

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

CONDÉ NAST

JANUARY 2017

Traveler

Our
FAVORITE
HOTELS *in*
the WORLD

+
HULA *in* HAWAII
BARBADOS'
Hidden BEACHES
SKIING *in the*
CHILEAN ANDES

**The HOTELS
AROUND
THE WORLD
WE *always*
RECOMMEND**

► For our editors and contributors, three days in any city usually means a different bed every night. The running joke in our office is that unless a high-end property is truly special, something called luxury fatigue sets in by the last day. In other words, the miles of marble or omnipresent butler can feel gratuitous if not oppressive. What we prize most is the uniqueness of hotels—stalwarts of authenticity in the age of global homogeneity. Because in the end, it's the little things—waking to the call to prayer at El Fenn in Marrakech, or the mood lighting that makes everyone feel like a sexier version of themselves at the historic Soho House bar in Istanbul. As hotel obsessives, we know that where you stay can determine the fate of your trip, that a hotel must clear some very high hurdles in order to justify your spending the money and time away from the kids, the spouse, or the office. What follows are our impassioned recommendations for the hotels we visit time and again—and daydream about long after checkout. → P. 68



2017



They're

SORT OF

OUT OF THE WAY BUT

WORTH THE TRIP

These hotels may require a longer drive or a connecting flight (or two), but that “are we there yet” feeling will be replaced with “I’m never leaving” as soon as you walk through the door at these otherworldly properties.

Amangiri, Canyon Point, Utah

“Paradise on Mars. And I dream of the perfectly chilled sage lemonade they put in your hiking backpack.” *A.W.*

Babylonstoren, South Africa

“Just 45 minutes outside Cape Town, this seven-teenth-century Cape Dutch farm and wine estate has a fabulous bamboo-clad spa and hammam, an onsite



— GOLD LIST —

bakery, and two great restaurants sourcing almost everything from the surrounding fields and orchards." *P.J.L.*

Dromoland Castle Hotel & Country Estate, County Clare, Ireland
 "It's a comfortable castle—if you can imagine such a thing. It's really more of an estate, set on one of the best golf courses in Burren, which is not at all super lush but raw and beautiful in its own way." *Maeve Nicholson*

Explora Rapa Nui, Easter Island, Chile
 "Do the megalithic statues, go to the summit of Maunga Terevaka, and hike through lava tubes overlooking the Pacific, then cap it all off with a night swim in the hotel's pool under the richest blanket of stars you've ever seen." *P.B.*

Omni Bedford Springs Resort, Bedford, Pennsylvania
 "One of the oldest resorts in the U.S., with one of the first indoor pools in the

The view of Thiksey Monastery from Shakti Ladakh, in the Himalayas.

country, it's been thoughtfully reconstructed and decorated with many of the original antiques, salvaged by the in-house historian." *Y.E.*

The Point, The Adirondacks, New York
 "The staff intuit everything here. They'll hand you another drink when there's a sip left in yours and leave boots, in your size, outside your door if it snows overnight. They even had a to-go lunch packed and ready for us—fried chicken, brownies, sparkling water—so we didn't have to stop on the five-hour drive back to New York City." *L.D.*

Primland, Meadows of Dan, Virginia
 "Think of it as the hotel equivalent of eating caviar with potato chips: I went horseback riding, shot clay pigeons, and listened

to live bluegrass before having an amazing massage followed by an epic nine-course meal." *R.M.*

Shakti Ladakh, The Himalayas
 "The knowledgeable guides will have you hiking, mountain biking, and visiting with local monks and oracles." *David Prior*

Tierra Chiloé Hotel & Spa, Chiloé Island, Chile
 "A two-hour flight south of Santiago, this rugged evergreen-forested island is like Chile's version of Maine, and this property is your best way in. Hikes, sails to nearby islands, and horseback riding are all included. Or you can just relax by the fire with a pisco sour and watch the sun set over the bay." *P.B.*

Twin Farms, Barnard, Vermont
 "It seamlessly pulls off an incongruous mix of Yankee outdoorsiness and white-glove service on a glorious patch of wooded farmland. In other words, a day of hiking or fly-fishing followed by a glass of champagne." *A.P.*

Wheatleigh, Lenox, Massachusetts
 "A Farrow & Ball paint book fantasy come to life, with excellent food and Olmsted-designed grounds." *P.G.*

Wickaninnish Inn, Tofino, British Columbia, Canada
 "Explore tide pools, hike the surrounding coastal rain forest, and kayak to nearby Meares Island. That's where I paddled past forests of thousand-year-old cedar and followed a pod of gray whales." *R.M.*



IT'S BASICALLY A FRONTIER SETTLEMENT OF LOG CABINS, ONLY THE ROOMS HAVE DEEP-SOAKING TUBS AND BELGIAN LINENS, THE SALOON SERVES ALSATIAN RIESLINGS, AND THE BATHHOUSE HIDES A HOT-SPRING-FED POOL.

Alex Postman on Dunton Hot Springs in Dolores, Colorado

WHERE to GET HEALTHY-ISH

The medi-spa trend is exploding, and more hotels are killing it with state-of-the-art wellness programs. But this year we're all about the places that let you live it up a bit outside the treatment room and the gym.

Bio-Hotel Stanglwirt, Austria
 Like something out of *The Sound of Music*, this Tyrolean family-run lodge with ten saunas and baths fed by Alpine springs (plus dairy cows!) is the rare spa that's also kid-friendly. *Jennifer Miller*

COMO Shambhala Estate, Ubud, Bali
 Yes, it has three pools, a private waterfall, and nine types of massage, but the real treat of staying here is the food. Many places make good, even excellent, low-cal all-organic macrobiotic fare, but no one does it with as much style and subtlety of flavor as this retreat. *H.Y.*

Kamalaya, Koh Samui, Thailand
 The monastic-chic vibe of cabins with plunge pools built into a jungle-y hillside gives this Thai stalwart the feel of a Buddhist sanctuary, not a boot camp. *D.P.*

Les Sources de Caudalie, Bordeaux, France
 Soak in the hot spring pool, get a vinotherapy massage, then roll over for a wine tasting from the spa's vineyard, Château Haut Smith Lafitte. *Y.E.* ♦