNDER \$300**

## Four Seasons Hotel, Beijing

**🔥 The specs:** An elegant 313-room tower in the northeast corner of the Central Business District, close to embassies. Amenities include a concierge desk and a business center with secretarial and translation services, both open around the clock. The Sanlitun restaurant and nightlife district is a five-minute taxi ride away. **The look:** A deft blend of Eastern style and Western comforts. The pool area, with its floor-to-ceiling windows and sky-lighted atrium around the whirlpool, is a welcome contrast to Beijing's typically dungeon-like indoor pools. Restaurant Cai Yi Xuan is a chinoiserie fantasy and serves terrific dim sum; the tea room is a glamorous place to sit and sip. **The experience:** This property meets the key requirements of a great urban hotel—a convenient location and unrivaled pampering—with its prime site on the bustling Third Ring Road and service that's a notch above the competition. The elegance is inescapable, including the well-chosen evening cabaret acts. **If only:** The immediate surroundings were more colorful. The more charming main embassy area, with its leafy streets and canals, is on the other side of the Third Ring Road. **The room to book:** A high room on the north side, above the street-level bustle (86-10-5695-8888; doubles from \$297). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

## Four Seasons Hotel, Guangzhou

**🔥 The specs:** A 344-room hotel occupying the top third of the International Finance Center, the tallest building in Guangzhou. **The look:**

Exposed structural columns criss-cross interiors at interesting angles, and rooms surround a stunning triangular atrium and have views of either the Pearl River or the neon-lit city. **The experience:** Guangzhou is shedding its rep as a workaday manufacturing hub, and though the clientele swings toward besuited Chinese business travelers, there's reason to descend from this above-ground lair. Several striking new buildings are within walking distance—Zaha Hadid's opera, Guangzhou's main library, and the Guangdong Museum—and the hotel has complimentary loaner bikes for jaunts along the Pearl. The impeccable service surpasses the standards of mainland Chinese hotels. **If only:** Views weren't obscured by the pollution-induced haze. **The room to book:** Request one with a view of the slender, curved Guangzhou TV Tower, nicknamed the Woman with the Tiny Waist (86-20-8883-3888; doubles from \$318). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

**UNDER \$300**

## Tai O Heritage Hotel, Hong Kong

🔥 852-2985-8008; doubles from \$219. 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

## Four Seasons Hotel Pudong, Shanghai

🔥 86-21-2036-8888; doubles from \$369. 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

## Twelve at Hengshan, Shanghai

🔥 86-21-3338-3888; doubles from \$481. 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

# COLOMBIA

**UNDER \$300**

## B.O.G Hotel, Bogotá

**🔥 The specs:** A sexy 55-room design hotel on the edge of the vibrant Zona T shopping and



**NO HORSE HEADS HERE**  
Francis Ford Coppola's Palazzo Margherita villa in southern Italy.