

Condé Nast Traveler presents

## THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL



THE YEAR'S 140 TOP NEW HOTELS\*

\*including 43
UNDER
\$250 A NIGHT

Consider it a silver lining: Hot hotels continue to open in record numbers despite the recent economic overcast, and many are more affordable than ever. Of the thousands that made their debut in the last year, we checked into the most promising—incognito—measuring up the service, trying out the beds, and sampling the food. The 140 properties that passed our scrutiny make up the largest Hot List yet, proving that the standards for excellence haven't slipped; in fact, they've only risen. Spanning 53 countries (including new-to-the-list destinations Israel, Mongolia, Peru, Slovenia, and Zimbabwe), they range in size from a three-pavilion hideaway an hour north of Sydney to a 2,034-room high-rise on the Vegas Strip, and in room rates from \$89 at an invitingly accounted Palm Springs hot spot with a pool straight out of a David Hockney print to \$2,050 for a sprawling safari tent in northern Botswana. Such bright choices make the forecast easier to weather.





# Spas 50 NEW SPAS TO LOSE YOURSELF IN



#### ARGENTINA

CasaCalma »Buenos Aires

An oasis in Buenos Aires's trafficchoked downtown, the capital's first wellness hotel is bedecked with jasmine that casts a jungly glow over a fresh interior of Carolina pine, whitewashed walls, and woven natural fiber furniture. Guests stay over or book a four-hour day session in one of 18 rooms kitted out with a hydro-massage tub, sauna, and Scottish shower, which stimulates circulation. Day visits include a 50-minute massage and a meal-a fruit-filled breakfast or a healthy lunch. Don't be put off by silly treatment names like Aroma Spirit and Zen Shiatsu: Masseuses know their aromatherapy from their Ayurveda, offering an anti-jet lag pick-me-up, specialized shiatsu and Ayurvedic treatments, and a freestyle massage designed by each masseuse (54-11-5199-2800; massages, \$140). 0 9

## Valle Perdido Wine Spa

»Neuguén

Crickets buzz and owls hoot around the clock at northern Patagonia's Valle Perdido, a working winery with a hotel and spa (see "Hot List"). Muted interiors of dark wood and sand-colored concrete decorated with sprays of pampas grass echo the stony steppe outside. Staff explain just why antioxidant-rich polyphenols in grapes slow the skin's aging process, and employ them in exfoliation, facial, and bath treatments and the signature 90-minute body wraps, combined with honey, mud, or seaweed. Rose hips are used in a cell-nourishing facial wrap, while a chocolate-based tightening mask softens expression lines. Afterward, snack on smoked wild boar, rinse off under a Vichy shower, or simply gaze from the indoor-outdoor pool at fork-tailed flycatchers cavorting on 570 acres of poplarringed vineyards (54-11-4343-3350; massages, \$45). O @ O @

#### Southern Spa at Southern Ocean Lodge »Kangaroo Island

This circular glass-walled spa, a brief boardwalk stroll from the stunning Southern Ocean Lodge (see "Hot List"), takes reconnecting with nature to a sensuous extreme. The three treatment rooms look out on the pounding turquoise sea, and a massage-based treatment menu echoes the unspoiled environs. Virtually everything used here, from the deep-pink mud to the lavender flowers and Ligerian bee honey, hails from this remarkable island—even the spa showers employ rainwater. A signature sea salt and eucalyptus

body wrap begins with a breath of indigenous culture—a smoking ceremony in which gum leaves are reduced to ash-before a faultless exfoliation, body mask, wrap, and full-body massage (61-8-8559-7347; massages, \$90-\$122). O @ O @ @

#### CANADA

#### Chi, the Spa at Shangri-La »Vancouver

With ornate wooden doors, a well, flickering votives, rich paneling, and stone walls, the decor of this Chi spa, the first in the Americas, incorporates all five elements of Chinese philosophy, while treatments focus on your predominant one. The twohour Element Vitality treatment incorporates sonic therapy, masterful Swedish massage, and acupressure it's so enervating you feel as if you might levitate afterward. If time permits, take advantage of the salon's extended "Chi Journeys" (mixing various treatments) or linger in the locker rooms' saunas, then grab a fresh smoothie from the Ginger Bar, adjoining the Shangri-La's (see "Hot List") outdoor pool (604-695-2447; massages, \$125-\$140). O O O

#### CARIBBEAN

#### Sense, a Rosewood Spa at Little Dix Bay

»British Virgin Islands

A new addition to Little Dix Bay's eponymous resort, Sense features an open-air lobby with views of a two-tiered infinity pool and the Sir Francis Drake Channel beyond, while treatments take place in nine stone cottages with outdoor showers and bay views, linked by narrow rock paths through dense foliage. Many treatments feature indigenous ingredients, including the Little Dix Bay Signature Ritual, which begins with a body scrub of Salt Island salt or spice and coconut, followed by an indulgent 90-minute massage with tropical oils. Not only will you feel as if you've had the richness of the island rubbed into you, you'll smell deliciously like it too (284-495-5555; massages, \$135-\$235). 000000

#### Driftwood Spa »Jamaica

This airy waterfront newcomer in the sleepy south-coast town of Treasure Beach mirrors the placid ambience of Jake's hotel, its home. The two-story, sunshine-colored adobe spa with driftwood furniture draws from all corners of the globe: African and Thai Buddhist masks appear on tabletops and walls; stained glass transoms impart a Moorish feel. The menu isn't extensive, so consider combining treatments. The Intuitive Bodywork Massage is a series of pushes, pulls, rocking, and therapeutic massage strokes. Of the skin treatments, the Bona Fide Coffee Scrub has the most sense of place: It uses crushed Blue Mountain coffee beans and local organic brown cane sugar, plus fragrant oils, to exfoliate, leaving skin smooth, supple, and smelling sensational (876-564-2406; massages, \$75-\$90). • • • • •

#### **Boutique Spa by Carita**

»St. Barts

A bastion of French style on St. Barts, Carita is no mega-spa; the 2,000-square-foot ville d'eau is diminutively chic, from muted gray private dressing rooms to a theatrically lit double hammam. Plan an hour to cruise the maze of showers, steam rooms, and Jacuzzis before being collected by your masseuse cum model, who will douse you in orange-scented oils during the hour-long signature Carl Gustaf Relaxing Massage, a deep, tensioneliminating rubdown. The two treatment rooms are cozy compared with the spa's spare communal area, and heated beds are maneuvered electronically, so you won't be disturbed during a session's deep kneads. Stretch the limits of your high school French with the English-averse staff, who are refreshingly slow to push pricey Carita products onto even the most susceptible guests (866-297-2153; massages, \$155). @ @

#### CHINA

#### Aman Spa »Beijing

At the spa at the Aman at Summer Palace (see "Hot List"), low lights and lattice doors lead to neutralhued healing spaces sprinkled with Chinese antiquities such as wedding chests. Sign up for a private posture analysis and Pilates lesson in the pristine gym. Or, equally transformative, try the signature hair spa treatment designed by celebrity Hong Kong stylist Kim Robinson: It features a computer-assisted scalp analysis and bespoke hair mask to restore shine. The Nurtured Harmony treatment is an indulgent combination of ancient Chinese beauty secrets-a black and white

# **HOT SPAS**

CasaCalma, Buenos Aires Valle Perdido Wine Spa, Neuguén

#### AUSTRALIA

Southern Spa at Southern Ocean Lodge, Kangaroo Island

#### CANADA

Chi, the Spa at Shangri-La, Vancouver

#### CARIBBEAN

Sense, a Rosewood Spa at Little Dix Bay, **British** Virgin Islands Driftwood Spa, Jamaica Boutique Spa by Carita,

#### CHINA

Aman Spa, **Beijing** Banyan Tree Sanya, **Hainan** Water's Edge, **Shanghai** 

#### DUBAL

The Spa, Atlantis, Dubai

#### ENGLAND

Cowshed Spa, St. Moritz Hotel, Cornwall

#### FRANCE

Le Couvent des Minimes Spa by L'Occitane, Mane Ambassade de la Beauté: Dior Institut at the Plaza Athénée, Paris

#### INDIA

Priya Spa, Kerala Taj Spa Boat, Udaipur

#### INDONESIA

Karma Spa, Bali Spa at Hotel Tugu, Lombok

IRELAND ESPA at the Europe,

#### Killarney ITALY

Four Seasons Hotel, Florence MALAYSIA Solace Spa, Kota Kinabalu

## MALDIVES

OMO Shambhala Spa, Kandooma

#### MAURITIUS

The Spa, Four Seasons Resort Mauritius at Anahita, Beau Champ

#### MEXICO

Remède, St. Regis Resort, Punta Mita Sense at Rosewood Mayakobá, Riviera Maya

#### MOROCCO Spa at Dar JL. Marrakech

# PHILIPPINES

# Algotherm Spa, Moscow

#### SCOTLAND Spa at Gleneagles by ESPA, Auchterarder

### SLOVENIA Rose Spa, Hotel Kempinski Palace, **Portoroz**

#### SOUTH AFRICA Librisa Spa at the Mount Nelson Hotel, Cape Town Karkloof Spa, KwaZulu-Natal

# SWITZERLAND

#### THAILAND

Veranda Spa, Chiang Mai Six Senses Destination Spa,

#### Phuket

TURKEY Four Seasons Istanbul at the Bosphorus Spa, Istanbul

UNITED STATES CALIFORNIA: Spa Montage, Beverly Hills; Spa at Pelican Hill, Newport Beach COLORADO: RockResorts Spa at the Arrabelle, Vail FLORIDA: Icon Brickell at

Viceroy Miami; Lapis at the Fontainebleau, Miami Beach GEORGIA: 29 Spa at the

Mansion on Peachtree, Atlanta NEVADA: Spa at Trump,

Las Vegas **NEW MEXICO:** Spa at

Encantado, Santa Fe **NEW YORK:** Caudalie Spa at the Plaza Hotel; ESPA at the Peninsula; Sense, a Rosewood Spa, The Carlyle

**New York City** TEXAS: Stoneleigh Spa, Dallas

Key to Symbols 🏶 Outdoor Treatments 🔘 Spa Menu 🔞 Views 🔞 Facial Specialty 🐠 Trends 🚳 Destination Spa 🥵 Urban Day Spa 🔎 Resort Spa 🕩 Urban Hotel Spa 😝 Medical Treatments