

cntraveler.com

Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

MAY 2003

80 best new hotels in the world!

Hot List

(including 27 under \$200 per night)

2003



U.S.A. \$4.50
Foreign/Canada \$5.50



75 top new restaurants from Boston to Beijing

2003
HOT LIST
The List

BEACH

- CARIBBEAN**
Temenos, Anguilla
Curtain Bluff, Antigua
Cap Est Lagoon Resort and Spa, Martinique
- EGYPT**
Four Seasons Resort, Sharm el Sheikh
- ENGLAND**
Hotel du Vin, Brighton
- FRANCE**
Hôtel La Maison Blanche, St-Tropez
- INDONESIA**
The Balé, Bali
- MAURITIUS**
Le Touessrok
- MEXICO**
Esperanza, Cabo San Lucas
Hotel Secreto, Isla Mujeres
Paraiso de la Bonita, Petenpich Bay
- MOZAMBIQUE**
Indigo Bay Island Resort Hotel, Bazaruto Island
- SEYCHELLES**
Banyan Tree, Mahé
- UNITED STATES**
Viceroy, Santa Monica, California
The Sagamore, Miami, Florida
Hotel Hana-Maul, Maui, Hawaii
Turtle Bay Cottages, Oahu, Hawaii

FAR-FLUNG

- LAOS**
Pansea Phou Vao, Luang Prabang
- SOUTH AFRICA**
Jock Safari Lodge, Kruger National Park
Lukimbi Safari Lodge, Kruger National Park
Lynton Hall, KwaZulu-Natal
- SRI LANKA**
Dutch House, Galle
- TAIWAN**
Lalu, Sun Moon Lake
- TANZANIA**
Lake Manyara Tree Lodge, Lake Manyara National Park

OVERWATER

- FRENCH POLYNESIA**
Taha'a Pearl Beach Resort & Spa, Taha'a
- SPAIN**
Grand Marina Hotel, Barcelona
- SWITZERLAND**
Hôtel Palafitte, Lake Neuchâtel
- WORLDWIDE**
The World

RURAL CHIC

- AUSTRALIA**
North Bundaleer, Jamestown
Hatherley House, Launceston
- EGYPT**
Al Moudira, Luxor
- ENGLAND**
Cowley Manor, Cowley
Lugger Hotel, Portlloe
- FRANCE**
Le Temps de Vivre, Roscoff
L'Hôtel Les Ateliers de L'Image, St-Rémy
- ITALY**
Delle Arti Design Hotel, Cremona
- MOROCCO**
Dar Ahlan, Skoura
- NEW ZEALAND**
Point Villas, Lake Taupo
Eschardt's Private Hotel, Queenstown
- SPAIN**
Palacio de San Benito, Cazalla de la Sierra
- SOUTH AFRICA**
Birkenhead House, Hermanus
- UNITED STATES**
Lodge at Torrey Pines, La Jolla, California
Estrella, Palm Springs, California
Lodge at CordeValle, San Martin, California
Ritz-Carlton Bachelor Gulch, Avon, Colorado
The Willcox, Aiken, South Carolina

URBAN

- ARGENTINA**
Sofitel, Buenos Aires
- AUSTRALIA**
Medina Grand Adelaide Treasury, Adelaide
- BELGIUM**
Hotel Amigo, Brussels
- BRAZIL**
Grand Hyatt, São Paulo
Hotel Unique, São Paulo
- CANADA**
Hotel Gault, Montreal
Opus Hotel, Vancouver
- CHINA**
Four Seasons, Shanghai
- CZECH REPUBLIC**
Andel's Hotel, Prague
Hotel Josef, Prague
- ENGLAND**
Quebecs, Leeds
The Dorchester, London
Trafalgar Hilton, London
Knightsbridge Hotel, London
- FRANCE**
Hôtel de la Trémoille, Paris
Park Hyatt Vendôme, Paris
- ITALY**
Exedra, Rome

Grand Hotel Continental, Siena

JAPAN
Four Seasons Hotel Tokyo at Marunouchi, Tokyo

MOROCCO
Jnane Tamsna, Marrakech

POLAND
Hyatt Regency, Warsaw

PORTUGAL
Solar Do Castelo, Lisbon

RUSSIA
Ararat Park Hyatt, Moscow

SOUTH AFRICA
Twelve Apostles, Cape Town

SPAIN
Gran Hotel Domine, Bilbao
Miróhotel, Bilbao

THAILAND
Buddy Lodge, Bangkok

UNITED STATES
Standard Downtown, Los Angeles, California
W, San Diego, California
Delanar, Greenwich, Connecticut
Sofitel Chicago Water Tower, Chicago, Illinois
Hotel Lucia, Portland, Oregon
Hotel Zaza, Dallas, Texas
Hotel Monaco, Washington, D.C.

BRAZIL

Hotel Unique, São Paulo



» You know a hotel is going to be fun when there's a bottle of bubbly waiting at reception.

Shaped like a massive teetering black-granite half-moon studded with port-holes, the 95-room Unique has quickly established itself as a new high-design landmark in this most image-conscious of South American cities. White-on-white guest rooms line wavy black hallways that surround an eight-story atrium. Its crowning glory, however, is an 80-foot rooftop pool: Clad in red tiles and facing Avenida Paulista's skyscrapers, it is lap-perfect and impossibly chic. Up top, you'll also find an outdoor bar for drinks and an indoor restaurant, Skye, for dinner. **When to go:** Late June, during fashion week, when über-model Gisele Bündchen's presence is a given. **Which room to book:** Any of the corner suites (\$5-11-3055-4710; www.hotelunique.com; doubles, \$185-\$295; [E]).

CORDE NAST TRAVELER PRESENTS
The Seventh Annual

Hundreds of hotels open annually. We culled the chic from the shabby. Herewith, your global guide to the year's bumper crop, from Anguilla to Mozambique and from \$46 to \$7,000-plus per night—including 27 under \$200.

The year's **80** top new hotels

2003 HOT LIST

Hotels are like buses—there's always another one coming along. Discerning which of the new to board is the Hot List's raison d'être. This year's record 80 properties span 35 countries and six continents. They range in price from a mere \$46 for one (memorable) night in Bangkok to \$50,000 a week for your own private pleasure dome on Anguilla, and in size from just two villas on a secluded estate fronting New Zealand's largest lake to a plush 470-room São Paulo behemoth that's right at home in the Southern Hemisphere's largest metropolis. In between, there's something for every imaginable taste—so many properties, in fact, that we've organized them by type: beach, fan-fung, overwater, rural chic, and urban. As in previous Hot Lists, our starting point was literally every hotel that opened worldwide during the past year. We then whittled down the list to several hundred of the most promising, all of which were visited by our global network of editors and field reporters—incognito, of course. Of those, a scant 80 made the cut, each an instant classic succeeding on three fronts: look, location, and service. This year, individuality reigned supreme: Even Hyatt, Ritz-Carlton, and Sofitel broke the mold with one-offs that eschewed formula in favor of sui generis. Who says only some like it hot?

Illustration by Bo Lundberg

HOT 2009

EAST

rural chic



SPAIN
Palacio de San Benito,
Cazalla de la Sierra

Checked out for a party March town north of Seville, the Palacio de San Benito looks every bit as ancient as the cathedral. In fact, at five floors the nine-room hotel seems a spontaneous late-19th-century Spanish palace, in fact built with handsome terra-cotta panels of iron. But the real genius of owner Manuel Morales de Jorja—Seville's best-known decorator—is his fusion of traditional mixing of art and style. The book here includes recycled olive-branch and bits and pieces of Spanish Baroque (especially the archaic-dorated lion that overlooks the swimming pool). Neoclassic and Spanish Victorian, and Art Deco—all right down to the white-painted iron in an antique lamp. A sort of warning: Other rich Seville, as we go. Last September through early November for warm days, cool nights, and no crowds. **Which room to book:** balcon, for its fireplace and iron-paneled garden. (34-954-88-1528; www.palaciode-sanbenito.com; double, \$109-\$159)

Palacio de San Benito looks
like a Seville town north of the town cathedral

Photograph by
The Palace of San
Benito, Seville, Spain
by the author