

# Esquire

A BOOZE SNOB'S  
GUIDE TO  
CANNED COCKTAILS

FROM MONTANA  
TO MADRID:  
The Best New  
Hotels 2023

96 HOURS  
IN AN AMERICAN  
GHOST TOWN

The  
Dangerously  
Charming  
Pedro  
Pascal



*From a ranch in Napa Valley to a wellness  
retreat in Punta Mita, Mexico,*

*here are the places where checking in could*  
**CHANGE YOUR VIEW OF THE WORLD**

the best

NEW

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**YOU CAN ENCOUNTER INSPIRATION IN MANY DIFFERENT FORMS** at a great hotel. It might be as simple as a stunning view. Standing on a balcony at the Maybourne Riviera, on the Côte d'Azur, I took in an expanse of sea and sky unlike that of any other place in the world. There's a reason that corner of the earth attracted painters such as Matisse and Bonnard. It's an image to conjure when the meditation app tells you to think of a calming place. A moment that becomes a little souvenir of the soul.

Experiences like this may be tiny, but they can stick. In the kitchen at the Four Seasons Naviva, in Punta Mita, Mexico, the chef casually taught me how

to prepare a salsa using a *molcajete*, a traditional pre-Hispanic mortar and pestle made from lava rock. It was so simple and revelatory and visceral—just charred tomatoes and jalapeños and salt—that I vowed to make it regularly with my salsa-loving children. New York's Nine Orchard, our very first Hotel of the Year, is a place that embraces the analog, so inspiration came to me in the form of the excellent wooden speakers in my room (made by Ojas). They reminded me that good sound matters.

*Experiential travel* has been a buzzword for quite some time. The cynic in me always thought of it as redundant. To travel is to experience, no? But the



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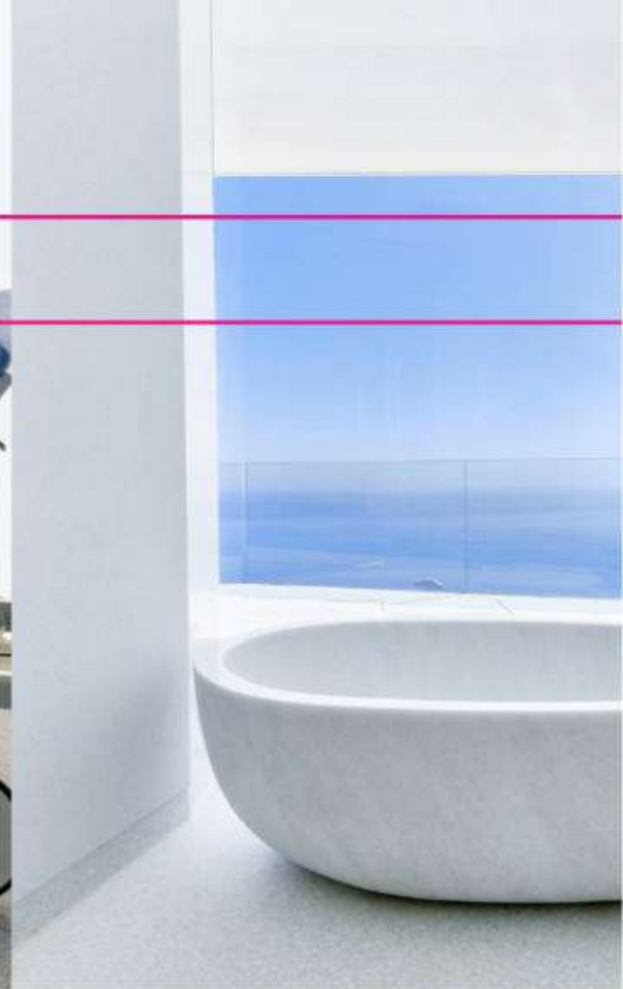
# the list

more I travel, the more I realize that's not always the case. Sometimes we're just trying to get from point A to point B. It takes commitment to notice the world around you, to be open to the new. And the very best hotels have a way of putting you in that mode.

For this second edition of our Best New Hotels list, we traveled throughout North America and Europe to find places offering more than high thread counts and hot tubs. These are the spots that changed us in big and small ways. We hope you get to take some inspiration home from them, too. —*Kevin Sintumuang*

Blue skies, Monaco, and the Mediterranean as seen from a balcony at the Maybourne Riviera, in Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, France.

FRESH EUROPEAN COOL



*I Spy France, Italy, and Monaco*

# THE MAYBOURNE RIVIERA

ROQUEBRUNE-CAP-MARTIN, FRANCE

There's the feeling that you're at the edge of the earth here. The hotel is carved into the side of a rock, high above the sea, all white and glass, with razorlike balconies on which to absorb the vast Mediterranean views. Depending on where you're standing, you can see the coasts of Monaco, France, and Italy—all at once. You get a bit of villain's-lair energy when you first arrive. Someone actually built a structure this audaciously clean and contemporary on one of the most incredible pieces of real estate in the Côte d'Azur? But you'll feel a lot of welcoming Riviera warmth once you begin to settle in. Much of the cheery staff wear double-breasted blue blazers, striped nautical shirts, and white sneakers; it's charmingly disarming. Almost every piece of furniture you encounter—from the chairs in any of the four restaurants, three by Mauro Colagreco and one by Jean-Georges Vongerichten, to the love seats in the sixty-nine bedrooms—has a gentle, plush curve. And all of those unobtrusive floor-to-ceiling windows that slide wide open give deference to what really matters here: the sky and sea.

It's a place where—with a glass of Champagne in your hand, naturally—you can contemplate how the blues of the horizon, and even the infinity pool you're wading in, gently melt into one another throughout the day, like nature's Rothko. Indeed, it's easy to see why painters have long been drawn to this area—the light is astounding. Could they have imagined that this little rock on the side of the cliff would become one of the area's great luxury hotels? Probably not. Most of the grand hotels in the vicinity, like the Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc or the Métropole, lean more into their stately histories. Nothing wrong with that. It just makes this modern newcomer on the coast feel more like a breath of fresh sea air.

**Rooms from approx. \$1,980** —K. S.

*Sweet Dreams*

## HÔTEL MADAME RÊVE

PARIS

Tucked into the First Arrondissement, Hôtel Madame Rêve is all about the view—from your bed. *Rêve* means *dream* in English, after all. There are sixty-three bedrooms and nineteen suites; most wrap around the third floor of this former post office. If your room faces the neighborhood, it'll feature large, sloped, skylightlike windows that stretch the entirety of the space, making you feel as if you're on a Paris rooftop. Otherwise you'll look out over the stunning garden. Done dreaming? Head to the rooftop bar and spot the Eiffel Tower and Notre-Dame over a drink. Despite the hotel's residential vibe, it's only steps from the Jardin des Tuileries and the Louvre. It's the type of scene that gives you the sense you belong there, and by Parisian standards, that's rare. **Rooms from approx. \$535** —Krista Jones



A room with a neighborhood view.

*A Different AMS Chill*

## PILLOWS MAURITS AT THE PARK

AMSTERDAM

In this corner of Amsterdam, adjacent to Oosterpark, you might have college flashbacks as you climb the stairs of the brick building and encounter glazed yellow tiles on the walls, echoing early-1900s university style. But once you've been brought to the plush living room to check in, the energy switches—to elegant, boutique European luxury. The sumptuous rooms are as quiet as a vault. There's a sauna room you can rent by the hour for yourself. For a treat, visit VanOost, on the top floor, one of the most ambitious new restaurants in the city. For something a bit breezier, stop by Fitz's, a cozy, speakeasy-style bar that ranks among the city's best. Ask for a martini made with a Dutch gin and enjoy it by the Picasso print, the crown jewel of the building's art collection. **Rooms from approx. \$340** —K. S.



Pillows Maurits's early-1900s facade.

PREVIOUS PAGES: COURTESY THE MAYBOURNE RIVIERA. THIS PAGE: COURTESY THE MAYBOURNE RIVIERA. COURTESY HÔTEL MADAME RÊVE. COURTESY PILLOWS MAURITS AT THE PARK.



From left: A Côte d'Azur vista from the Maybourne Riviera; a tub with a view.

High Style in España

## THE MADRID EDITION

MADRID

You might not be able to touch the art and furniture at the Prado, a short walk away, but you can here. The Madrid Edition is like an interactive MoMA or Pompidou playground where you can lounge on all the fantastically shaped exhibits. There's a blue pool table with a black-and-white nine-ball set and a white lamp, reminiscent of a kitchen vent, suspended over it in the lobby. There's a sweeping spiral staircase to greet you at one lobby entrance and a trademark neon-red floor-lit hallway at the other. But then you arrive in your room, all minimalist whites and beiges, complemented by a colossal bathroom with beige marble tiles, wrought-iron faucets, and knobs engineered to mechanical perfection. It'll put you on vacation even if you're on business. **Rooms from approx. \$480** —*Jack Holmes*



The signature modern staircase.

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### LUXE RUSTIC ADVENTURES

The Easy Nashville Getaway

## SOUTHALL FARM & INN

FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE

Maybe you've heard that Nashville is exploding. New restaurant every second. Big-name bars moving in. Hotels! Everywhere! But maybe you're searching for something quieter. Somewhere you can get outside, sit in a rocking chair, and enjoy one of those endless afternoons that seem to exist only in the South. You're in luck. Forty-five minutes outside Music City, Southall Farm & Inn, from first-time hotelier Paul Mishkin, sits on 325 beautiful, rolling acres. There's a pool with a pretty sick view over the pond, where loungers will spy other guests fishing or paddleboarding. A sprawling spa that's worth its own trip. Two restaurants, both gorgeous and buzzing with locals come dinnertime. A ridiculous number of firepits. Can you feel your blood pressure dropping already? **Rooms from \$839; cottages from \$1,699** —*Madison Vain*



Serenity at Southall's pond.

How Not to Rough It in the Hudson Valley

## AUBERGE WILDFLOWER FARMS

GARDINER, NEW YORK



Live that firepit-and-cabin life at Wildflower Farms.

It's hard to imagine a more perfect escape from the madness of Manhattan than Wildflower Farms. It's luxe—lavish, actually—with sixty-five freestanding cabins, cottages, and suites dotting the property. Each has floor-to-ceiling windows and a patio that looks out at a sea of trees and, in some cases, the nearby Shawangunk Ridge. (Some also have outdoor showers.) Inside are comforting quilts splayed across big ol' beds and welcoming chairs. And there's a whole lot or little you can do on the property, depending on your mood. Plenty of ways to embrace farm life, with cooking, baking, and cocktail classes using produce from the grounds, plus muddier fare, like the daily farm sessions, which get visitors out into the rows of plants and the greenhouses. Or head out and feed the animals if you'd like! In the winter you can go ice climbing, and hiking is encouraged year-round. Of course, you can also do nothing. Lounge behind your cabin, or stroll over to the stunning main patio and... sit. It's wonderful! You'll get no judgment from us. Either way, the hotel's main building has a spa, which, no matter your speed, is a must-visit, and same goes for Clay, the New American restaurant serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Come hungry. **Rooms from \$1,000** —*M. V.*

## WHAT IT'S LIKE TO STAY IN N.Y.C.'S MOST EXPENSIVE HOTEL

The hotel group Aman has locations at some of the world's most spectacular geographic coordinates, including the French Alps, Bali, and Japan's Ago Bay. Its latest joint, Aman New York, is on Fifty-seventh Street right across from Bergdorf Goodman, and I'll be damned if they don't make it feel as serene as central Java. The fourteenth-floor lobby pulls you directly into the oak-and-walnut

sophistication of a 1980s Adrian Lyne movie. Loll by your in-room fireplace and pity the suckers on the street below. Roll up to the omakase bar at Nama and curse every piece of sushi you have ever eaten. Take the secret speakeasy entrance into the Jazz Club for a night of music directed by a true old-school New York City eccentric, who you'll learn is Brian Newman, the arranger of those Lady

Gaga/Tony Bennett albums. Sure, at a starting rate of \$3,200 a night, a long weekend here could easily be a down payment on a rare Ferrari. But tomorrow is not guaranteed. Maybe this indelible memory will make you work that much harder? It's a deep-tissue massage of a hotel, one that will deliver you back into the chaos of the city a more serene and, frankly, sexier human being. —*Dave Holmes*

## THE NEW AMERICAN MOUNTAIN VILLAGES

*They Don't Call It Big Sky for Nothing*

# MONTAGE BIG SKY

BIG SKY, MONTANA



Relax here and enjoy the view.

I think we can all agree that Montana is having a moment. Just take a look at your Paramount+ app, where TV creator Taylor Sheridan is on his one trillionth *Yellowstone* spin-off. Luckily, you don't have to rough it in the Dutton bunkhouse. With ski-in, ski-out access, this outpost from the über-luxe Montage is a winter sporting paradise. Hell, it's a year-round paradise. Hiking's right there. Mountain biking, too. Golf, if that's your thing. The geysers of Yellowstone National Park are just about an hour away. Of course, some of us don't like to work hard on vacation. No problem. Post up out back at La Grand Après, flute of Champagne in hand, and wait for your friends to finish their runs. **Rooms from \$1,395 —M. V.**

*The Other Side of Park City*

# PENDRY PARK CITY

PARK CITY, UTAH

Park City has been chugging along as a great mountain town for sixty years. But that doesn't mean there aren't firsts still to be had. The arrival of the Pendry marks the opening of the first luxury property on the lower-key, Canyons Village base side. Except Pendry didn't just open a hotel—featuring 153 well-appointed guest rooms, some with kitchen and laundry, steps away from the lifts, as well as Après Pendry, the coziest après spot in the area—it brought along a handful of new family-friendly restaurants, plus the area's first rooftop pool and lounge, which begs for a Champagne-fueled party, even in winter. Since Vail Resorts' takeover of Park City Mountain Resort in 2014, the company has worked to blend the two bases into one bigger, more bustling community. The Pendry might help it get there. **Rooms from \$1,095 —M. V.**



A firepit and Adirondack-style chairs are how to do après-ski right.

## HOTEL OF THE YEAR



COURTESY MONTAGE BIG SKY. COURTESY PENDRY PARK CITY. STEPHEN KENT JOHNSON/COURTESY NINE ORCHARD.

Clockwise from above: The Swan Room and its restored ceiling; the Orchard loft suite; Corner Bar, where everyone looks cool from A.M. to P.M.

## THE BEST THINGS FROM OUR BEST NEW HOTELS

*Best Robes*

### **PENDRY**

A robe you want to wear all day. Not too hot, not too cold, with a plush inner lining and a silky exterior. The kid version, which comes with a hood, might be even more awesome. And both are for sale online at [shoppendry.com](http://shoppendry.com).

*Best Pool*

### **THE MAYBOURNE RIVIERA**

It's kind of cheating when you have an infinity pool with a view of Monaco, France, and Italy, but hey, if you've got it, flaunt it. This is one of the calmest places to float in the south of France.

*Best Sauna*

### **AUBERGE STANLY RANCH**

Measuring an astounding 400 square feet, this sauna with undulating walls has floor-to-ceiling windows, which make you want to sweat it out a little bit longer so you can take in the relaxing view of blue sky and vineyards.

*Best Toilet-Paper Holder*

### **NINE ORCHARD**

Yes, toilet-paper holder. It's a vaguely delft-like, hand-painted ceramic object made by Tyler Hays at BDDW that looks like it's from another era, yet it's got a spot to hold your phone.

*Home Base for N.Y.C.'s Next Cool Hood*

# NINE ORCHARD

NEW YORK CITY

On one end of the travel-fantasy spectrum, there is the blissed-out, blue-skies-and-beaches vacation. The stuff postcards are made of. Nothing wrong with seeking that. Toward the other end is the kind where you imagine yourself as a neighborhood local. You tap into the rhythm of the vibrant daily life in the blocks around you and feel as if you've merged with a hipper, alternate-universe version of yourself. That's what Nine Orchard will do for you.

We know the "hotels for locals" shtick, where there's a lobby filled with folks on laptops. This is not that. Nine Orchard is more about creating the fantasy of residence. It starts with your room number. 4L, 3G, 8A. You might think you've stepped into someone's apartment: Each room has an appreciation for the analog—the handmade ceramic lamps, the paintings from local artists, the wooden Ojas speakers that tune in to stations curated by DJ Stretch Armstrong. You'll want to hole up and write a memoir here.

Of course, the hotel's unlikely location is what makes the

neighborhood-local fantasy really work. Inhabiting the Jarmulowsky Bank building, a beaux arts landmark at the junction of the Lower East Side and Chinatown, Nine Orchard is at the heart of an area (often referred to as Dimes Square) that has become a hotbed for a certain type of fashion/media/art/skate cool kid. But you don't need to subscribe to that ethos to take in the most breezily cool spots in N.Y.C.: wine bars like Parcelle and Le Dive, Scarr's Pizza for quick eats, and the Chinatown BYOB classic Wu's Wonton King. And Nine Orchard's own Swan Room and Corner Bar, from chef and restaurateur Ignacio Mattos, are destinations in their own right, where everyone, no matter where they're from, seems to have the look of a local celebrity who is chill about being a local celebrity. Maybe that's the real fantasy that Nine Orchard delivers. **Rooms from \$525 –K. S.**



## NAPA FROM LUXE TO FUNKY

*Can Every Hour Be Magic Hour?*

# AUBERGE STANLY RANCH

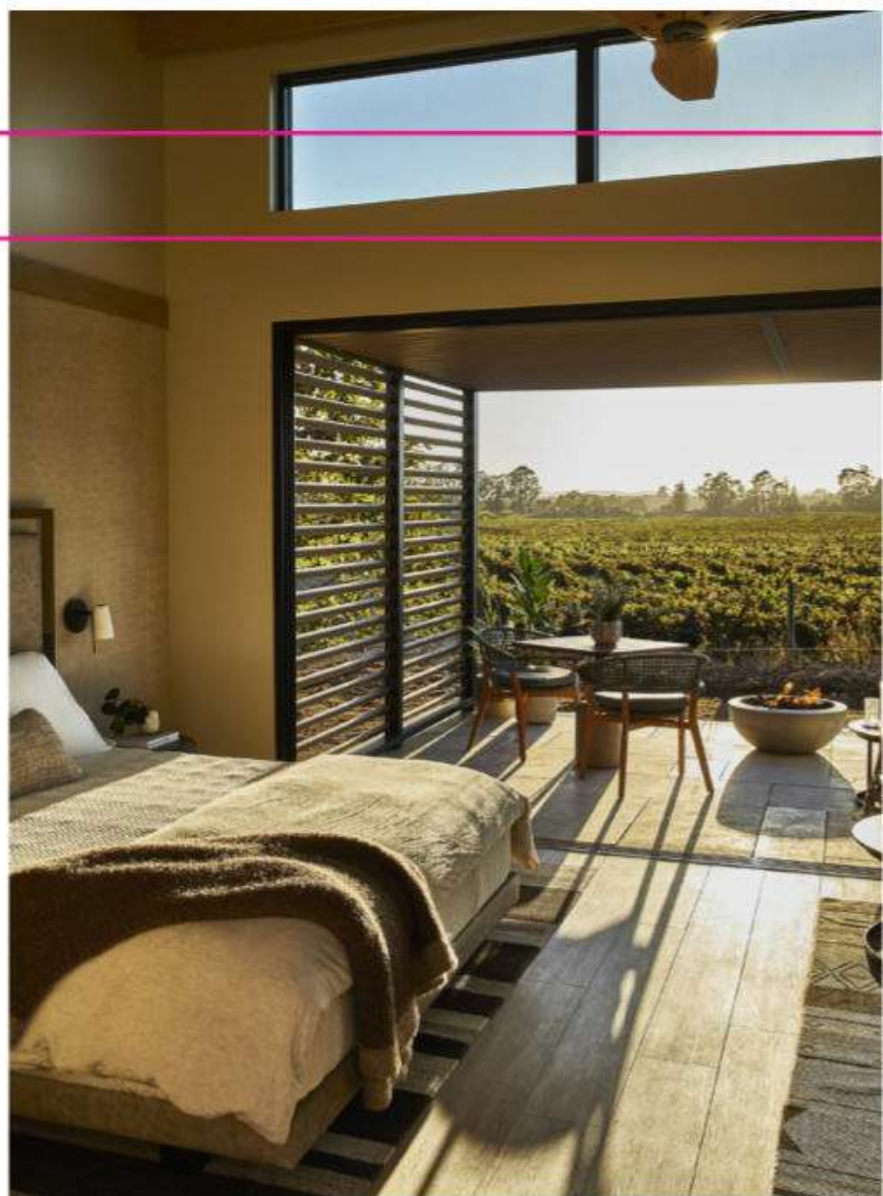
NAPA, CALIFORNIA

My first blissful moment at Stanly Ranch? Stretching in a sauna with a giant floor-to-ceiling window, gazing at vineyards. I'd just finished a run on the trails around Auberge Resorts' 712-acre property. Everywhere smells of lavender—there are four varieties throughout. The spa is reason enough to visit; post-sauna was a steam room, a salt room, and a cold-plunge pool. I savored a cup of bone broth by the adults-only pool. They do the wellness thing

well here. After turndown service, I found the gift of a little wooden ball with instructions for working the myofascia of my feet—it reduces stress. So do the magic hours. The orange-purple sky stretches longer into the evening in this southern corner of Napa, only forty-five minutes outside San Francisco. The silhouettes of hundred-year-old eucalyptus trees add to the drama.

Even by Napa standards, Stanly Ranch is a luxurious standout. The massive Provençal-style pool is the place to take a break from an afternoon of wine tasting with a frozen drink in a swinging egg chair. And there is Bear, a luxe barn of a restaurant. On our final evening, we ate a plate of crudités with vegetables my daughters had helped pick with the resort's farm director. I can't remember them loving vegetables as much. The last light of day streamed into the dining room, giving my chardonnay a golden sparkle. In fact, in that moment, everything felt pretty golden.

**Rooms from \$1,300**—K. S.



A room among the vines at Stanly Ranch.

## CHECK INTO A HOTEL THAT'S ALSO A SOCIAL CLUB

*The latest trend in hospitality? The members' club/hotel combo. At these three new properties, there's no need to be a card-carrying member to stay, but in doing so you have access to bars, restaurants, and programming that other locals or in-town visitors don't.*

### THE ASTER LOS ANGELES

The Aster leans into the historic glam of Hollywood (think dark woods and sumptuous textiles), and the rooftop lounge is an easy place to waste an afternoon. After dining at the signature restaurant, the Lemon Grove, you'll be thinking of the lemon pasta for days. **Rooms from \$424**—M. V.

### THE NED NEW YORK CITY

You'll quickly lose track of how many food and beverage options there are at the iconic London brand's NoMad location. Rooftop bar, lobby bar, library (with bar service), a trendy Italian spot, a private

table in a water tower, and a formal dining room for tableside service. **Rooms from \$600**—M. V.

### THE TWENTY TWO LONDON

Located in an Edwardian manor house in Grosvenor Square in Mayfair, this hotel has been outfitted with a glorious maximalism inspired by eighteenth-century French decor. Some rooms feature double-height ceilings, with the four-poster beds to match. The club below is a scene and a half from Thursday night to Saturday, and on the other side of things, you're two blocks' walk from Hyde Park. **Rooms from approx. \$710**—J. H.

## D.C.'S DOSES OF COOL

*High Style on the Potomac*

# PENDRY WASHINGTON D.C.

The Wharf, a six-year-old real estate development that embraces the Potomac, might appear at first to be just for the tourists. But then you discover the music venues, the raucous Tiki TNT (an Esquire Best Bar in 2021), and places like Moon Rabbit and Del Mar (both Esquire Best New Restaurants) and you think, *I'd like to be a tourist here*. And now there is the Pendry, the capital's most stylish new hotel. It's a striking building, resembling an inverted pyramid, with a pool and hot tub at its pointy base. Along with four-poster beds and that trademark Euro-meets-Cali Pendry calm, many rooms have river views. But the best are from Moonraker, on the thirteenth floor, anchored by a stunner of a circular bar. Is the Wharf officially cool now? It appears so. **Rooms from \$395**—K. S.



The Potomac as seen from Moonraker at the Pendry.

*Embrace the Mud Bath*

## DR. WILKINSON'S BACKYARD RESORT & MINERAL SPRINGS

CALISTOGA, CALIFORNIA

Before the starchitect-designed wineries arrived, small towns in Napa Valley were funky, weird little enclaves home to offbeat wellness centers. The weirdest might have been Dr. Wilkinson's Hot Springs and Mud Baths, opened in 1952 by chiropractor (and onetime Calistoga mayor) John "Doc" Wilkinson, featuring mud baths (naturally) and mineral dips. The hotel and spa ran for almost seven decades before the pandemic nearly shuttered them. Then, after a lengthy renovation, the resort re-opened and pulled off something of a magic trick: The rooms and spa have been modernized, but the original funky spirit remains intact. Dr. Wilkinson would no doubt approve.

**Rooms from \$360** —*Danny Dumas*



One of the mineral pools.



The art-filled lobby at the Hotel Chelsea.

*American Bohemia's Landmark Is Back*

## THE HOTEL CHELSEA

You can't talk about the Hotel Chelsea without checking off the names of its famous tenants and guests. The building, finished in 1884, was conceived as a kind of commune for musicians and novelists and has had a bohemian artistic energy since then. Mark Twain, Stanley Kubrick, Patti Smith, Andy Warhol, and Jimi Hendrix are just some of the notable folks who have graced this Queen Anne-style building over the past century. Today it might lack a raucous clientele, but that's all for a better night's sleep. Expect laid-back service, marble-and-brass bathrooms, animal-print furniture. From the pitch-perfect El Quijote, a Spanish restaurant that opened in 1930, to the iconic stained-glass windows and wrought-iron balconies, checking into the Chelsea feels like entering a time warp. **Rooms from approx. \$300** —K. S.

*NoMa Gets Its First Destination Hotel*

## THE MORROW HOTEL

The Morrow marks a new level of luxury for hotels in NoMa, an area that's been on the verge since the nearby Union Market was revitalized into a thriving food hall, becoming a district in and of itself, spawning shops and even another market, La Cosecha, which celebrates Latin American culture. The hotel adds to the scene with several stunning venues from chef Nicholas Stefanelli: Le Clou, a modern French brasserie; the cocktail lounge Vesper; and a rooftop bar, Upstairs at the Morrow. The property strikes the balance of warm yet minimal and unfussy. Exactly what the neighborhood deserves. **Rooms from \$390** —K. S.



The soothing, curvaceous lobby of the Morrow in D. C.'s NoMa.

*The High-Rise Hotel to Beat*

## THE RITZ-CARLTON NOMAD

Lying in a cloudlike king bed, facing downtown, with One World Trade Center glimmering in the distance, I watched the sunset, thirty-four stories in the sky, and thought, *What a thing to experience in a city where you thought you'd seen it all.* As a gleaming, fifty-story-tall glass tower, the Ritz-Carlton New York NoMad offers that Ritz-Carlton tranquility, but the bars and restaurants here have made it an unlikely nightlife destination in a decidedly non-touristy hood. You'll have a sanctuary in your room with a tub—rare in N. Y. C.—but there's also a buzzy lobby bar and the José Andrés rooftop lounge Nubeluz. It's an uncommon New York hotel combo, where you can be serene or all-out energetic. **Rooms from \$1,000** —K. S.



The lobby bar at the Ritz-Carlton New York, NoMad.

## BIG VALUE, HIGH STYLE



Balconies at the Arlo Wynwood.

## THE HOXTON ROME

The Eternal City is known for a great many things. Pasta alla carbonara. Singing in the street. Long lines at the Colosseum. There is no shortage of hotels—you'll find something in any price range—but true quality budget stays are rare. Enter: the Hoxton. With two bars (both good!), one in the welcoming California-meets-Italy restaurant (it works!), and a location not far from the Spanish Steps, a stay at this price can't be beat. **Rooms from approx. \$170** —M. V.

## MOXY LOWER EAST SIDE

When it comes to budget N. Y. C. hotels, you're lucky if you get a nice room, let alone a desirable neighborhood. The Moxy Lower East Side has both, plus it's a mini vacation in its own right, with five gorgeous dining and drinking venues, including Sake No Hana for sushi and Silver Lining, a piano bar that will make you believe in piano bars again. **Rooms from \$199** —Brady Langmann

## ACE HOTEL TORONTO

There's no real reason to venture outside the Ace Hotel Toronto once you're there, especially if it's cold outside. With a cozy, all-season rooftop bar, a lively lobby bar to rival any buzzy nighttime spot, and the restaurant Alder in its basement, everything you need is right in the building. Speaking of the building, it is a cavernous, industrial-inspired wonder, full of vintage furniture and warm natural light,

with snug rooms to match. Most importantly: Don't leave without tasting Alder's coconut cream pie. **Rooms from \$299** —Lauren Kranc

## ARLO WYNWOOD

If you're a first-time visitor to Miami, you probably want the beach. We get it. But there are more places in the city worth experiencing than South Beach, and the Wynwood Arts District is one of them. Arlo Wynwood is the first major hotel in the area and brings with it sleek rooms and the kind of paintings and murals the neighborhood has become known for. And it still provides a dose of Miami glam with a rooftop pool, offering panoramic views of the city, and Higher Ground, a sprawling outdoor bar. **Rooms from \$199** —K. S.

## ANDAZ MEXICO CITY CONDESA

The new Andaz Mexico City is a perfect reflection of its surroundings—the lush green, deeply cool Condesa neighborhood, with playing dogs and the savory smell of roasting al pastor. The hotel is adorned with a baby-pink and green matcha bar in the lobby, a sun-drenched courtyard, a revolving gallery of art in the hallways, and two rooftop bars: one Tulum-inspired, with sweeping city views and an infinity pool, and a separate green for dogs and their owners, aptly titled the Wooftop. It is both a chic, calming respite from the dense metropolis that is Mexico City and a celebration of it. **Rooms from \$269** —L. K.



COURTESY ARLO WYNWOOD; COURTESY FOUR SEASONS NAVIVA; COURTESY AUBERGE SUSURROS DEL CORAZÓN.

*The Most Luxurious Way to Get Reborn*

# FOUR SEASONS NAVIVA

The tray of drinks that was presented to me after I'd crossed a coconlike bridge was the first sign: This is not your typical Four Seasons. It's the idea of a welcome drink, except you can really have anything you want. You don't sign for anything at this point, as you do at practically every hotel, and you won't sign for anything along the way. "What is here is for you," they'll repeat in different ways during your stay.

There are only fifteen rooms over forty-eight acres. You don't come for *White Lotus*-style socialization. You come to tune out. There are no TVs. The rooms are like private homes, with tent-style flourishes so you can imagine you're glamping, even though a typical morning consists of jumping in your private pool and texting your guide/butler for huevos rancheros while you watch whales spouting in the Pacific and listen to the songs of jungle birds.

You could do that all day, but what makes Naviva truly unique is being able to create a bespoke well-being adventure. That could mean a core workout with a trainer at an outdoor gym where the weights are made of stone, à la *The Flintstones*, or a sunset sound-bath meditation. But the signature experience is the temescal sweat lodge, guided by a shaman who chants and splashes water on hot stones in a womblike structure in complete darkness. At the end of it, you're supposed to feel reborn. I did. At Naviva, there are several ways to leave feeling just like new. **Villas from \$3,950** —K. S.



Above, from top: A camp-inspired villa; the best spot to catch sunsets. Left: The cocoonlike check-in area.



*Witness the Sunset of Sunsets*

# AUBERGE SUSURROS DEL CORAZÓN

Want to know what a sunset that stretches a million miles wide looks like? Plunk your ass down on a lounge chair at Susurros del Corazón, Auberge Resorts' spectacular new offering in Punta de Mita, Mexico. The private beach, expansive and sparsely adorned, wedged between two jungled cliffs, plays host to no other hotels. It will be your home base, but don't skip the whale-watching boat ride or custom-hat-making sessions. Few hotel brands do cuisine as well as Auberge, and there's not a bad dish to be had here—from the crispy fish bites poolside to tacos al pastor at the open-air La Boquita to the grilled fish at the centerpiece next door, Casamilpa. Eat up, and chill out. **Rooms from \$999** —M. V.



And the bathrooms are rad, too.



Need more places to plan a big escape? Head to [Esquire.com](https://www.esquire.com) for the complete Best New Hotels list.