

TOWN & COUNTRY

APRIL 2023

EVA LONGORIA
Her Secret Powers

Are There
McMANSIONS ON
THE MOON?

PARIS IN
COUTURE
We Make Your Dreams
Come True

College Money Grab
BEWARE!

T&C Travelganza
Our Favorite New
Places to Stay



Think Big!
How Creative Ambition
Will Save the World



T&C TRAVEL

Your Room Is Ready

BY KLARA GLOWCZEWSKA, JOHN NEWTON, AND THE EDITORS OF T&C ILLUSTRATIONS BY RODICA PRATO

And, judging by how booked hotels are, you are too. We all have our favorites, the places we return to again and again, where they know us and we know them. We keep those classics in another list. This is a rather scientific survey of the best

of the new: places that opened in the last two years (mostly). Tricky times, but exciting as well. Our methodology can be found on page 61. But here is the underlying factor: All the hotels listed are where we would want to stay too. See you there? ➡➡



Beach Access

*Benguerra? Trancoso?
The Fari Islands? Just
when you thought beach
resorts were been there,
done that...*

Think Crusoe with infinity pools and Mini Mokes.

Kisawa Sanctuary, Mozambique Remote Benguerra Island, in the Bazaruto Archipelago, has long been a magnet in the Indian Ocean—the ultimate rarefied dropout. This 740-acre hotel, on its southern tip, with 17 artful thatched-roofed bungalows scattered among the dunes, is its new star. Each bungalow sits on its own beachfront acre, with a private infinity pool and a Mini Moke available for exploring the area. The spa has a doctor in residence (plus visiting practitioners), and land-based and marine activities abound. Kisawa

partners with the Bazaruto Center for Scientific Studies, a permanent staffed ocean observatory, where Kisawa guests are welcome.

The star of *The White Lotus*.

San Domenico Palace, Taormina It may have only recently begun surfacing on everyone's radar—thanks to a certain hit HBO show—but San Domenico, which was renovated as a Four Seasons in 2021, dates back to the 14th century, when it began life as the home of a Sicilian baron, who donated it to the Dominican order to be used as a convent after he died.



Kalesma, Mykonos



FOR THE RECORD
Stellene Volandes, *T&C*,
on Kalesma Mykonos

“I love how they’ve thought of everything, even a hotel chapel with hand-painted walls—because you never know!”

It opened as a hotel in 1896 and soon became a glamorous stop on the Grand Tour, hosting the likes of J.P. Morgan, the second Baron Rothschild, Greta Garbo, and Sophia Loren. What’s it like now? Well, we’ll assume you’re caught up on *The White Lotus*, so need we really say more?

Something cool under the Cayman sun.

Palm Heights, Grand Cayman Some hotels transcend their surroundings. You remember the property, not what lies beyond. Palm Heights is perched on Seven Mile Beach, and its chic 52 suites all overlook a beachfront of Starburst-yellow umbrellas and the dining spots, which include Yashinoki (exquisite Japanese cuisine) and Tillies (a menu derived from the Greater Antilles). A cool-kid crew has made the hotel its own recently (the place found its groove post-pandemic), but families and retirees mingle easily alongside the Emily Ratajkowskis and Evan Mocks. That’s attributable to a staff that sweats the small stuff without losing its cool under the island sun,

including curating the books in every suite for each guest.

A perfect oasis in the ultimate party place.

Kalesma, Mykonos If you avoid Mykonos because it’s too crowded—too *everything*—you’re about to change your mind. Kalesma is elegant and private, with food so delicious you don’t have to go out (you’ll want to—that’s the point of being here—but not having to is a blessing on this reservations-only island). Each of the 27 bungalows has a pool and private outdoor space, and the surroundings, landscaped with olive trees, bougainvillea vines, and herbs, are quiet. Close your eyes and you’re in the Mykonos of years ago—but with fresh pineapple juice in the morning.

A real resort on Brazil’s most recherché beach.

Fasano Trancoso, Bahia Trancoso long ago made the transition from insider’s secret to Brazil’s most exclusive beach destination. This opening marks a new phase in its history. The 40-bungalow hotel stands out as a full resort compared with the town’s older, boutique-style places. Architect Isay Weinfeld, who was responsible for the original Fasano, in São Paulo, designed this, as well. The rooms are spacious, with an understated palette of neutrals. Life here, however, unfolds by the pool and on the beach, where the restaurant serves excellent Bahian and Italian fare and you’ll find that lunch seamlessly transitions, Trancoso-style, into drinks and then dinner.

The Caribbean with big nature and a bit of Bali.

Nayara Bocas del Toro, Panama The country’s wild side is one of its big draws, and this solar-powered hotel in the astoundingly biodiverse Bocas del Toro Archipelago has ➡➡

Kisawa Sanctuary,
Benguerra Island





Patina Maldives,
Fari Islands

16 overwater villas fringed by three miles of Caribbean beach, amid coral reefs and mangroves, and two chic new treehouses (with three more to come) designed by “queen of green” Elora Hardy, daughter of jewelry designer John Hardy, and her Balinese firm, Ibuku. Swim, snorkel, kayak, paddleboard, explore—or just exhale.

A magnificent coast gets a hotel to match.

1 Hotel Hanalei Bay, Kauai It seems perverse that the north shore of Kauai, one of the most dramatic, mystical landscapes in the world (it appeared in *Jurassic Park*, *South Pacific*, and *The Descendants*), has not had a premier hotel until now. The 1 Hotel, of course, is not just a hotel but a philosophy, and all its comforts are enhanced by a core commitment to wellness and sustainability. The interiors are in Zen earthtones; the activities, fitness, and spa programming are deep; nearly all the produce and protein served in its four restaurants comes from the islands; and the whole is LEED certified. Which must make Hawaii’s old spirits happy.

Not a Mexican megaresort. Hallelujah.

Étéreo, Riviera Maya This new 75-room hotel from Auberge, north of Playa del Carmen, is masterfully designed to be respectful of its natural surroundings, and it gives you a beach resort vacation that’s refreshingly chic, sexy, and intimate. One of its restaurants, the casual seaside El Changarro, is a charmer that serves impossibly fresh civi-

che, fish tacos, and other seafood. In the rooms, local textiles, carved wooden walls by artist Manuel Felguérez, and floor-to-ceiling sliding doors that open onto the Caribbean remind you you’ve arrived in Mexico’s paradise.

A modern take on the Maldives.

Patina Maldives, Fari Islands In a place where most resorts emphasize solitude and silence, Patina (from Capella Hotels Group) has shaken things up by hitting social notes, too. Its lively Fari Marina Village, which is also open to guests of the Ritz-Carlton and the upcoming Capella Maldives, has a beach club, boutiques, and restaurants. Studio MK27’s Marcio Kogan designed the resort in his signature spare modernist style, which lets the blue skies and sea steal the show.

It will make your friends clamor for your itinerary.

Cosme, Paros This Greek island is hardly a secret, though it has long taken a back seat to its flashier luxury resort-laden sisters, Santorini and Mykonos, preferring instead to preserve its fishing village charms. The recent arrival of the chic Cosme—by hoteliers Antonis Eliopoulos and Kalia Konstantinidou, the husband-and-wife duo credited with introducing five-star hospitality to Santorini back in the ’90s—may signal a new era. The hotel checks all the boxes: on the sand, private plunge pools, walking distance to Naousa, fabulous sunsets. We’re going.



*All red? All glass?
All circa 1930s?
Your statement stays
are here.*

Vikas Soni to create this fever dream of a hotel in a 1980s structure in an enclosed garden slightly outside town that once belonged to a member of the local nobility. The nine rooms vary, but all are many shades of scarlet and shockingly beautiful (the public spaces too), with hand-painted depictions of flora, fauna, and other motifs reflecting Mughal and Italian aesthetics. The restaurant is wonderful. Tip: It’s takeover heaven.

A paean to Art Deco is the new place in Oslo.

Sommerro Hotel, Oslo The city’s original electrical company (“Light power heat,” proclaims the 1930s façade) has been transformed into its new hot spot and apparently largest preservation project. The jewel-like rooms have Art Deco accents (sculptural lighting, curved paneling, pink marble), the

This oasis of hip is Jaipur’s latest hot spot.

Villa Palladio, Jaipur The city’s two expat design darlings, Barbara Mionlini and Marie-Anne Oudejans (of Bar Palladio and Caffé Palladio), paired up with Rajasthani painter



Villa Palladio,
Jaipur

GEORG ROSKE/PATINA MALDIVES (FARI ISLANDS)