

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

CONDÉ NAST

VOLUME IV 2018

# Traveler

THE  
HOT  
LIST



**2018**

**WE SLEPT THERE**

**(AND YOU SHOULD TOO).**

**THE WORLD'S 102**

**BEST NEW HOTELS**

THE  
HOTTEST

HOT LIST

# Hotels

RIGHT  
Now

The term *hot* is not something we throw around lightly at *Condé Nast Traveler*. Every year, we vet hundreds of new hotels that swing open their doors promising all sorts of industry catnip: raw-silk Italian sheets, customized Ayurvedic dining, views of some blindingly cerulean bay that no human has ever woken up to before. Most of these openings are good. Many of them, great. But only a fraction are what we'd deem hot. To determine this, we've cultivated an army of the most discerning hotel sleuths—*Traveler* staff as well as a network of trusted contributors across six continents that we call on year-round—to make sure that nary a perfectly mixed lobby bar old-fashioned nor unfluffed swan-down pillow goes undocumented. We arm our scouts with a survey that's been developed and refined over the past 22 years, with questions that get at the practical (Is the Wi-Fi signal strong enough to download a movie? What's the must-order on the room service menu?) and the emotional, or even sociological (How does the hotel make you feel? Is there a lobby vibe? What celeb can you imagine hanging out at the pool?). We then cull close to a thousand pages of hotel dossiers to come up with our final list. This year, 102 properties, fewer than 25 percent of the hotels we *CSI*-ed, made the cut; keep reading to find out why we think they're extraordinary.







# CHOOSE YOUR LOOK

Some years a clear design motif weaves its way through our Hot List (there was the hippie-meets-hipster SoCal vibe, and the distressed-wood, industrial-Brooklyn feel). This year, with Nordic austerity at one end of the spectrum and English-inspired maximalism at the other, there isn't one aesthetic refrain that unites the standouts in hotel design. We fell for each of these five properties and have to say, we love that none looks or feels remotely like the rest.

## **Four Seasons Hotel at The Surf Club, Surfside, Florida**

The designer Joseph Dirand and Richard Meier & Partners Architects resurrect Jazz Age glamour in Miami (huge potted palms, Deco lights, and a Le Sirenuse Champagne Bar) with just the right blend of nostalgia and modernity (above, right).

## **Hotel Californian, Santa Barbara**

Interiors guru Martyn Lawrence Bullard used more than one million tiles in 27 different designs, transporting all the color and texture of Marrakech to the Cali coast.

## **Villa Maïa, Lyon**

Traditional but not at all fusty, with Jacques Grange interiors, gardens by Louis Benech (he redid the Tuileries), and a spa modeled on Roman baths.

## **Vipp Loft, Copenhagen**

The Danish design firm created a minimalist's dream retreat above its headquarters—lots of blond wood and

dove gray (above, left), and filled with sleek Vipp products you'll want to take home.

## **The Whitby Hotel, New York**

Kit Kemp's playful (at times wild) use of patterns, textiles, and color combos infuses predictably staid Midtown with a dose of downtown cool.