


CLIFF HOUSE
HOTEL

CONDE NAST TRAVELER

Condé Nast Traveler presents
THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL

HOT LIST 2009

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 accoutred 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.

**HOT
HOTELS**

ARGENTINA

CasaSur Art Hotel, Buenos Aires
Jardin Escondido, Buenos Aires
Valle Perdido Estate Winery, Neuquén
Posada Puerto Bemberg, Puerto Libertad
Loi Suites Chapelco Hotel, San Martín de los Andes

AUSTRALIA

Pretty Beach House, Bouddi Peninsula
Southern Ocean Lodge, Kangaroo Island
InterContinental Melbourne The Rialto, Melbourne

BELGIUM

Kempinski Hotel Dukes' Palace, Bruges

BOTSWANA

Xaranna Tented Camp, Okavango Delta
Zarafa Camp, Selinda Reserve

BRAZIL

Hotel Santa Teresa, Rio de Janeiro

CAMBODIA

The Sothea, Siem Reap

CANADA

Shangri-La Hotel, Vancouver

CARIBBEAN

Peninsula House, Dominican Republic
Mount Cinnamon, Grenada
Cap Maison, St. Lucia

CHILE

Kunza Hotel & Spa, San Pedro de Atacama

CHINA

Aman at Summer Palace, Beijing
Hotel G, Beijing
Opposite House, Beijing
Park Hyatt, Beijing
Banyan Tree Sanya Resort & Spa, Hainan Island
Mandarin Oriental Sanya, Hainan Island
Ritz-Carlton, Sanya, Hainan Island
W Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Four Seasons Hotel, Maui
Crosswaters Ecological & Spa, Nankunshan
Park Hyatt, Shanghai

COSTA RICA

JW Marriott Guanacaste Resort & Spa, Santa Cruz

CZECH REPUBLIC

Buddha-Bar Hotel, Prague
Kempinski Hybernská, Prague

DENMARK

Nimb Hotel, Copenhagen

EGYPT

Al Tarfa Desert Sanctuary Lodge & Spa, Dakhla Oasis

ENGLAND

St. Moritz Hotel, Cornwall
Grosvenor House, London
St. James's Hotel and Club, London

FRANCE

Hotel 28 à Aix, Aix-en-Provence
Regent Grand Hotel, Bordeaux
Le Couvent des Minimes, Mane
Mama Shelter, Paris

GERMANY

The George, Hamburg

GREECE

Anemi Hotel, Folegandros
Santorini Grace, Santorini

INDIA

Neeleshwar Hermitage Hotel, Northern Kerala
Pashan Garh, Panna National Park

Island traffic: At Kandooma in the Maldives, a boat takes guests out to watch dolphins.



For the full review of Kandooma and all other properties designated in these pages, go to cntraveler.com/hotlist.

FAHTE GARH, Udaipur

Nadesar Palace, Varanasi

INDONESIA

Komaneka at Bisma, Bali
St. Regis Resort, Bali
Hotel Tugu, Lombok

IRELAND

Cliff House Hotel, County Waterford

ISRAEL

Hotel Montefiore, Tel Aviv

ITALY

Villa Marina Hotel & Spa, Capri
Four Seasons Hotel, Florence
Hotel Palazzo Gattini, Matera
Romeo Hotel, Naples
Donna Camilla Savelli Hotel, Rome
Borgo Santo Pietro, Tuscany
Castiglione del Bosco—Il Borgo, Tuscany

MALAYSIA

Gayana Eco Resort, Kota Kinabalu
Temple Tree at Bon Ton Resort, Langkawi

MALDIVES

Kandooma, South Malé Atoll

MAURITIUS

Four Seasons Resort Mauritius at Anahita, Beau Champ

MEXICO

Capella Ixtapa, Ixtapa
St. Regis Resort, Punta Mita

MONGOLIA

Terelj Hotel, Gorkhi-Terelj National Park

MOROCCO

AnaYela, Marrakech
Dar Jil, Marrakech

THE NETHERLANDS

CitizenM Schiphol, Amsterdam

OMAN

Al Bustan Palace, Muscat

PERU

Las Casitas del Colca, Colca Valley
La Casona Inkaterra, Cusco

PHILIPPINES

Abaca, Mactan Island

PORTUGAL

M'AR de Ar Aqueduto, Évora

QATAR

W Doha Hotel, Doha

SCOTLAND

Hotel du Vin, Edinburgh

SEYCHELLES

Four Seasons Resort, Mahé

SINGAPORE

Crowne Plaza Changi Airport, Singapore

SLOVENIA

Kempinski Palace, Portoroz

SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Grace, Cape Town
Dock House, Cape Town
Tintswalo Atlantic, Hout Bay
AtholPlace, Johannesburg

SPAIN

ABaC Restaurant & Hotel, Barcelona
Murmuri, Barcelona
Finca Cortesin, Caseres
Agua de Ibiza Spa & Resort, Ibiza

SRI LANKA

Tintagel, Colombo

KEY TO SYMBOLS

- ☪ = Bar/Lounge
- ☀ = Beach
- ☺ = Free Wi-Fi
- ♻ = Gym
- ♨ = Pool
- ♨♨ = Spa
- ♨♨♨ = Hot Spa 2009
- 🕒 = 24-Hour Room Service
- 🔥 = Hot
- 🔥🔥 = Hotter
- 🔥🔥🔥 = Hottest

For the full reviews of hotels designated go to cntraveler.com/hotlist

SWEDEN

Lydmars Hotel, Stockholm
Fjällnäs, Swedish Highlands

SWITZERLAND

LeCrans Hôtel & Spa, Crans-Montana
Dolder Grand, Zurich

THAILAND

Le Méridien, Bangkok
Veranda Chiang Mai, The High Resort, Chiang Mai
Le Méridien Chiang Rai Resort, Chiang Rai
Anantara Resort & Spa, Phuket

TURKEY

Four Seasons Istanbul at the Bosphorus, Istanbul
Park Hyatt Istanbul—Maçka Palas, Istanbul
Witt Istanbul Suites, Istanbul

UGANDA

Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The Address, Downtown Burj Dubai, Dubai
Atlantis, The Palm, Dubai
Desert Palm, Dubai

UNITED STATES

InterContinental Montelucia Resort & Spa, Paradise Valley, Ariz.
Montage Beverly Hills, Beverly Hills, Calif.
London West Hollywood, Los Angeles, Calif.
SLS Hotel at Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Calif.
Resort at Pelican Hill, Newport Beach, Calif.
Ace Hotel & Swim Club, Palm Springs, Calif.
Sè San Diego, San Diego, Calif.
Cavallo Point, Sausalito, Calif.
Bardessono, Yountville, Calif.
Westin Riverfront Resort & Spa, Avon, Colo.
Capella Telluride, Telluride, Colo.
The Regent, Bal Harbour, Fla.
Viceroy, Miami, Fla.
Fontainebleau, Miami Beach, Fla.
Mondrian South Beach, Miami Beach, Fla.
Mansion on Peachtree, Atlanta, Ga.
Avia, Savannah, Ga.
Royal Hawaiian Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii
The Blackstone, Chicago, Ill.
Dana Hotel and Spa, Chicago, Ill.
Hidden Pond, Kennebunkport, Me.
Mandarin Oriental, Boston, Mass.
Hotel Ivy, Minneapolis, Minn.
Encore Wynn, Las Vegas, Nev.
Encantado, Santa Fe, N.M.
Greenwich Hotel, New York, N.Y.
Thompson LES, New York, N.Y.
The Nines, Portland, Ore.
Hotel Saint Cecilia, Austin, Tex.
Stoneleigh Hotel & Spa, Dallas, Tex.
Arctic Club Hotel, Seattle, Wash.
Four Seasons Hotel, Seattle, Wash.
Donovan House, Washington, D.C.
Iron Horse Hotel, Milwaukee, Wis.

ZAMBIA

Toka Leya Camp, Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park

ZIMBABWE

Singita Pamushana Lodge, Malilangwe Wildlife Reserve

CONDE NAST TRAVELER WEBSITE

DESCRIPTION



Ardmore, County Waterford
Ireland
Tel: 353 24 87 800

[view web site](#) >

The finest attribute of this verdant, untamed bit of Ireland is indubitably the coast, and the reinvented Cliff House Hotel, a plinth of angular slate and glass hanging off a dramatic lip of Ardmore Bay, wisely sits back and lets it be the focal point. Each of the 39 rooms balances the colossal view with a deftly crafted coziness manifested in stand-alone bathtubs, linen and glass headboards by local artists, Paul Theroux and Dr. Seuss hardcovers on a shelf, swank tartan easy chairs, and a silver tea tray a phone call away. If the service in the bar can be a bit awkward, the [Restaurant](#), with rising star Dutch chef Martijn Kajüter at the helm, turns out dreamy interpretations of Irish dishes, like a ballotine of Clare Island salmon. In the morning, borrow a pair of Wellies from the hallway and go for an hour-long wander along the nearly deserted cliffs.

When to go: Summer, for the best chance of seeing the sun.

Which room to book: Balcony suites have the widest sea views and the overstuffed furniture from which to contemplate them.

<http://www.concierge.com/tools/travelawards/hotlist/2009/hotels/europe>

CONDE NAST TRAVELER WEBSITE

DESCRIPTION

Middle Road, Ardmore

Tel: 353-24-87-820

The locavore movement isn't new to southwest Ireland, but molecular gastronomy certainly is—and at the [Cliff House Hotel](#), the two come together seamlessly. Chef Martijn Kajüter, fresh from Amsterdam's [De Kas](#), spent months scouring County Cork for the most rarefied farm butters and forgotten varieties of local kale. In his laboratory-kitchen, Kajüter magics these ingredients into dishes that give off smoke, vanish in a puff of powder, or crackle in the mouth like Pop Rocks. Larger parties can book the chef's table, but the best tables are the two-person banquettes peering out at the sea.

Tip: At \$94, the tasting menu of dazzlingly unexpected creations is worth the price (three-course prix fixe, \$82).

<http://www.concierge.com/tools/travelawards/hotlist/2009/hotels/europe>