

LUXURY AT IT'S BEST!

Some hotels stay with you, after you've stayed in them.

- By Aruna Rathod



VIDAGO PALACE, PORTUGAL

The drive to Vidago Palace is half the fun, through the heart of Douro Valley, offering amazing views of the terraced hillsides, spectacular views over the vineyards near the river, culminating in the picturesque wine town of Pinhão.

The setting of Vidago Palace Hotel near Portugal's northern border, in Trás-os-Montes – 'beyond the mountains', is gorgeous. A combination of English country manor sensibility and royal style, the building is impressive.

An opulent main building (opened as a royal palace in 1910) with its glittering ballroom-turned-restaurant, its star attractions are a lush 18-hole golf course and the sleek, white-marble spa, where you can take the local spring waters in style.

In the Salão Nobre Dining Room, the hotel's vast and gilded one-time ballroom, Portuguese chef Josu Sedano-Martin serves up a gourmet take on local favourites, such as octopus carpaccio and quail eggs. Meals are also served in the Winter Garden, the hotel's bright conservatory, and at the laid-back Poolside Bar.



THE WYN HOTEL, LAS VEGAS

When in Las Vegas, do it in style at the Wynn Resorts. What makes it unique? It is the recipient of more Forbes Travel Guide Five Star Awards than any other independent hotel company in the world.

Wynn and Encore Las Vegas features two luxury hotel towers with a total of 4,750 spacious hotel rooms, suites and villas, approximately 192,000 square feet of casino space, 21 dining experiences featuring signature chefs and 11 bars, two award-winning spas, approximately 290,000 square feet of meeting and convention space, approximately 103,000 square feet of retail space as well as three nightclubs, a beach club and recreation and leisure facilities. In addition to two luxury retail esplanades, a Strip-front expansion, Wynn Plaza, is currently under construction and is scheduled to be completed in 2018.

Dine at the most authentic and amazing restaurants and take your pick from Tableau for American cuisine, Sinatra for Italian, Costa Di Mare lakeside for sea food, Andrea's Mizumi for Asian and SW Steak house for steaks! Dig into entrees like the chilli-rubbed double rib eye and chops with seasonal, exotic ingredients like black truffle creamed corn.

HOTEL ESENCIA, MEXICO

Set along the ivory sands of the Riviera Maya, Hotel Esencia was originally built as the private hideaway home of an Italian duchess on the most beautiful, tranquil beach on Mexico's Caribbean coast. Located on a 50-acre estate surrounded by lush Mayan jungle, it has the Xpu-Ha beach - the finest stretch in the region, where sea turtles make their nests each year.

Hotel Esencia is the perfect blend of European and local influences. Located just 50 minutes from Cancun and 30 from Tulum, it is full of character, charm and heritage. The Main House is the centre of the hotel, from which footpaths lead to the hotel's 40 chic, whitewashed rooms and suites. Launched recently were 11 new suites - six Beach Suites opening out directly onto the white sandy beach, and five Jungle Suites. For dining, choose from three restaurants, a beach bar and a juice bar (all of which use only local organic produce), two large pools, and an organic spa. The recently-opened MISTURA restaurant is right on the beach with spectacular views, and has transformed the foodie scene between Tulum and Playa del Carmen as it is open not only to hotel guests, but the general public visiting the region as well.



ONE & ONLY MALDIVES

One & Only Reethi Rah's accommodation, comprising exclusively of villas, combined with the natural beauty of the island and the enriching variety of activities on offer, allows ample opportunity for families to spend time together, as well as for individual moments of quiet and calm. Each villa is secluded and surrounded by lush tropical greenery, with a private stretch of sandy shore. Beach villas overlook the turquoise ocean. Water villas are perched over a turquoise lagoon and can be accessed by over-water walkways.

For families, the Signature programmes for kids with Kids Only and One Tribe programmes are a boon. Teenagers are also spoilt for choice with a wide range of water sports and excursions on offer. Windsurfing, diving, snorkelling, fishing, water-skiing and kayaking are available, supervised by highly trained professionals to ensure maximum safety and proper use of equipment.



NOBU SHOREDITCH, LONDON

Nobu Hotel Shoreditch offers a dynamic blend of Nobu's signature east-meets-west philosophy and Shoreditch's creative and industrial energy. Enjoy genre-defining Nobu signature dishes, exquisite sushi, and Shoreditch-inspired menus and cocktails. For those wishing to witness the theatre and artistry of Nobu chefs in action there is the exclusive 10-seat sushi bar and an 18-seat chef's table, with prime views of both the main kitchen and sushi chefs at work.

Giving back to the local area, Nobu Hotel Shoreditch will also be opening a stunning pocket garden, creating a public space between the vibrant streets and the calmness of the hotel, offering an oasis in the heart of East London.

Known around the world, Nobu cuisine is an innovative interpretation of Japanese, Peruvian and other South American elements pioneered by Chef Nobu Matsuhisa and influenced by his years of studying Japanese cuisine in Tokyo and his extensive travels.

LANGHAM, NEW YORK

A hotel with a view – Langham overlooks the most famous landmark of New York – the Empire State Building. Last year, the hotel inaugurated the brand new presidential suite by Roche Bobois. The 1,900 sq. ft. two bedroom suite on The Langham's 27th floor also features the ultimate in culinary exclusivity – a Michelin-starred restaurant brought right to your room.

Guests of the Presidential Suite by Roche Bobois will be able to enjoy all the benefits of dining at Ai Fiori in their suite dining room, as well

as access to a private chef service from the Ai Fiori culinary team, and a mini-bar and pantry curated by Chef Michael White himself.

The Presidential Suite by Roche Bobois, Suite 2704, located on the highest floor in the hotel, features two full king-sized bedrooms, two full marble-clad bathrooms with generously-proportioned soaking tubs and separate rainfall showers, a spacious living room, a dining area that seats up to 8 people and a full kitchen with state-of-the-art appliances by Miele, including a hidden washer/dryer, all off-set by floor-to-ceiling windows.

GRAND RESORT, BAD RAGAZ, SWITZERLAND

In the heart of the Alps and in five-star surroundings, Grand Resort allows for ultimate relaxation, medical treatments of the highest order and a broad and diverse range of sports, cuisine and cultural activities. The resort consists of two five-star establishments, the Grand Hotel Quellenhof & Spa Suites and the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz.

The lofts and suites are designed in a contemporary style and include a private spa area with a steam bath, a free-standing whirlpool bath and, in some cases, even a sauna – and from the taps flows forth the Blue Gold of Bad Ragaz, the pure thermal water. A true highlight of the resort is the Penthouse Floor, which stretches over a fabulous 600 square metres and offers a breathtaking 360° panoramic view of Bad Ragaz and the majestic mountain landscape. The seven restaurants in the resort take guests on a culinary journey of discovery from Switzerland around the Mediterranean Sea to the Far East.



RITZ-CARLTON, KYOTO, JAPAN

The Ritz-Carlton, Kyoto redefines luxury in a city that transcends expectations. Set along the banks of the Kamogawa river and featuring panoramic views of the Higashiyama Mountain, the hotel offers 134 beautifully refined rooms and suites, as well as four dining outlets, several tastefully appointed event venues and a peaceful spa. With understated sophistication and style, this hotel speaks volumes about Japan's style and culture.

HÔTEL BARRIÈRE LE NORMANDY DEAUVILLE, FRANCE

Just two hours from Paris in the seaside town of Deauville, the Royal Barrière is set opposite the beach, making it a delightful destination. Built in 1913, with 1900s style architecture, it dominates the coastline with a majestic seafront presence. Located in the centre of Deauville, just a stone's throw from major French fashion designer boutiques,

the Royal Barrière is also an ideal starting point to explore Normandy's rich architectural and historic heritage like the Landing Beaches or Le Mont-Saint-Michel. During the day, guests can also claim a sun lounger by the heated swimming pool, or a cabana on the beach, or tour the area on one of the complimentary bicycles.

The interiors of the suites feature soft Toile de Jouy and pale wood half-timbering, restyled by Nathalie Ryan, transcending the codes of Anglo-Normandy elegance.

HAMILTONS, KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA

Old steamer trunks, pith helmets, hurricane lanterns – the effect is very 19th century hunting excursion nostalgia. While hunting has gone out of style, style is the hallmark of the Hamiltons Tented Camp. Built entirely of canvas set amidst age-old Jackalberry and Sausage trees, with high wooden platforms linking six elevated tents, Hamiltons treats guests to stunning views of the Nwatswitsonto River, where you can have breakfast before going out for a safari or just relax and watch the spectacular wildlife within metres of the terrace. Prime viewing of the big 5, a classy oasis in the wilderness!

