

WORLD'S BEST
HOTELS

 NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

TRAVELER

AMAZING ESCAPES

50 DREAM DRIVES • 18 SAFARIS

ON THE COAST

BIG SUR

IN THE WILD

ZAMBIA

AROUND TOWN



BEST LIST

21 ICONIC HOTELS



► They're classic, even legendary, but these lodgings refuse to rest on their laurels



Some hotels are destinations in their own right. Their fabled reputations draw travelers seeking a place with personality, that X factor that makes the destination as much of a joyful discovery as the journey, a home base with heart.

Whether you're looking to rub shoulders with history at one of the world's grandes dames, seeking sublime vistas, or sniffing out delicious food and wine, these hotels are guaranteed to enrich any travel experience. —Annie Fitzsimmons and Carrie Miller

Marrakech

La Mamounia (●): Like the heady city it inhabits, this Moroccan hotel oozes glamour and romance. Located on former royal gardens, the Moorish-meets-Art Deco gem has been a longtime favorite with A-listers, including Winston Churchill, who spent many winters here and declared it "the most lovely spot in the whole world."

Dining in traditional Moroccan splendor at La Mamounia

BEST LIST ICONIC HOTELS



At Hôtel de Crillon, a private terrace overlooks Paris.

Auchterarder

Gleneagles (🍷): At this grand hotel surrounded by a majestic, moody landscape, choose from pursuits like golf, falconry, and fishing, then refuel in the Michelin two-starred restaurant. Welcome to the ultimate Scottish escape—don't forget your kilt.

Cusco

Inkaterra La Casona (🏠): Once the residence of Simón Bolívar, this 16th-century manor house in the historic district is now a National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World with Peruvian-influenced cuisine and a luxe spa using local botanicals.

Florence

Hotel Lungarno (🌊): Ever popular Florence attracts scores of visitors. This newly reopened property on the Arno River lives up to every Florentine dream—and provides a quiet respite within the bustling city. If you're traveling with kids, book one of the new family rooms, and enjoy an alfresco breakfast overlooking the river before heading out to see Michelangelo's "David" and search for the city's best gelato. Owned by the Ferragamo fashion family, the hotel itself houses an incredible art collection. The more than 400 pieces include works by Pablo Picasso, Jean Cocteau, and Mario Sironi.

Jerusalem

The American Colony Hotel (🏠): A haven in an area often besieged with conflict, this 1902 hotel has long been a meeting place for journalists, spies, and politicians. It is said the outdoor Summer Bar is for optimists, while the Cellar Bar is for the realists.

Lake Placid

Lake Placid Lodge (🌊): Channeling the gilded age, this New York retreat is designed for relaxing and socializing, both indoors and outside. Hiking trails, lake activities, and ski slopes beckon, as do sites from the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympics.

Lausanne

Beau-Rivage Palace (🍷): With a jaw-dropping facade and historic interiors, this hotel on the banks of Switzerland's Lake Geneva offers a bountiful breakfast buffet and a top dining room by famed French restaurateur Anne-Sophie Pic.

London

Brown's Hotel (🏠): Occupying a prime Mayfair address since 1837, Brown's has helped define London hospitality. Past famous residents include Alexander Graham Bell, Rudyard Kipling, and Agatha Christie (her book *At Bertram's Hotel* is based on Brown's). Today it's a destination for travelers looking for apartment-style sophistication. A tea sommelier helms the famous afternoon tea, while the Donovan Bar celebrates British photographer Terence Donovan with 50 of his black-and-white prints. The hotel also can arrange for the services of Savile Row tailors and fashion stylists.

Melbourne

Mansion Hotel & Spa at Werribee Park (🏠): Take an 1870 mansion and a 1923 seminary on 10 acres of English garden, and the result is an instant classic. With its indoor lap pool, spa, and expansive wine cellar, this spot is celebrated for its world-away feel.