

desire and ice
TRAVEL WINTER 2010
Tallberg, Sweden



BOOM-BOOM ROOMS

NEW HOTELS Tough times don't seem to have stopped the hotel rush. New properties, along with smartened-up amenities and pioneering designs, keep popping up from Buenos Aires to Bangkok. *T* surveys the next hotel hot spots. BY HEIDI MITCHELL

7
ones to
watch

SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

The Rosewood San Miguel de Allende (rosewood-sanmiguel.com) will soon open its stunning colonial-style hotel (with tequila tastings!) in the beloved Mexican destination.

LHASA

A hotel on the roof of the world: the new St. Regis Lhasa Resort (stregis.com) takes luxury to 12,000 feet, steps from the holy Potala Palace. It's a game changer for the Tibet Autonomous Region.

MALDIVES

Next up in the beach-state are the superchic Viceroy (viceroyhotelsandresorts.com), the sexy Beach House (beachhouse-maldives.com) and the luxe Anantara Kihavah Villas (anantara.com).

PARIS

An Asian invasion: Philippe Starck remade the Royal Monceau for Raffles (raffles.com), Shangri-La (shangri-la.com) arrives next month, and a Mandarin Oriental (mandarin-oriental.com) will hit in 2011.

PUNTA DEL ESTE

With Las Piedras Fasano (laspiedrasfasano.com), the Brazilian boutique bigwigs plant a flag in Uruguay's answer to the Hamptons. Expect polo fields, a boathouse and an Arnold Palmer golf course.

NEW ZEALAND

Tucked into a native forest on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, the new Matakauri Lodge (matakauri.co.nz) offers upscale adventurers doorfront access to the aptly named Remarkables mountain range.

RAJASTHAN

The latest jewel of India takes inspiration from Jaipur's gem industry. At the 63-suite Devi Ratn (deviresorts.in), red sandstone is made into lyrical domes and arches, and surfaces sparkle with metal inlay.

NATURAL SELECTION

Spas are taking an eco-trip: go to any resort with a conscience and you'll find more alfresco treatment rooms, more locally sourced products, more carbon-neutral facilities. These four retreats are at the forefront of the green-spa movement, giving guests a chance to convene with nature sensibly while they slough off those old carbon footprints.



SONEVA KIRI This secluded island resort one hour from Bangkok has a spa in the jungle that uses only Thai ingredients in its therapies. When you're done with your four-hand massage, you can have lunch in a suspended bamboo pod, where food is delivered by waiters on zip lines. No footprint there. sixsenses.com/soneva-kiri; doubles from \$1,200.

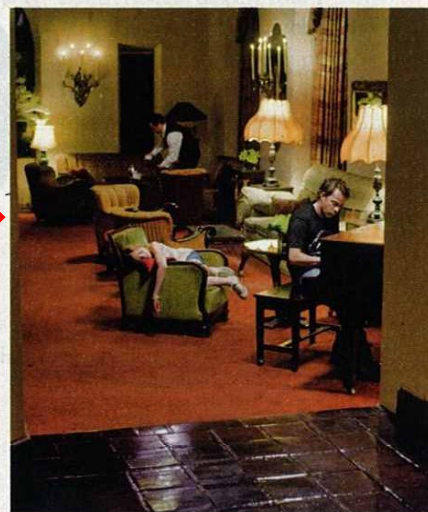
HANGAROA ECO VILLAGE & SPA Built on the mostly deforested Easter Island, the 75-room hotel will have all the bells and whistles of a luxe eco-resort (electro-smog machines, microturbines, grass-topped roofs). Eighty-five percent of the staff will be local Rapa Nui, and many of the products used at the spa will be made on the island. hangaroa.cl; doubles from \$549 per person, all-inclusive.

THE RANCH AT LIVE OAK MALIBU Here's a recipe for success: find a pristine swath of land in Malibu, Calif.; make everything organic and holistic; then offer cooking classes, massages and (mandatory) hikes. The results: a wait list that looks like the Oscar nominees. theranchmalibu.com; one-week retreats \$5,600, all-inclusive.

SASAAB On the banks of Kenya's Ewaso Nyiro river, this lodge (above) offers an uplifting coffee scrub after a long day spent on a dusty camel-back sojourn. Treatments are performed in open-air pavilions and include soothing rubs using African Abor oil, aloe and frankincense, all processed by local women. sasaab.com; doubles from \$620 per person, all-inclusive.

CHATEAU DU POP

Sofia Coppola's latest cinematic dreamscape, "Somewhere" (below), celebrates life at the Chateau Marmont, Hollywood's A-list stomping ground. But the film is by no means the first word on celebrity kerfuffles at the castle-esque hotel. It's where Elizabeth Taylor nursed Montgomery Clift back to health in Room 3F after his near-fatal car accident and, more recently, where Lindsay Lohan headed after one of her run-ins with the law. Here, a timeline of Chateau lore.



1929: Chateau Marmont opens as apartments.

1931: Operating at a loss during the Depression, the property is sold and reopens as a hotel to the stars.

1933: Jean Harlow honeymoon with her new husband, one year after Groom No. 2 is found dead in their L.A. home; she also has a concurrent affair with Clark Gable.

1950s: Howard Hughes runs his media and airline empire from the Chateau's penthouse. A reclusive Greta Garbo recedes into the hotel for weeks at a time.

1955: The director Nicholas Ray (age 43) has sex with his "Rebel Without a Cause" star, Natalie Wood (17), in Bungalow No. 2. Wood's angered boyfriend, Dennis Hopper, spreads the word.

1971: Jim Morrison dangles from a rain gutter while trying to enter his room through the window.

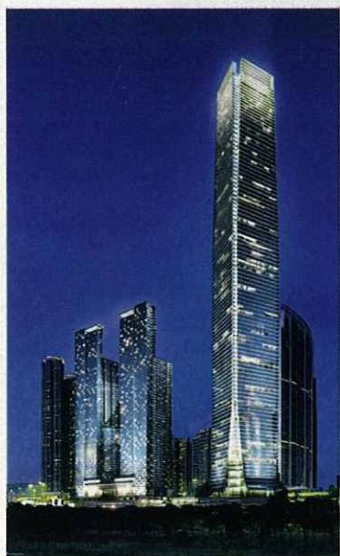
1982: John Belushi overdoses in Bungalow No. 3.

1990: André Balazs buys and starts renovating the hotel, to much starlet delight.

1990s: Johnny Depp claims to have made love to Kate Moss in every room of the hotel.

2004: Rumors fly that Scarlett Johansson got down and dirty with Benicio del Toro in an elevator. (She denies it.)

2007: Britney Spears added to hotel "Black List" after smearing food on her face.



VIEW MASTER The height wars continue in Asia as, brick by brick, hotels compete for the title of world's highest. Currently taking the baton from the Park Hyatt Shanghai is the **Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong**. The International Commerce Center building, which houses the property — 312 guest rooms on Floors 106 to 117 — has a shingled facade that swoops into an elongated base, calling to mind a dragon's tail (and deflecting the wind during a typhoon). The money shot: a glass-enclosed tippy-top-level bar and swimming pool overlooking Victoria Harbor, Hong Kong Island and miles of mainland China.