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## Wonderful hotels to discover in 2024

From timeless classics to stylish new openings, here are six hotels that travel journalists recommend for this year

### A country house in the Cotswolds

#### Lucknam Park *Wiltshire*

This elegant Georgian manor house at the southern tip of the Cotswolds has operated as a hotel under the same ownership since 1987. It's the place for a "truly spoiling" weekend retreat, says Fiona Duncan in *The Daily Telegraph*, with a Michelin-starred restaurant, traditional decor and carefully tended gardens. Rooms are "lavishly comfortable", and there are also six cottages in the grounds. The spa is superb, and has an "indulgently long" indoor pool and an outdoor hydrotherapy one. In the main restaurant, chef Hywel Jones draws heavily on local ingredients for his tasting menus, and there's also a more informal brasserie. The hotel is within easy striking distance of Bath, but there's much to do on site too, including tennis, riding and archery, and a playroom for children. *Doubles from £375; lucknampark.co.uk.*



### Low-key luxury in Greece

#### The Rooster

*Antiparos, Greece*

Sat in a remote valley overlooking a wild beach on the Greek island of Antiparos, this wellness retreat is the epitome of "quiet luxury", says Anna van Praagh in the *Evening Standard*. Its 16 low-slung villas are built from the honey-coloured local stone, and are further "camouflaged" by beautifully landscaped gardens. Their soothing interiors feature "muted" shades and natural materials – "rough-hewn" marble, driftwood four-poster beds – and all have huge sun decks, outdoor rain showers and plunge pools. The Mediterranean food in the airy hillside restaurant is delicate and flavoursome, with most ingredients drawn from The Rooster's own organic farm, and there's a "picturesque" yoga pavilion and an excellent spa. *Doubles from £735 b&b; therooosterantiparos.com.*



### A remote Caribbean beach retreat

#### Casa Chablé *Mexico*

Caribbean beach resorts don't come more remote or peaceful than Casa Chablé, says Tatler. This new addition to Mexico's Chablé hotel group sits beside a stretch of "powdery" white sand in the vast and wondrous Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, a 35-minute speedboat ride from the town of Tulum. New developments here are banned, so it occupies the pleasingly petite footprint of an older nature retreat, and has just ten rooms – five in the main house, and five in beachfront villas with whitewashed walls and dark sapodilla wood floors. The "shack-like" restaurant is overseen by Jorge Vallejo of Mexico City's Quintonil (ranked ninth on the list of the World's 50 Best Restaurants). It's a wonderful place to do very little, but there is plenty to do if you want to, including birdwatching, snorkelling, and fishing. *Doubles from £592 b&b; chablehotels.com.*



### The Grand Canal's grand dame

#### The Gritti Palace *Venice*

Built by the doge Andrea Gritti in 1475, this palace on Venice's Grand Canal has been a hotel since 1895. It's the city's "ultimate grand dame", said Lee Marshall in *Condé Nast Traveller*, and is like a museum of the city's "decorative history", with its silk and damask wall coverings, "acres" of painted stucco, and gilded ceiling beams "from which Murano chandeliers hang like elegant jellyfish". Everyone from Churchill and Hemingway to Garbo and De Niro has stayed here, and "you don't need to book the airily magnificent Somerset Maugham Royal Suite to feel you have joined the club" – the "entry-level" rooms are equally atmospheric. The Gritti Terrace's view of the Salute church makes it one of Venice's "finest breakfast spots", and there's a good restaurant and a wonderfully intimate bar. *Doubles from about £675 b&b; marriott.com.*



### Home from home in the Highlands

#### Lundies House

*Tongue, Scotland*

Occupying a Victorian clergyman's house beside the Kyle of Tongue (a sea-loch on Scotland's north coast), Lundies House is one of the most beautiful hotels in the Highlands, says Antonia Quirke in *Condé Nast Traveller*. Opened four years ago by Anne and Anders Holch Povlsen (known for their efforts to rewind large tracts of Scotland), it has just eight bedrooms, all decorated in a "supremely lulling colour palette". The "warm" communal areas have "the atmosphere of an intimate country house", and the dining room is "luminous", its walls hand-painted with a "shimmering dreamscape of midsummer blossom". Food is "immaculately seasonal", and there's a natural pool for swimming and a huge fire pit, beside which it's a delight to sit, sipping on Orkney gin, in the evenings. *From £450 b&b; lundies.scot.*



### A serene hideaway in the Himalayas

#### &BEYOND Punakha River Lodge *Bhutan*

The tiny Himalayan nation of Bhutan has no shortage of luxury hotels, but this new one offers more carefully arranged outdoor activities than some. Its main lodge is a traditional Bhutanese structure tucked away in woodland on the Mo Chhu River, says Tatler, with views over "vibrant green" rice terraces. There's a cosy bar-lounge filled with historic objects such as prayer wheels and arrow quivers, and a large swimming pool, a yoga pavilion and a full spa. Guests stay in two small houses and six spacious tented suites, each with a bath tub and indoor and outdoor showers. The restaurant serves global dishes and gourmet spins on Bhutanese classics, and activities include archery, white-water rafting, and wonderful hikes to remote lakes and mountain-top monasteries. *Doubles from £725, full board; andbeyond.com.*



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