

THE HOTLIST 2001

25 OF THE COOLEST NEW HOTELS IN THE WORLD



What makes one hotel hotter than another?

Is it enough to be a hip hang out? Does the minimalist decor come with snooty service? Has the grande dame's face-lift been entirely successful or are there scars behind the drapes? These are the kind of questions we set out to answer each year in Condé Nast Traveller's search for the world's coolest new hotels. As we sift through the hundreds of contenders that have opened since 2000. Steering a steady path past the spin, a long shortlist emerges. Then, consulting our contributors and contacts across the globe, we arrange visit to check out the talent and report back, ultimately separating the must-haves from the also-rans. The final list is extraordinary in its diversity - from a far-from-basic bush camp in Botswana to a bouncy young Upstart in Miami, a revamped roman ruin to a french-style B&B in Los Angeles - but one thing they all share is a singular sense of style and place that sets them apart from even the best of the rest.

DELUXE BOUTIQUE HOTEL – HOSPITALITY AND DESIGN BY JEAN NOUVEL

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CONDÉ NAST TRAVELLER MAI 2001

PRESSEBERICHT SEITE 2

The Hotel, Lucerne

Just a few minutes from Lucerne's Jean Nouvel-designed Culture and Convention Centre (KKL) is The Hotel, also by Nouvel. «I had been thinking of opening a boutique hotel,» says local hotelier Urs Karli. «When I saw the KKL, I knew who I wanted to do it.» The result is a 25-room masterpiece that breaks out of the luxurious but predictable five-star Swiss mould by offering an understated design experience with highly personalised service to match. Immediately popular with a young, international crowd, each of The Hotel's rooms feature film scenes from Nouvel's private collection which he 'projected' onto the ceilings using an image-transfer system. Viewed from outside at night, these illuminated scenes create a fascinating mosaic. Most painted in soothing dark tones, the rooms have a great sense of calm and either offer views of the adjacent park or have their own private patio. The clever juxtaposition of mirrors makes the lobby area seem to float above the highly rated Restaurant Bam Bou. Its American chef Andrew Clayton, who honed his culinary skills in Mandarin Oriental's hotels, combines French tradition with Asian refinement.

When to go

During Lucerne's world-class music festival, held on 15 August - 15 September

Which room to book

Suite 5201, Jean Nouvel's favourite, which has its own little garden where you can shower, screened by bamboo



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