

TRAVEL + LEISURE

AUGUST 2005

2005 WORLD'S BEST AWARDS

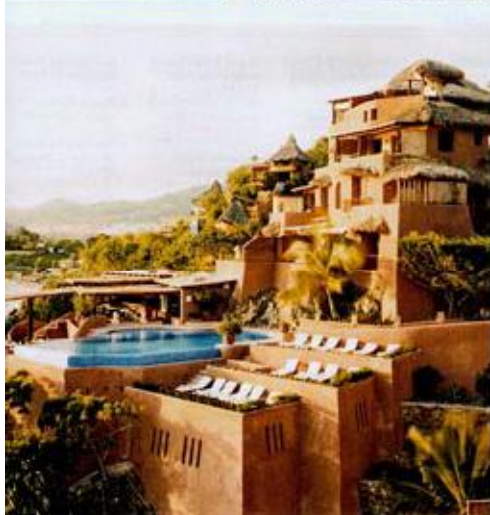
Hotels, islands, cities, cruises, safaris,
airlines, and more

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15 TO WATCH

In order to be eligible for the World's Best Awards, hotels must receive not only high marks but also a minimum number of reader evaluations. Here, new properties that haven't yet reached the required threshold but that T+L's editors expect to see on our lists in the next year or two.

Parler Palm Springs, California Whimsy rules at Jonathan Adler's retro retreat, a world of zebra stripes and candy colors.

The Sanctuary, Kiawah Island, South Carolina The low country's golfing mecca now has a refined resort for fairway fanatics (and spa junkies).

The Palms, Turks and Caicos Vaulted ceilings, marble floors, and expansive terraces—all in a cool palette of white—facing the turquoise waters of pristine Grace Bay.

Raffles Resort, Carouan Island, the Grenadines Two beaches, a Jim Fazio-designed golf course, and a gorgeous spa make this the grandest new resort in the region.

Condessa DF, Mexico City A 1920's French Neoclassical building in leafy Condessa enlivened with floral patterns and vibrant colors by designer India Mahdavi.

Faena Hotel + Universe, Buenos Aires An old grain depastry turned design hotel—gold-leaf swan chairs and curtained halls—from Philippe Starck and fashion impresario Alan Faena.

Four Seasons Hotel Hampshire, England Four Seasons service in a Georgian manor house, with British Heritage-listed gardens and a spa.

Hôtel Métropole Monte-Carlo, Monaco A rich by Jacques Garcia has turned a Belle Époque palace on the Riviera into a showcase of exuberant design.

Hotel Caruso Ravello, Italy Orient-Express's eagerly awaited renovation of an 11th-century palazzo 1,000 feet above the Amalfi Coast.

Madikwe Safari Lodge, South Africa Spot the Big Five from plush suites with circular fireplaces, outdoor showers, and private plunge pools.

Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi Reportedly the most expensive hotel ever built, with 1,002 chandeliers, 140 elevators, and a staff of 2,000.

Park Hyatt Seoul A dream for business travelers: the city's largest deluxe guest rooms, suites that hold laptops, and wireless Internet everywhere.

Mandarin Oriental Dhara Dhevi, Chiang Mai, Thailand A fantastical Asian village of palaces and temples come to life, with all the expected Mandarin pampering.

Uma Ubud, Bali, Yoga organic food, and a riverside setting equal serenity at this 29-room newcomer.

Azur Lodge, Queenstown, New Zealand Lone villas with floor-to-ceiling windows framing dramatic views of Lake Wakatipu.