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View from Suite Prince Rainier III at Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo

From lavish beachfront boltholes to chic inner-city hideaways, this year is awash with intriguing openings and reopenings ripe for discovery. Leading the pack is Monaco's storied **HÔTEL DE PARIS MONTE-CARLO** (*hoteldeparismontecarlo.com*), which rejoins the ranks of Europe's most feted grandes dames in the wake of a multimillion-euro, four-year refit. Fortunately, with its high-tech updates and elegant, modern furnishings, the

contemporary new sheen of the landmark that dates to 1863 does not detract from its timeless grandeur, with fresh additions, which include a rooftop wellness centre, a jewellery boutique-fringed courtyard and Alain Ducasse's latest revelation – the stylish Ômer – redefining luxe for a new century.

No less palatial is the unapologetically opulent **HOTEL CHÂTEAU DU GRAND-LUCÉ** (*chateaugrandluce.com*) in the rolling Loire Valley, just south of Paris. Set in

the grounds of an estate that has hosted luminaries from Voltaire and Rousseau to Mozart over its 250 years, the property boasts a spa, hectares of stunningly landscaped gardens and 17 antique-stuffed rooms and suites truly fit for a king.

Across the Channel, the not-quite-as-old **BELMOND CADOGAN HOTEL** (belmond.com) in London – established in 1887 – rounds out a European hat-trick of heritage hostelries making a splash this season. Oscar Wilde’s erstwhile Chelsea pied-à-terre re-emerges following a £39-million facelift, offering a handsome urban refuge complete with a private garden square, spa suite and modern British cuisine by ascendant London chef Adam Handling.

Stockholm’s hottest new accommodation, in contrast, has both feet firmly planted in the present. Aimed at the creative class in the heart of city’s up-and-coming Hagastaden district, the 249-guestroom **BLIQUE BY NOBIS** (nobis.se) boasts a contemporary-meets-cozy vibe, with soft-hued Scandinavian-minimalist furnishings, a gorgeous terrace with vast skyline views and a courtyard gourmet food truck serving European-Asian mashups.

As far as countrified Italian getaways go, it doesn’t get more idyllic than at the 14-key **LA PESCAIA** (pescaiaresort.com), newly under the energetic direction of two young Milanese sisters. Nestled within the verdant beauty of the Tuscan Maremma, visitors can partake in everything from horseback riding to farm-to-table dining in this 19th-century farm hidden behind a veil of more than 6,000 ancient olive trees.

No less immersive a stay can be had at the **FINCA SERENA MALLORCA** (fincaserenamallorca.com), a 40ha retreat mercifully removed from the party-hearty excesses found elsewhere on the Spanish island. Scored by the soft scent of cypresses, pines and lemon trees, guests here are treated to daily changing organic cuisine, Natura Bissé spa treatments and a striking view of the mountains from the blissful pool area. The summer launch of the **ANANTI MONTENEGRO** (ananti.me), meanwhile, will enhance the appeal of the tiny Balkan state with eight sizeable villas, 14 suites, a three-storey spa and an Asian fusion eatery along the untouched Adriatic inlet of Reževići.

In Asia, Hong Kong and Singapore – ground zero for the continent’s haute hostelry scene – continue to bolster their A-list résumé this year. The legendary **RAFFLES SINGAPORE** (raffles.com) is slated

for a mid-year reopening, boasting 115 artfully restored – not to mention high-tech – suites as well as a trio of new dining outposts manned by Anne-Sophie Pic, Jerome Leung and Alain Ducasse, whose Med-inflected, charcoal-grilled sharing plates will be served in the hotel’s 122-year-old Bar & Billiard Room. Over in Hong Kong, the world-conquering views over Victoria Harbour are exquisite at the **ROSEWOOD HONG KONG** (rosewoodhotels.com), which offers 322 rooms and 91 über-contemporary suites and an indulgent Asaya spa with a 25m pool.

For those eager to escape the madding crowd, **SIX SENSES BHUTAN** (sixsenses.com) features a spirit-reviving retreat in its collection of five exquisite lodges perfectly placed for a curated, multistop tour of the scenic valleys, lush riverscapes, untamed forests, as well as cultural and religious landmarks across the diminutive Himalayan nation. Expected to debut late this year, the latticed pavilions of ethereal **AMAN KYOTO** (aman.com) look out onto a waveless, glassy pond and are perched among an army of small *jizo* statues, winding stone pathways and *yamamomiji* maples in the green foothills of Mount Hidari Daimonji.

To the south, the patchwork atolls of the Maldives are further buttressed by the **WALDORF ASTORIA MALDIVES ITHAAFUSHI** (waldorfastoria3.hilton.com), a far-flung paradise with 122 villas, a rarefied treetop restaurant and a serene lifestyle spa spread across ten treatment villas resting atop the azure waters. The new **INTERCONTINENTAL PHUKET RESORT** (ihg.com) presents an equally alluring mise en scène among lush gardens and a private lagoon along the golden sands of Kamala Beach. Guests checking into any one of the resort’s bright, contemporary rooms and suites dine at a trio of innovative outlets, from the buzzy beach bar to an elevated Thai-fusion eatery, and are in close proximity to the island’s iconic temples and marketplaces.

Clockwise from top left: the Rosewood Hong Kong; Hôtel Château du Grand-Lucé, just south of Paris; the spa at Finca Serena Mallorca; Waldorf Astoria Maldives Ithaafushi’s treetop restaurant, Terra



DURSTON SAYOR, MEGAN WITT, © FINCA SERENA, © WALDORF ASTORIA



Elegant accommodation
at Nantipa in Costa Rica



Nice Côte d'Azur to Hôtel de Paris: 17miles/28km; Le Mans Arnage to Château du Grand-Lucé: 17miles/28km; Northolt to Belmond Cadogan: 13miles/21km; Stockholm Bromma to Blique: 5miles/9km; Grosseto to La Pescaia: 13miles/21km; Palma de Mallorca to Finca Serena: 17miles/28km; Podgorica to Ananii: 33miles/53km

Around the world in Central America, another pair of beachy resorts beckon: at Costa Rica's new **NANTIPA** (nantipa.com) on the sunny Nicoya Peninsula, guests staying in spacious beachside suites and standalone bungalows are invited to take advantage of the resort's excellent surf conditions, explore the secrets of the jungle on wildlife-watching expeditions, embark on wind-in-your-hair voyages across turquoise waters to nearby Tortuga Island, as well as savour zingy ceviche assortments and other regional seafood specialities. Northwest in Mexico's Los Cabos, the waterfront **ZADÚN, A RITZ-CARLTON RESERVE** (ritzcarlton.com) joins a recent raft of luxe accommodations imbuing the golf-and-party town with a more sophisticated edge, offering 115 elegant rooms and villas and a spa informed by locally inspired treatments.

Across the border, **THE LODGE AT BLUE SKY** (aubergeresorts.com) offers a different sort of get-away-from-it-all experience. At this 1,416ha ranch in the Wasatch mountains near Salt Lake City, fly-fishing, hiking and, in the winter, heli-skiing and moonlit snowshoeing are the order of the day – adventures best topped off by a

nature-inspired spa treatment, an aerial yoga session in the forest or a feast of seasonal fare cooked up with ingredients grown on site.

In Canada, the 169-key **FOUR SEASONS HOTEL MONTREAL** (fourseasons.com) makes a summer debut just in time for the 2019 Grand Prix. Sited on the city's Golden Mile Square, the long-awaited hotel will boast modern, warm-toned rooms and suites with floor-to-ceiling windows, a spa with an expansive treatment menu as well as Marcus, a brasserie-style eatery with a sprawling third-storey terrace that's helmed by celebrity chef Marcus Samuelsson.

Finally, in the most otherworldly of settings, there's **SONOP** (zannierhotels.com), a luxe tented camp in the southern reaches of the Namibian desert. A reimagining of the British colonial safari in the 1920s, the camp has ten boulder-top tents suffused with antiques and ornate carpets, and guests dine under the honeyed glow of candelabras and embark on all manner of desert adventures, from electric-bike and horseback rides across the sand to safaris on the 5,600ha private reserve.