

SPECIAL REPORT: WHERE YOU CAN STAY TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Condé Nast Traveler

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TRUTH IN TRAVEL

MAY 2007

2007 HOT LIST

WORLD'S TOP NEW

138 hotels*
*Including 24 under \$200

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

Europe
Monaco's Magic

Egypt
Ultimate Step-by-
Step Itinerary

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Condé Nast Traveler presents
THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL

HOT LIST



THE YEAR'S 138 TOP NEW HOTELS*

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 Pele, Buenos Aires
 Palacio Dubau-Park Hyatt, Buenos Aires

AUSTRALIA

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

AUSTRIA

Do & Co Hotel, Vienna

BELGIUM

Sofitel Brussels Europe, Brussels

CAMBODIA

Knai Bang Chant, Kep

CARIBBEAN & THE ATLANTIC

Tortuga Bay, Puntacana Resort & Club, Dominican Republic
 Discovery at Marigot Bay, St. Lucia
 Amanaya, 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 Meridien, Shanghai

COSTA RICA

Gala Hotel & Reserve, Manuel Antonio National Park
 Xandari by the Pacific, Pays 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 Phare, Marseille
 Hôtel Amour, Paris
 Benkirat, St-Tropez
 Pan del Palais, St-Tropez

FRENCH POLYNESIA

InterContinental Resort and Thalasso Spa, Bora Bora

GERMANY

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

INDIA

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

INDONESIA

Bulgari Resort, Bali
 Desa Seni, Bali

Kayumanis Jimbaran Private Estate, Bali
 Kemang Icon by ALA, Jakarta

IRELAND

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

ITALY

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

W Retreat & Spa, North Ari Atoll
 Naladha, South Male Atoll

MAURITIUS

Shanti Aranda 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, Quimbaia Archipelago

SPAIN

Hotel Marqués de Riscal, Elciego
 MF 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 Angelino, 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
 Wivian, 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, Hillford, 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



Riva Lofts, Florence
 Town House Galleria, Milan
 Pirellera Dream Exclusive Hotel, Portofino
 Duomo Hotel, Rimini
 Inn at the Roman Forum, Rome
 Portrait Suites, Rome
 St. George, Rome
 Villa Spalletti Trivelli, Rome
 Masseria Torre Matza, 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, Faali Atoll

MYANMAR

Malikha Lodge, Putao

OMAN

Al Huan, Shangri-La's Barr Al Jisrah Resort & Spa, Muscat

PANAMA

Coral Lodge, Costa Amra

POLAND

Sary Hotel, Kraków

PORTUGAL

Heritage Av Liberdade Hotel, Lisbon

SAUDI ARABIA

Qsar Al Sharq, Jeddah

SEYCHELLES

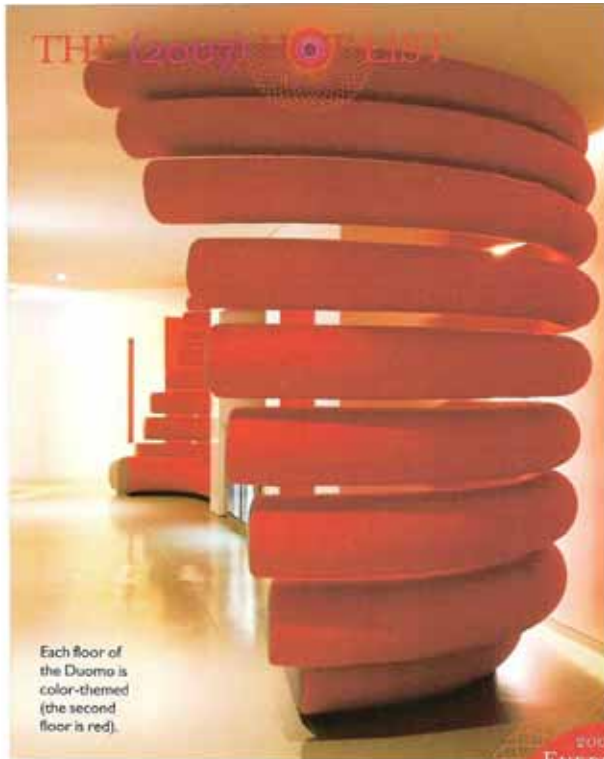
Maia Resort and Spa, Mahé
 Labriz, Silhouette

SOUTH AFRICA

Samara Private Game Reserve, Eastern Cape

KEY TO SYMBOLS

☉ = Bar/lounge ☉ = Beach ☉ = Gym ☉ = Pool ☉ = Spa ☉ = Hot Spa 2007
 ☉ = 24-hour room service ☉ = Hot ☉ = Hotter ☉ = Hottest



Each floor of the Duomo is color-themed (the second floor is red).



Room art in the Hôtel d'Amour includes the Nuoro F. Sironi photo.

2007 Trend
EVERYONE IS SEEING RED
 Against the muted colors that have long dominated hotel decor, red is suddenly appearing as the attention-grabbing hue of choice, whether it be in shades of cherry, brick, or very, very, million. Other: Muammar Gaddafi Resort, Morocco; The Library, Thailand; The Knotting, Cologne.



Rowing penguin pieces by Cracking Art Group at the 21C Museum Hotel.



Chandeliers up for bid. Photographs by Ray Muzumdar for Cracking Art Group, The Knotting, Cologne.

The attention-grabbing red chandelier in the Wynn Macau's lobby.



Amanyara's oceanfront black-slate-tiled infinity pool.

ITALY

Duomo Hotel, Rimini

🔥 This Ron Arad-created modern edifice in the center of the Adriatic town of Rimini (Italy's Atlantic City) is a world away in design from its Baroque mansion neighbors, from the ring-shaped steel reception desk to the chrome pillars and bronze ceilings. Podlike bathrooms are standouts, with wood floors and oval Alessi tubs. Despite a few irritations—tiny bedside tables and little space for luggage—the 43-room hotel has plenty of strong points, including an honor bar, free bikes, free beach access—and NoMi, Rimini's coolest bar. **When to go:** May for seaside strolls. **Which room to book:** High floors are far from NoMi's DJ beats (39-0541-242-15; duomohotel.com; doubles, \$234–\$586). 📶

FRANCE

Hôtel Amour, Paris

🔥 André, the mono-monikered artist and night-life impresario, has reworked this Montmartre building into a hip bobo (bohemian bourgeois) flophouse, where the 20 rooms bear the idiosyncrasies of different artists.

For example, No. 105 features bubble gum-pink carpeting, a purple-tiled bathroom, and a Terry Richardson photo of a male couple in crotchless Batman and Robin costumes. Traditional amenities are nil—rooms have iPod docks but no phones or TVs—but since even arty types like some comforts, there are Kiehl's toiletries, and beds are by the company that supplies the Rez. The point,

however, isn't to hang in your room but to join the nightly party in the restaurant-bar, where the wine list is well-priced. **When to go:** Paris is perfect in June and October. **Which room to book:** The top two floors overlook the rear garden (33-1-48-78-31-80; hotelamour.com; doubles, \$155–\$262). 📶

UNITED STATES

21C Museum Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky

🔥 This 91-room hotel, hung with works from the owner's private collection (including pieces by Andres Serrano and Sam Taylor-Wood), pays homage to twenty-first-century art. Further distinguishing it from Louisville's stately hotels are its 5,000-square-foot gallery and witty plastic penguins, which staff rotate around the hotel. Each room comes with the usual gadgets, plus fun extras such as poster art to take home. Proof on Main serves generous cuts of bison and does a snazzy take on country ham fritters. **When to go:** Avoid the first week in May, when the Derby drives rates skyward. **Which room to book:** Any of the luxury kings (502-217-6300; 21c-museumhotel.com; doubles, \$129–\$279). 📶 📺 🍷

CHINA

Wynn Macau, Macau

🔥 With its concave shape and a lobby of designer stores, the Wynn Macau is a lot like its Las Vegas sister property—and with 600 rooms and a 100,000-square-foot casino, the Wynn Macau is still the

smaller sibling. Rooms, with Andy Warhol Day-Glo prints, are appointed in a style that recalls American resorts of yesteryear: floral-print sofas, saffron-hued fabrics, high beds. The staff's English is limited except at Il Teatro (see "Hot Tables") and the other restaurants, but gambling is Macau's *raison d'être*, and the Wynn sets the new standard, with 372 slots as well as blackjack and fan-tan tables. **When to go:** Avoid the monsoon months of June through September. **Which room to book:** Standard rooms are sufficiently spacious (853-986-9966; wynnmacau.com; doubles, \$384–\$422). 📶 📺 🍷 🍸

CARIBBEAN & THE ATLANTIC

Amanyara, Turks and Caicos

🔥 Set in the scrubby landscape of Providenciales's Northwest Point Marine National Park, Amanyara balances drama and calm. Soaring main pavilions of Indonesian woods cluster around a reflecting pool, and gazebos flank an infinity pool. The 40 ocean- and pond-facing guest pavilions feel utterly private despite three windowed walls that slide open onto terraces with daybeds and a sunken dining area. The open bathroom has pizza-box-size sinks and a deep tub that fills up lickety-split. The service throughout is smiling and flawless, and extras include a screening room as well as a complimentary minibar, phone calls, and Wi-Fi. **When to go:** Early spring is less windy. **Which room to book:** Ocean pavilions Nos. 104, 105, 107, and 108 are closer to the resort facilities (649-941-8133; amyanresorts.com; doubles, \$1,000–\$1,650). 📶 📺 🍷 🍸 🌴

Photograph by Chris Sautter