

READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2024   BEST HOTELS IN EUROPE   BEST SKI RESORTS IN THE WORLD



Anna Malmberg/Hotel Corazón

PLACES TO STAY

# The best new hotels in the world: 2024 Hot List

The best openings of the past year span the globe, from Argentina to Zimbabwe to Nepal

BY CNT EDITORS  
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It's inevitable: every spring when we pull together the Hot List, our annual collection of the world's best new hotels, restaurants, and cruise ships, a staffer remarks that this latest iteration has got to be the best one ever. After a year's worth of travelling the globe – to stay the night at a converted farmhouse in the middle of an olive grove outside Marrakech or sail aboard a beloved cruise line's inaugural Antarctic voyage – it's easy to see why we get attached. But this year's Hot List might *really* be the best one ever. It's certainly our most diverse, featuring not only a hotel suite that was once Winston Churchill's office but also the world's largest cruise ship and restaurants from Cape Town to Bali. We were surprised and inspired by this year's honorees, and we know you will be, too. These are the Hot List hotel winners for 2024.

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Pemako Punakha

HOTEL

## Pemako Punakha, Punakha, Bhutan→

This is the first top-end Bhutanese-owned hotel in the scene-stealing Punakha Valley east of Thimphu – home to the magnificent Punakha Dzong, the region's iconic 17th-century fortress. And this is no small thing in a kingdom that has drawn big hitters such as Aman, and Beyond, and Six Senses. A series of buildings in the wooden, sloping-roofed Bhutanese vernacular style – including 21 tented villas – is slung across 70 lush acres of a river valley. The design was dreamt up by hotel designer Bill Bensley to unfold in layers, like the whorls of a lotus. Everything was plotted with the natural landscape in mind, and there was minimal felling of trees to create the one- to three-bedroom villas, each with a private heated pool and a spacious deck. Inside, Serge Ferrari fabrics and copper fixtures – including the bathroom tubs – meet an aesthetic rooted in Bhutanese culture, colours, and works of art. Druk beer is stocked in the minibar, there's a traditional hot-stone bath in the spa, and prayer flags flutter on the lawns. From the welcome ritual by the resident lama and the warming butter tea to the guided excursions to temples and viewpoints, everything pays homage to the country, its people, and their spiritual beliefs. This is a place that invites you to slow down and be immersed in the quietude and beauty of the forest, the hills, and the river. *From £1,393. Diya Kobi*

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Andean Travel

HOTEL

## Puquio, Arequipa, Peru→

Peruvian hotel brand Andean has form when it comes to instilling sharp modern design in the most dramatic of settings, from Titilaka on the shores of Lake Titicaca to Cirqa in the cobblestoned streets of Arequipa. But with eight-room Puquio, it has reached new heights. The tented camp, which also has some traditional adobe round houses, is Peru's first. It sits in the show-stopping Colca Valley, where Inca-era agricultural terraces line the hillsides and gliding Andean condors mirror the slow pace of life below. In the tradition of the great safari camps, expert guides take travellers to look for wildlife during the day, or on treks and horseback rides to nearby archaeological sites. But there's a sense of adventure that goes beyond admiring the nine-foot wingspan of the local birds of prey or taking photos of the ubiquitous free-running vicuñas, cute Peruvian relatives of the llama. There are zingy outdoor showers and cosy fire pits from which to watch the sunset over the Colca Canyon (twice as deep as the Grand Canyon). And, although the lodge sits in the heart of the Peruvian Andes, its artful menus and creative cocktails feel on par with Lima's best restaurants, with a spin on local ingredients such as coca leaves and sancayo (a mouth-puckering cactus fruit). Puquio marks a new era for the Colca Valley and allows travellers to bed into the area's slower pace for several days, in digs that make it hard to leave. *From £649. Megan Spurrell*