

It List 2020: Our Editors' Picks of the Best New Hotels in the World

BY TRAVEL + LEISURE STAFF | UPDATED FEBRUARY 19, 2020



PHOTO: COURTESY OF CAMISSA HOUSE

A great hotel offers more than merely a place to rest your head and stow your stuff between sightseeing excursions. A truly standout property can offer new insight into a beloved place; bring fresh energy to a been-there, done-that neighborhood; even become a destination in its own right. That's why we here at T+L spend months obsessively tracking new openings and major overhauls, consulting our trusted network of travel pros and jetsetting writers, and traversing the globe in search of the most memorable, game-changing hotels of the year for our annual It List.

This year, our guide to the essential openings (and reopenings) of the past year took us to 32 countries in pursuit of the unforgettable. Over the course of 2019, T+L writers and editors have trekked to [a remote West Texas escape](#) that feels like a supersize Donald Judd sculpture, hooked trout at [a fly-fishing retreat in remote Patagonia](#), and soaked in the spring-fed baths of [a Taiwan resort](#) until their fingers went prune — tough work, but we're just *that committed* to the cause. This isn't merely a list of the most high-end resorts, nor is it a who's-who of major [hotel chains](#), though you'll find both splurgey stays and familiar brands in the mix. Instead, we've aimed to showcase the properties that are at the top of their game and adding something new to the conversation, whether they're century-old stalwarts fresh off a major reno or intimate family-run boutiques that hit the sweet spot between hotel hospitality and vacation-rental hominess.

Ahead, you'll find a stay for every style and mood. There's [a Loire Valley château](#), reborn as a chic grande dame for the modern era. A [sleek beach retreat](#) in Asbury Park challenges the notion that the Jersey Shore is merely a regional summer hang for the tri-state area, and in Queens, the [converted TWA terminal](#) has thrown down the gauntlet for airport hotels the world over. We've got end-of-the-world escapes in [Bolivia](#) and [Namibia](#), chic city hotels in [Cape Town](#) and [the UAE](#), and wellness resorts that will suit both [hardcore health nuts](#) and the merely [spa-curious](#). Read on for all 72 properties on the 2020 It List — your next vacation spot awaits.

Edited by Lila Battis & John Wogan

Hotel Château du Grand-Lucé – Loire Valley, France



PHOTO: ROBERTO FRANKENBERG

The Neoclassical [Château du Grand-Lucé](#) has had many lives in the past century alone: as a military hospital, a sanatorium, a forgotten government holding, and until 2017 the passion project of an interior designer, who lavishly restored the 18th-century landmark. Now, thanks to the new owners, the hoteliers behind Utah's Washington School House, travelers can join the ranks of Mozart, Rousseau, and Voltaire, all of whom stayed at the 80-acre estate in its heyday. The Pilot Hotels team sourced archival French wallpaper for most of the 17 rooms and reupholstered antique furnishings in lush fabrics by Pierre Frey, Jean-Paul Gaultier, and Christian Lacroix. There's no check-in desk; rather, guests are welcomed as they enter the courtyard gate. From there, it's off to embrace timeless pleasures, like strolling through manicured gardens dotted with statues given by Louis XV, swimming in the fountain turned pool, and savoring *pains au chocolat* and other Gallic specialties at the restaurant Le Lucé. *Doubles from \$531.* — Laura Itzkowitz