



THE WINNERS

BEACH SANCTUARY

LAZY DAYS AND LAID-BACK TROPICAL STYLE ARE GUARANTEED AT THESE SEASIDE HOTELS

Ahu Bay, Sri Lanka

Perched on the most petite of promontories and fringed by two soft sweeps of caramel-coloured sand, Ahu Bay is a paean to the irresistible beauty of barefoot, beachfront living. Plump beanbag-style loungers line a pretty infinity pool with Indian Ocean views, while guests chat over cocktails and a laid-back, languid soundtrack at the restaurant. Finished with elegant teak furniture, colourful textiles and handmade tiles, light and breezy bedrooms are homely and calming. And everywhere you look, there's the splendour of the sea. Fringed by swaying palms and age-old boulders, a pair of unblemished beaches are seconds from the property. They feel particularly special at dusk when, illuminated by the setting sun and firelight, diners sit at simple tables rooted in the sand to enjoy unfussy menus within touching distance of the lapping water. From \$350 (£274), B&B. thereverie.life

Runners-up

ANDAZ PATTAYA JOMTIEN BEACH, THAILAND

On barely developed Tawanron Beach, the design of this new Andaz blends the best of traditional and contemporary Thailand, with sleek modern rooms alongside reclaimed teak mansions. This is all set inside tropical gardens woven with numerous swimming pools, streams and lotus ponds. The beach is right on the doorstep and, beyond the seashore, a fascinating province home to wild elephants, hidden waterfalls and Chinese-Thai heritage villages. From 7,325 TH (£165), B&B. hvatt.com

CASA CHABLÉ, MEXICO

In the dense mangrove forests of the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve and with just 10 rooms, peace and quiet are virtually guaranteed here. A bone-white beach lies a few steps from your room; if you can remove yourself from it, kayaking and snorkelling tours are on offer. Evenings are spent mezcal tasting, tucking into Mexican seafood or relaxing in your guest room or bungalow a picture of boho luxury in thatch and dark wood. From \$1,469 (£1,150), full board. casachable chablehotels.com

