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2024



From estate revivals in Genoa and Baja to extravagant villas in Egypt and Bhutan, *the year's top hotel debuts* are raising the bar with bespoke craftsmanship, garden romance, and all-out escapism.



Abbaye des Vaux-de-Cernay

CERNAY-LA-VILLE, FRANCE

What best pays tribute to a legend? In the case of a 12th-century Cistercian abbey that was dissolved during the French Revolution and later revived by a Rothschild, it's a new life as the apogean French country house hotel. And what a new life it is, thanks to Parisian designer Cordélia de Castellane's dazzling interiors in partnership with Gallic powerhouses like Pierre Frey and Bernardaud.

Palazzo Durazzo Suites ▼

GENOA, ITALY

Talk about a birthday party. Still in the hands of the Durazzo family after 400 years, this Baroque palace takes a new turn as a 12-suite hotel. Architect and co-owner Emanuela Brignone Cattaneo, with Venetian artistic director Cesare Barro, blends the palazzo's historic grace, from terrazzo floors to frescoes, with assured Italian modernity.

At Sloane ▶

LONDON

The French and English really should cooperate more if this is the result. Parisian designer François-Joseph Graf has created a decorative masterpiece, where each of 30 guest rooms features modern classicist elements, along with sumptuous William Morris textiles nodding to the circa 1888 Chelsea townhouse's Arts and Crafts origins.



1, Place Vendôme ◀

PARIS

Yes, it's the address in Paris's *haute joaillerie* epicenter that announces Swiss jeweler and watchmaker Chopard's new *haute hôtellerie* above its boutique. With Les Ateliers Philippe Coudray wallpapers and hand-painted L'Atelier Mériguet Carrère frescoes, its interiors suit the neighborhood's mythology.

Thyme ▲

SOUTHROP, ENGLAND

It's a cultivator's fever dream. On a 150-acre Cotswold estate that ultimately opened as a hotel in 2020, four new Cutting Garden Rooms feature fabrics, wallcoverings, and tabletop pieces inspired by phlox, Sidalcea, and other flowers in the property's cutting garden, along with owner Caryn Hibbert's watercolor paintings of it.

PREVIOUS SPREAD: PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) BILLAL TARIGIT/ THE ABBAYE DES VAUX-DE-CERNAY; ERIC MARTIN/ THE ABBAYE DES VAUX-DE-CERNAY. THIS PAGE: PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT) THYME; GREGORY COPIET/ 1, PLACE VENDÔME; PALAZZO DURAZZO.

Warren Street Hotel

NEW YORK

Kit Kemp leads a veritable joy parade in Tribeca, where the designer's signature textile collection for GP & J Baker overflows with big color and outspoken patterns. It serves as an exuberant companion to knockout commissioned pieces (like Gareth Devonald Smith's floating modernist sculpture in the bar) proclaiming Kemp's zeal for art and craft.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SIMON BROWN / WARREN STREET HOTEL



Raffles Jaipur ▲

JAIPUR, INDIA

Hand-carved from white marble, this newly built palace hotel is a cinematic triumph of Rajasthani architecture and Moghul decorative arts. Each of the 50 rooms and suites is an expression of painted corniced ceilings, camel bone-inlay wooden furniture, and rugs woven in Jaipur. Its gathering spaces are fit for an emperor of any dynasty.

Solar de Vila Meã ►

BARCELOS, PORTUGAL

You can feel the influence of northern Portugal's craft legacy—wicker, pottery, and embroidery—in the 29 rooms of Lisbon-based designer Joana Aranha's colorful revival of a 19th-century family estate turned hotel, with custom clay room numbers, splendid wicker chairs, and bespoke wallpapers based on Portuguese motifs.



The Connaught King's Lodge Suite ◀

LONDON

Connaught designer Guy Oliver has created a new suite in partnership with Turquoise Mountain, a royal charity supporting international artisans. The brilliance of masters from Afghanistan, Jordan, Myanmar, Syria, and India informs the Moghul-inspired rooms, from walnut jali fretwork to delicately carved marble panels.

Pemako Punakha ▲

PUNAKHA, BHUTAN

As if the Himalayas were not spectacular enough. The vision of architect and designer Bill Bensley blends historical vernacular, sensitive landscaping, and serene escapism in the first Bhutanese-owned-and-operated luxury property in the magical Punakha Valley, where tented villas keep company with traditional Bhutanese buildings.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) RAFFLES HOTELS & RESORTS; PEDRO FERREIRA; SOLAR DE VILA MEÃ; PEMAKO; THE CONNAUGHT.

Hotel Al Moudira ▼

LUXOR, EGYPT

For more than 20 years, Zeina Aboukheir's courtyard-studded country house hotel near the Nile has been an insider's hideaway. Now with new ownership (but still guided by her hand), Al Moudira enters a fresh era, and a crop of seven new villas—including one that was Aboukheir's private home, with hand-painted frescoes and colored glass windows—is an expansive showcase of antiques and craft.

Todos Santos Boutique Hotel ▶

BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR, MEXICO

It's rare to make a design splash in one of Mexico's most artful towns, but this superbly restored late 19th-century hacienda captures every glance. Owner Krischa Batarse has eschewed rustic modernism for historic romanticism in a language of crafted furniture, travertine marble, and Nef Espino's murals in each of the 10 guest rooms.



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