

# TRAVEL+ LEISURE

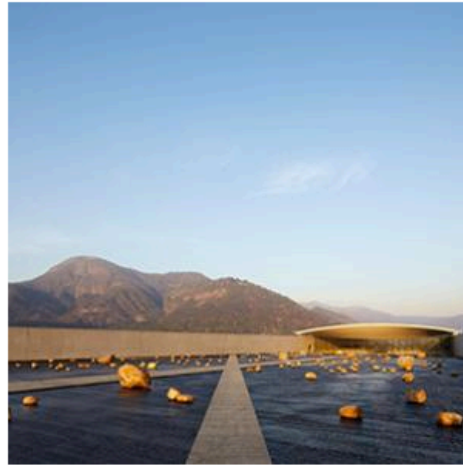


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By Travel + Leisure Staff

**Introducing a Caribbean design star, an eco-pioneer in the Galápagos, and more exciting new hotels that are transforming their destinations.**

It looks like a concrete-and-glass spaceship touched down amid the lush hills of Chilean wine country. In fact, it's Viña Vik, a new retreat that's thrillingly original and opening up the Millahue Valley to more travelers.



*Credit: Courtesy of Vina Vik*

Wine-country hotels the world over tend to follow a few familiar themes—intimate scale, lots of stone and rough-hewn beams, expansive views, good food—and if they often deliver a high degree of comfort, they also rarely offer many surprises.

Viña Vik is the opposite, from its curvilinear winery designed by Smiljan Radic to rooms that pursue an idea (say, an homage to Piero Fornasetti) down to the smallest detail. It's the kind of hotel that can singlehandedly make a trip memorable.

After all, there are great new hotels, and then there are game changers. For our 10<sup>th</sup> annual editors' choice awards, we picked 43 transformative properties—and vetted each one with a hotel stay.

Our search took us from Anguilla to Australia, from India to Italy. In Florida, we followed the cool crowd to the Miami Beach Edition, the latest scene-maker in Mid-Beach. The party begins in the lobby, with its all-white billiards table, and overflows into a nightclub, a bowling alley, a Jean-Georges restaurant, even a skating rink.

In Portugal, the arrival of Sublime Comporta opens up a stretch of coastline that's been a longtime getaway for Lisbon's smartest families. The husband-and-wife owners make guests feel like instant insiders, pointing out the best beaches and arranging scenic horseback rides.

These remarkable newcomers are a reminder that a great hotel can be a destination unto itself. They provide not just a place to rest your head but also an entire rationale to get on a plane and explore someplace new.

So check out this year's It List and get planning.

# It List: The Best New Hotels

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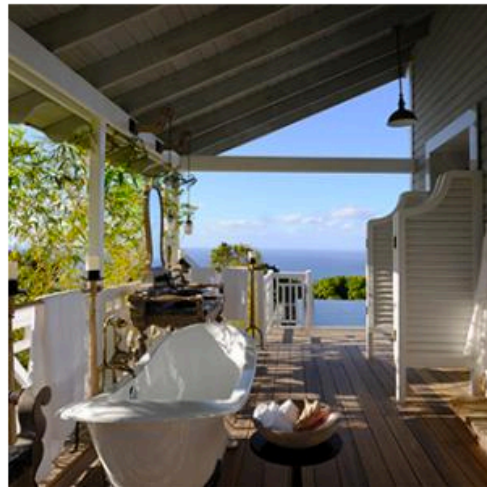
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## Style Setter: Belle Mont Farm, St. Kitts

At the edge of a cloud forest on lush Mount Liamuiga, Belle Mont Farm on Kittitian Hill is adding a refined new edge to St. Kitts, a sleepy Caribbean island 40 miles south of glitzy St. Bart's. Clapboard guest cottages and villas, designed by Bangkok-based architect Bill Bensley, evoke vernacular Caribbean architecture; bamboo and banana trees discreetly veil outdoor bathtubs. There's no shortage of ultra-lavish amenities here (plunge



Credit: Belle Mont Farms

pools, Italian linens, home theaters), though the real draw of Belle Mont Farm is its personalized attention and farm-to-table ethos. Mini-crates of ripe fruit from the property's own 400-acre organic farm are delivered to your door daily, while Sunday brunch at the restaurant features farm-raised eggs, just-caught snapper, and house-made mamey apple jam. [bellemontfarm.com](http://bellemontfarm.com); all-inclusive. \$\$\$\$\$