

Introducing the 2017 Hot List

by CNT Editors • April 18, 2017

For the 21st edition of the Hot List—our picks of the year's top hotel openings—these 75 outstanding winners represent not just the vanguard of the world, but where travelers are headed next.

The day after we put last year's Hot List to bed, we began casting a net for this year's favorites. We flew a collective 529,500 miles, sausage in coach, slept in roughly 200 beds, and had [passports stamped](#) in more than 50 countries between our team of 60 reporters, editors, and photographers. And yes, we had our share of knock-down, drag-out debates that got us from the 675 contenders we started with to the 75 you see before you—only 11 percent of all those properties we bunkered down in made this list this year, making it our most selective ever.

The 2017 Hot List is longer (by about 25 percent) than in years past, and contains an arguably wider range of hotels (though one thing was clear: boutique was big—more than half of these 75 have under 50 guest rooms). Yet all passed the ultimate litmus test of whether they made us giddy. We're talking about those one-off singular experiences that make your hotel so memorable, like viewing the 800—800!—year-old *ikeniwa*, or pond garden, at the [Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto](#) (two other spots we went nuts for this year in your [RCA-topping favorite destination](#), Japan: [Hoshinoya Tokyo](#) and [Amanemu](#) in Ise-Shima National Park); or soaking in the same tub as Queen Victoria's at 19th-century [Palé Hall](#) in north Wales. Our scouting even led to some larger discoveries:

- That [Morocco's](#) Tamuda Bay may be set to become the Mediterranean's newest hot spot if the [Banyan Tree](#) and [Sofitel Tamuda Bay Beach and Spa](#) have anything to say about it.
- The chicest place to sleep in [Sicily](#) is now 107 miles south of the mainland with the opening of [Sikelia](#) on [Pantelleria island](#).
- There's no need to let the historical architecture tour in [Chiang Mai](#) end at bedtime: You can sleep in a century-old Thai home, raised on stilts and made of teak, at [Villa Mahabhirom](#).

Read on for the full Hot List, and see how beautiful these places are in our [gallery of hotels](#).

CARIBBEAN & MEXICO

ANGUILLA

Zemi Beach House

Best New Hotels in the World: Hot List 2017

Our editors vetted hundreds of recently opened hotels and resorts, from West Africa to Miami, and found that what stands out are the properties that combine old-school extravagance and service with just the right measure of modernity. Here are the 75 best new hotels in the world. View as a [list](#).



Zemi Beach House, Anguilla

It has a 300-year-old teak Thai cottage with a Turkish hammam right off the shore.