

SPECIAL REPORT: WHERE YOU CAN STAY TO CHANGE THE WORLD

# Condé Nast Traveler

20th Anniversary Contest  
**WIN!**  
A TRIP TO  
OUR COVER  
LOCATION  
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TRUTH IN TRAVEL

MAY 2007

## 2007 HOT LIST

WORLD'S TOP NEW

**138** hotels\*

\*including 30 under \$250

**75** Spas **95** Restaurants **25** Nightclubs

Europe

Monaco's Magic

Egypt

Ultimate Step-by-Step Itinerary

INSIDER'S GUIDE

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**32**-Page Pullout Extra



# Condé Nast Traveler

Condé Nast Traveler presents  
THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL

# HOT LIST



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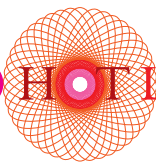
## THE YEAR'S **138** TOP NEW HOTELS\*

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*With apologies to George Orwell, some hotels are more equal than others. Their superiority amid legions of also-rans comes not by dint of brand or price or even celebrity influence but from the plain fact that they deliver a superb night's stay, a judgment that comes only from firsthand experience. Luckily for you, we've done the work. Of the thousands of hotels that opened in the past year, we winnowed our list to the most promising and anonymously bedded down at each—filling the tubs, tasting the food, testing the staff. Though those that fell short far outnumbered those that made the cut, this year's list is nevertheless our largest ever, with 138 hotels winning us over on their look, location, service, and value. Spanning 46 countries and 6 continents, they range in size from a four-suite Mexican gem behind eighteenth-century walls to an 816-room (and counting) desert resort with a view of the Vegas Strip, and in price from \$80 for a smart B&B in Buenos Aires to \$10,000 for an exclusive-use yacht and private island in the Maldives (unlimited massages included). So what does it take for a hotel to be beyond compare? Read on.*

\*Including  FOR UNDER \$200 A NIGHT

# THE (2007) HOT LIST



## ARGENTINA

The Cocker, Buenos Aires  
Costa Petit, Buenos Aires  
Palacio Duhau—Park Hyatt, Buenos Aires

## AUSTRALIA

Lodge at Tarraleah, Tasmania  
Buckland Studio Retreat, Buckland Valley, Victoria

## AUSTRIA

Do & Co Hotel, Vienna

## BELGIUM

Sofitel Brussels Europe, Brussels

## CAMBODIA

Knai Bang Chatt, Kep

## CARIBBEAN & THE ATLANTIC

Tortuga Bay, Puntacana Resort & Club, Dominican Republic  
Discovery at Marigot Bay, St. Lucia  
Amanyara, Turks and Caicos

## CHILE

Awasi, San Pedro de Atacama  
Clos Apalta Winery & Exclusive Guest House, Santa Cruz

## CHINA

Raffles Beijing Hotel, Beijing  
Ritz-Carlton Beijing, Financial Street, Beijing  
The Fleming, Hong Kong  
Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong  
Banyan Tree, Lijiang  
Wynn Macau, Macau  
Le Royal Méridien, Shanghai

## COSTA RICA

Gaia Hotel & Reserve, Manuel Antonio National Park  
Xandari by the Pacific, Playa Esterillos Este

## CZECH REPUBLIC

Hotel Yasmin, Prague  
Mandarin Oriental, Prague

## DENMARK

Front, Copenhagen

## ECUADOR

Hotel Plaza Grande, Quito

## FRANCE

Hôtel K, Baerenthal  
Hôtel Beaumanoir, Biarritz  
Abbaye de la Bussière, Dijon  
New Hotel of Marseille—Le Pharo, Marseille  
Hôtel Amour, Paris  
Benkirai, St-Tropez  
Pan dei Palais, St-Tropez

## FRENCH POLYNESIA

InterContinental Resort and Thalasso Spa, Bora Bora

## GERMANY

Hotel de Rome, Berlin  
Radisson SAS Media Harbour Hotel, Düsseldorf  
Villa Kennedy, Frankfurt

## INDIA

Ista, Bangalore, Karnataka  
SwaSwaras, Gokarna, Karnataka  
Baghvan, Pench National Park, Madhya Pradesh  
Mahua Kothi, Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh  
Khem Villas, Ranthambhore, Rajasthan

## INDONESIA

Bulgari Resort, Bali  
Desa Seni, Bali

Kayumanim Jimbaran Private Estate, Bali  
Kemang Icon by Alila, Jakarta

## IRELAND

Radisson SAS Farnham Estate, County Cavan  
Lodge at Doonbeg Golf Club, County Clare  
Bellinter House, County Meath

## ITALY

Villa d'Amelia, Benevento  
JW Marriott Capri Tiberio Palace Resort & Spa, Capri  
Castello del Nero Boutique Hotel & Spa, Chianti  
Villa Bordonni, Chianti

W Retreat & Spa, North Ari Atoll  
Naladhu, South Malé Atoll

## MAURITIUS

Shanti Ananda Maurice, Chemin Grenier

## MEXICO

Hippodrome Hotel, Mexico City  
The Oasis, San Miguel de Allende  
Azul Blue Hotel & Spa, Tulum

## MOROCCO

Murano Oriental Resort, Marrakech  
Riad Privilege, Marrakech

## MOZAMBIQUE

Vamizi Island Mozambique, Quirimbas Archipelago

## SPAIN

Hotel Marqués de Riscal, Elciego  
ME Madrid Reina Victoria, Madrid  
Castillo Hotel Son Vida, Palma de Mallorca, Mallorca  
Hotel Espléndido, Puerto Sóller, Mallorca  
Les Cols Pavellones, Olot

## SRI LANKA

Park Street Hotel, Colombo  
Kahanda Kanda, Galle  
The Fortress, Koggala

## SWITZERLAND

Les Trois Rois, Basel  
The Omnia, Zermatt

## TANZANIA

Singita Grumeti Reserves, Serengeti National Park

## THAILAND

Dream Hotel, Bangkok  
The Eugenia, Bangkok  
Four Seasons Resort, Koh Samui  
Karma Samui, Koh Samui  
The Library, Koh Samui  
Aleenta Resort and Spa, Phuket  
Indigo Pearl, Phuket  
Phuket Pavilions, Phuket

## TURKEY

Les Ottomans, Istanbul

## UGANDA

Kampala Serena Hotel, Kampala  
Apoka Lodge, Kidepo Valley National Park

## UNITED KINGDOM

Abode, Canterbury, England  
Base2Stay, London, England  
High Road House, London, England  
Hoxton Hotel, London, England  
InterContinental London Park Lane, London, England  
The Forbury, Reading, England  
Merchant Hotel, Belfast, Northern Ireland  
Hudson Hotel, Edinburgh, Scotland  
Le Monde, Edinburgh, Scotland

## UNITED STATES

Hotel Angeleno, Los Angeles, California  
Sofitel LA, Los Angeles, California  
Shade, Manhattan Beach, California  
The Keating, San Diego, California  
US Grant, San Diego, California  
Orchard Garden Hotel, San Francisco, California  
Winvian, Litchfield, Connecticut  
The James, Chicago, Illinois  
21C Museum Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky  
Chambers, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Red Rock Casino, Resort & Spa, Las Vegas, Nevada  
Gramercy Park Hotel, New York, New York  
London NYC, New York, New York  
Hotel deLuxe, Portland, Oregon  
Hotel Fauchère, Milford, Pennsylvania  
Hotel Palomar, Dallas, Texas  
W Dallas-Victory, Dallas, Texas

**Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort & Spa, Lost Pines, Texas**

Pan Pacific, Seattle, Washington

## VIETNAM

Nam Hai, Hoi An  
La Résidence Hotel & Spa, Hue  
La Veranda Resort, Phu Quoc Island

## UNITED STATES

# Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort & Spa, Lost Pines, Texas

Enclosed by forested hills in McKinney Roughts Nature Park, this 492-room newcomer is a refreshingly remote adventure getaway 20 minutes from downtown Austin. The hotel's exterior is reminiscent of a nineteenth-century Texas farmhouse, with deep front porches and balconies, but the interior departs from this idiom, with a glass-walled lobby and dual fireplaces framing the view of a tidied-up Colorado River. While the service is excellent and the spacious rooms are tastefully done, the focus here is on the exhaustive array of activities: three pools (one with a kids' water slide and crooked river), 16 miles of hiking trails, on-site horseback riding, kayaking, tennis, and a golf course just steps from the lobby. The Spa Django integrates music into its body treatments, and off the lobby there's a faux country store from which you can buy snacks to stock your in-room fridge. When to go: April through June, when wildflowers are in bloom. Which room to book: Ask for No. 2909 or 2911, which are far from the lobby and have unobstructed views of the pond, the river, and the forest (512-308-1234; [lostpines.hyatt.com](http://lostpines.hyatt.com); doubles, \$229–\$424). 🍷 🏊 🏠 🌿

Riva Lofts, Florence  
Town House Galleria, Milan  
Pantelleria Dream Exclusive Hotel, Pantelleria  
Duomo Hotel, Rimini  
Inn at the Roman Forum, Rome  
Portrait Suites, Rome  
St. George, Rome  
Villa Spalletti Trivelli, Rome  
Masseria Torre Maizza, Savelle di Fasano

## JAPAN

Hyatt Regency Hakone Resort & Spa, Hakone  
Hyatt Regency Kyoto, Kyoto

## JORDAN

Kempinski Hotel Ishtar, Dead Sea

## MALDIVES

Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru, Baa Atoll  
Rania Experience, Faafu Atoll

## MYANMAR

Malikha Lodge, Putao

## OMAN

Al Husn, Shangri-La's Barr Al Jissah Resort & Spa, Muscat

## PANAMA

Coral Lodge, Costa Amiba

## POLAND

Stary Hotel, Kraków

## PORTUGAL

Heritage Av Liberdade Hotel, Lisbon

## SAUDI ARABIA

Qasr Al Sharq, Jeddah

## SEYCHELLES

Maia Resort and Spa, Mahé  
Labriz, Silhouette

## SOUTH AFRICA

Samara Private Game Reserve, Eastern Cape

## KEY TO SYMBOLS

🍷 = Bar/lounge 🏊 = Beach 🏠 = Gym 🏊 = Pool 🌿 = Spa 🌿 = Hot Spa 2909 = 24-hour room service 🌿 = Hot 🔥 = Hotter 🔥 = Hottest





No longer the pastime of a rarefied few, spa-going has become a vital part of world travel, with wellness and pampering options for bargain hunters as well as spendthrift sybarites. Now every hotel and resort worth its salt contains a spa, and free-standing day spas and destination spas are opening at a fast clip. In order to determine the best of a burgeoning bunch, we sent knowledgeable reporters undercover to get the same sort of rubdown or body treatment you'd receive. And although our team had as many different kinds of treatments as there are spas, for comparison purposes we've quoted the rate for a one-hour massage throughout

**75**

# HOT SPAS 2007

## AUSTRALIA

Natskin Spa Retreat, Yarra Valley

## CANADA

Manoir St-Andrews, St. Jérôme, Quebec  
Spa Fairmont Le Château, Montebello, Quebec

## CARIBBEAN

Larimar Spa, Aruba  
Six Senses Spa, Dominican Republic

## CHINA

Anantara Spa at the Great Wall, Ritz-Carlton, Beijing  
Mandarin Spa, Peninsula Spa by ESPA, Hong Kong  
Banyan Tree, Lijiang  
Spa at Wynn, Macau  
Spa at Le Royal Méridien, Shanghai

## CZECH REPUBLIC

Spa at the Mandarin Oriental, Prague

## ENGLAND

Thermae Spa, Bath

## FRANCE

Imperial Spa, Biarritz  
L'Appartement 217, Paris

## FRENCH POLYNESIA

Deep Ocean Spa by Algoterm, Bora Bora

## INDIA

Rejuve Spa, Bangalore Radisson Plaza Spa Kumarakom, Kerala  
Quan Spa, Mumbai

## INDONESIA

Bulgari Spa, Bali

## IRELAND

Farnham Estate Health Spa, County Cavan  
White Horses Spa, County Clare  
Seoíd Spa, County Meath

## ITALY

EGO Wellness Center

& Spa, Capri  
Merano Thermal Baths, Merano  
Guerlain Spa, Milan  
ESPA, Tuscany

## JAPAN

Riraku Spa, Kyoto

## MALAYSIA

Willow Stream Spa, Riviera Maya

## MOROCCO

Alanya Spa, Skhirat

## NORWAY

Solstrand, Bergen  
Vestlia Resort & Spa, Geilo

Chakra Spa at the Four Seasons, Koh Samui  
Aleenta Spa, Phangnga  
Lemongrass House, Phuket

## UGANDA

Maisha Spa, Kampala

## UNITED STATES

ARIZONA: Red Door Spa, Phoenix

CALIFORNIA: ESPA, Beverly Hills; Bliss, Los Angeles; Spa at Rancho Valencia, Rancho Santa Fe; Away Spa, Spa at the Del, San Diego; California Wellbeing Institute, Four Seasons Westlake Village, Westlake Village

COLORADO: Allegria Spa, Avon

CONNECTICUT: Mayflower Spa, Washington

FLORIDA: Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island

GEORGIA: Spa at Sea Island Resort, Sea Island

HAWAII: Mandara Spa, Maui

NEVADA: Qua Baths & Spa, Red Rock Spa, Las Vegas

NEW YORK: Delluva Spa, Lancôme the Boutique, Townhouse Spa, Truman's Gentlemen's Groomers, New York; Skaná Spa, Verona

NORTH CAROLINA: Umstead Spa, Cary

PENNSYLVANIA: Lodge at Woodloch, Hawley

TEXAS: Spa Django, Bastrop, Refresh, Dallas

## VIETNAM

Nam Hai, Hoi An  
La Résidence Hôtel & Spa, Hue

## Spa Django, Bastrop, Texas

Named after the famed 1930s Gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt, this spa at the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort and Spa (see "Hot List") infuses modern treatments with Austin's Southwestern musical inclinations. The eponymous signature massage (\$155) is described as "rhythmic, relaxing, awakening," and instead of the traditional spa music, there might be a catchy banjo tune. Exemplary service keeps things from becoming hokey, and the slightly cold modern decor is saved by a spa pool smack on the Colorado River bend (512-308-4789; [lostpines.hyatt.com](http://lostpines.hyatt.com); massages, \$110).



Key to Symbols



Urban hotel spa



Resort spa



Day spa



Destination spa



Water feature



Couples' rooms



Outdoor treatments



Views



Spa dining



Gift shop



Medical treatments