



VIRTUOSO LIFE

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The *New* Class

**ELEVEN
HOTELS
THAT
KNOW
HOW TO
MAKE A
DEBUT.**

**BY
SARAH
KHAN**



The Suite Duc de Crillon and its original eighteenth-century woodwork.

round here, we track new hotel openings for sport, and we're calling this year a major win. A whole roster of star hotels opened (or reopened) their doors, introducing us to inspiring interior design, our favorite new meals, and stories about the past – and giving us a few moments of architectural awe. These hotels go beyond providing gateways to explore a destination – they are the destination, places where we can knock back a pale ale with locals, roam the halls of Louis XV's former palace, or float the afternoon away in a cenote. Pack a bag for these showstoppers – and a few more on the horizon.



The Palatial Crowd-Pleaser

When an eighteenth-century Parisian landmark gets a long-overdue four-year reboot, people take notice. The restoration of **Hôtel de Crillon**, a Rosewood Hotel, originally constructed at the command of King Louis XV, called upon royalty of the twenty-first-century sort: Fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld bedecked the two Grands Appartements with his trademark dramatic flair. (The bathtubs alone, each carved from a single slab of Carrara marble, are worth the splurge.) Each one of the 124 rooms and suites keeps the hotel's posh factor high, though, with antique furniture, Italian linens, and marble bathrooms.

A few other reasons Parisians and travelers are heading to Crillon's place de la Concorde address: to lock in an appointment with Sarah Daniel-Hamizi – the city's first female barber – at the newest outpost of her popular La Barbière de Paris, to grab a coveted table for chef Christopher Hache's tasting menu at the 28-seat L'Écrin, and to see and be seen in the glam Les Ambassadeurs lounge, a spot sure to lure a fashionable crowd with the promise of Champagne and caviar. *Doubles from \$1,250, including an upgrade at time of booking (if available), breakfast daily, and a \$100 dining or spa credit.*



La Dolce Vita in Beijing

One of the world's most colorfully chaotic cities added a cool dose of Italian style with the September opening of the **Bulgari Hotel Beijing** in the heart of the Embassy District. Milan-based architecture firm Antonio Citterio and Patricia Viel oversaw the hotel's sleek design, including 119 rooms and suites outfitted with walnut floors, Italian leather furniture, and black granite bathrooms. Outside, gardens designed by landscape maestro Enzo Enea envelop the hotel in a lush oasis that shields it from the capital's bustle.

The hotel introduces guests to the jewelry brand's proclivity for the finer things: Treatments at the 16,000-square-foot spa tap into ancient Chinese healing methods (and guests receive exclusive Bulgari toiletries); northern Italian dishes are served beneath Murano chandeliers at Il Ristorante; and aperitivos go down easy at the oval-shaped Il Bar, on a terrace overlooking the city. Even day trips beyond Bulgari grounds keep it chic – catch a ride to the Great Wall in the hotel's house Maserati. *Doubles from \$500, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.*

TIP

"Beijing's local markets are so much fun for shopping. I recommend the Panjiayuan Market in the Chaoyang District. It's one of the city's largest and has some amazing antique pieces on display."

– Joyce Krichman, Virtuoso travel advisor, La Jolla, California



San Diego's Hip New Hangout

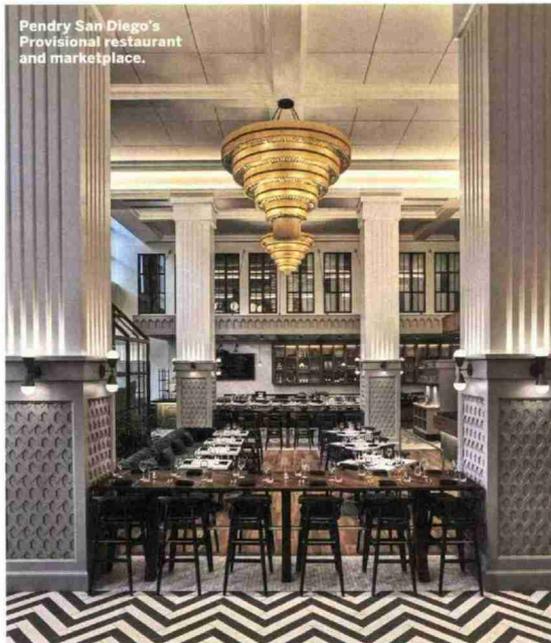
With its February opening, the **Pendry San Diego** brought a whole new level of gloss to the trendy Gaslamp Quarter. The sleek hotel is hard to miss – just keep an eye out for the Ferraris lined up at the valet station. Inside, guests find 317 sunny rooms furnished with Pendleton plaid sofas (a nod to the hotel's surf-inspired theme) and wood-paneled headboards. Its six bars and restaurants help amplify San Diego's booming culinary scene: Local star chef Jose "JoJo" Ruiz's Lionfish is already earning accolades as the city's hottest new restaurant, and Nason's Beer Hall is an essential pit stop for a locally brewed pint and a pillowy pretzel before heading to a Padres game at Petco Park down the street. *Doubles from \$325, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.*

The Wine Country Escape

Northern California's most bucolic new hideaway awaits at **Las Alcobas**, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Napa Valley, overlooking the Beringer Vineyards in the charming town of Saint Helena. At this sister property of Las Alcobas in Mexico City, fans of the original will feel right at home while taking a time-out from wine to sip a Las Alcobas margarita, complete with its signature layer of salty foam. The Yabu Pushelberg-designed property has 68 rooms – many with private terraces and alfresco bathtubs – and is also home to the Acacia House restaurant, where chef Chris Cosentino's plates of Napa Valley-sourced cuisine are as pretty as the farmhouse-inspired setting. *Doubles from \$495, including a welcome bottle of wine, breakfast daily, and a \$100 hotel credit.*

Malibu's Million-Dollar Baby

Chef Nobu Matsuhisa's global domination continues on a seaside stretch of Malibu. Along with an all-star team of investors – including actor Robert De Niro and Oracle CEO Larry Ellison – the restaurateur unveiled a new hotel concept in April: 17-room **Nobu Ryokan Malibu**, a minimalist, Japanese-style hideaway on Carbon Beach. The inn's easy-to-miss gates barely offer a hint of the understated opulence that lies behind: Each room cost more than \$1 million to outfit, with teak soaking tubs, Jerusalem limestone, shoji-screen walls, and cashmere robes. The setting is ideal for yoga, meditation, and surfing, but its location next door to Nobu Malibu invites guests to indulge – at least a little bit. *Doubles from \$2,000, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.*



Pendry San Diego's Provisional restaurant and marketplace.

(LAS ALCOBAS) JASON DEWEY



A guest-room terrace at Napa Valley's Las Alcobas.



Pacific Ocean views at Nobu Ryokan Malibu.



Instagram Envy in Cape Town

There's a good chance you've scrolled past a #bucketlist photo from **The Silo Hotel** on your social media feeds, with its sexy bathtubs set in front of convex glass windows overlooking the harbor or Cape Town's Table Mountain. Each of the 28 rooms at this sky-high hotel has one, along with glittering chandeliers, striking modern art, and bold pops of chartreuse, turquoise, and fuchsia. The hotel, which opened in March, sits atop the new Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa. Above both is a grand slam of a rooftop bar, with a private guests-only section for taking in 360-degree views of the South African city. *Doubles from \$1,161, including breakfast daily and a complimentary 50-minute massage for two.*



Soak in Cape Town from The Silo Hotel.

The Urban Retreat

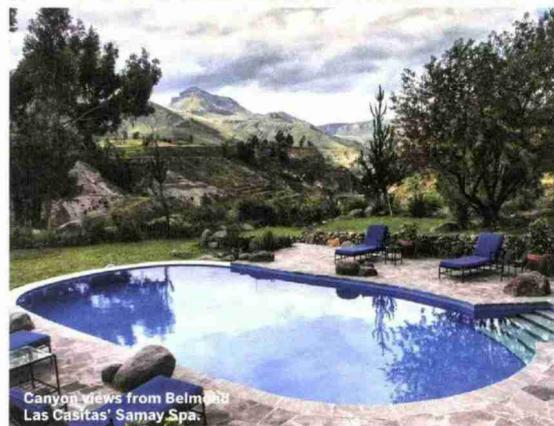
Picture São Paulo, and natural splendor probably isn't the first image that comes to mind. Yet somehow, in the middle of the sprawling Brazilian city, the 141-room **Palácio Tangará** elicits a calm "I'm in the middle of the rain forest" vibe. The neoclassical mansion is surrounded by verdant Bule Marx Park, and ambient noise here comes from hummingbirds and white-tufted-ear marmosets, not car horns and pedestrians. Dining options aim to please too: Jean-Georges Vongerichten's French cuisine at Tangará Jean-Georges marks the chef's first foray into the continent. *Doubles from \$287, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*



Palácio Tangará and its lush surroundings.

A Trek to the Edge

The world's second-deepest canyon makes for an otherworldly backdrop at **Belmond Las Casitas**, a 20-bungalow hideaway near Peru's Colca Canyon. Belmond renovated an existing property, which features private plunge pools, heated floors, and an Inca-inspired spa hidden away in a eucalyptus grove – but the real stars here are the varied options for exploring the canyon terrain. Besides hiking, horseback riding, and feeding the house alpacas, guests can sign up for an Andean condor excursion that takes them trekking through a dormant volcano on a quest to spy the elusive vulture and ends with a chef-prepared brunch. *Doubles from \$600, including breakfast daily and a \$100 spa credit.*



Canyon views from Belmond Las Casitas' Samay Spa.

(BELMOND) WATT CROSSICK/BELMOND

The Sweet Caribbean Getaway

On the lookout for the right opportunity to make a foray into the Caribbean, Park Hyatt found its chance on the beguiling island of Saint Kitts, a place still relatively untrammled compared to its more popular neighbors. Located on secluded, palm-studded Banana Bay, facing the strait that separates the island from Nevis, the 126-room **Park Hyatt St. Kitts** is part of the new Christophe Harbour resort development, home to shops, a marina, and a soon-to-open Tom Fazio-designed golf course.

The resort is modeled after the island's ubiquitous sugar plantations, with whitewashed interiors, colonial-style shutters, and cheerful beachy accents. Some suites have their own decks with private rooftop pools, while all rooms have rainfall showers and soaking tubs. In between sunbathing sessions, book a Watsu therapy session in the nine-room spa, or let the concierge team set up a zip-lining jaunt through the rain forest or a tour of Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site. *Doubles from \$450, including a welcome amenity, breakfast daily, and a \$100 resort credit.*

While Saint Kitts and the Park Hyatt sustained minimal damage from hurricanes Irma and Maria in September, other Caribbean islands were less fortunate. Virtuoso is a member of Tourism Cares, an organization that carries out disaster relief around the world; to support recovery efforts, visit tourismcares.org/disasterrecovery.

"To see Saint Kitts' true laid-back atmosphere, schedule island activities for days when cruise ships aren't docked in the capital of Basseterre. Head to the black-sand beach at Dieppe Bay, then stop by ShipWreck Beach Bar & Grill for fish tacos on your way back to the resort."

**– Christina Beckmann,
Virtuoso travel advisor,
Columbia, South Carolina**



A bright beachfront hideaway at Park Hyatt St. Kitts.



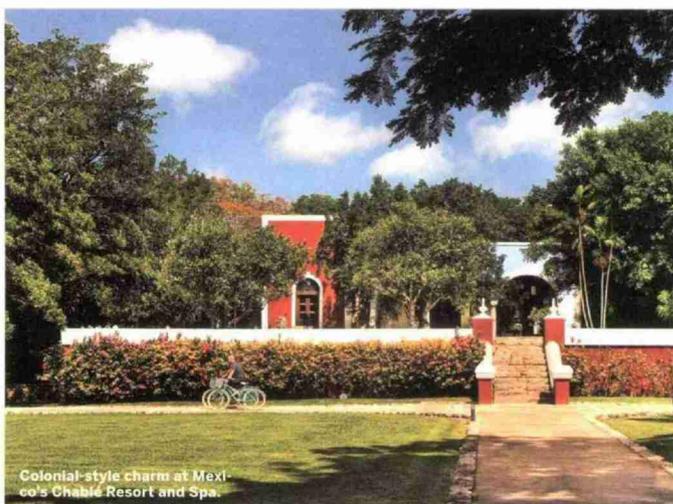
Real Hotels Have Curves

It's been an exciting year for Hamburg: The January opening of the Herzog & de Meuron-designed Elbphilharmonie concert hall drew the world's attention to the German port city's latest design renaissance, a maritime-meets-modern juxtaposition of centuries-old warehouses and sleek steel and glass. Hamburg's latest visually appealing addition doubles as the city's first luxury hotel in decades. **The Fontenay Hamburg**, set to open in December, is the realized vision of renowned local architect Jan Störmer, who created the sinuous building's rippling facade by covering it in white porcelain tiles that echo the surface of adjacent Lake Alster.

The wow factor continues inside, where guests enter a spacious glass atrium before retreating to one of 131 curved-walled guest rooms; the quirky dimensions and near absence of straight lines mean each piece of furniture had to be custom made. The ambitious space also features a 10,000-square-foot spa, a sixth-floor bar with 320-degree lake views, and a rooftop restaurant – all evidence that Germany is poised to welcome one of its most sophisticated hotels yet. *Doubles from \$420, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*

"Don't miss the Elbphilharmonie – Hamburg's answer to the Sydney Opera House – but also check out the surrounding HafenCity, a modern district full of bars and restaurants."

– Rob Clabbers, Virtuoso agency executive, Chicago



Colonial-style charm at Mexico's Chablé Resort and Spa.

The New Wellness Weekend Getaway

Mexico is packed with great spa options, but **Chablé Resort and Spa**, a 45-minute drive from Mérida, stands out thanks to its setting, with 40 casitas spread across 750 acres of forest. The resort's crown jewel is, naturally, its spa, which is tucked away around a cenote and best experienced during the signature Fountain of Youth Journey Flow Ritual, a three-hour treatment that incorporates flotation therapy, massage, and herb-infused salts. Heat up the feel-good factor by adding a *temazcal* ceremony to your personalized wellness program – the shaman-led session claims to cleanse the body through fire, chanting, and tea. *Doubles from \$748, including complimentary airport transfers, breakfast daily, and a \$100 resort credit.*