

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

CONDÉ NAST

JANUARY 2017

# Traveler

*Our*  
FAVORITE  
HOTELS *in*  
*the* WORLD

+  
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**The HOTELS  
AROUND  
THE WORLD  
WE *always*  
RECOMMEND**

► For our editors and contributors, three days in any city usually means a different bed every night. The running joke in our office is that unless a high-end property is truly special, something called luxury fatigue sets in by the last day. In other words, the miles of marble or omnipresent butler can feel gratuitous if not oppressive. What we prize most is the uniqueness of hotels—stalwarts of authenticity in the age of global homogeneity. Because in the end, it's the little things—waking to the call to prayer at El Fenn in Marrakech, or the mood lighting that makes everyone feel like a sexier version of themselves at the historic Soho House bar in Istanbul. As hotel obsessives, we know that where you stay can determine the fate of your trip, that a hotel must clear some very high hurdles in order to justify your spending the money and time away from the kids, the spouse, or the office. What follows are our impassioned recommendations for the hotels we visit time and again—and daydream about long after checkout. → P. 68



An ODE to HOTELS in

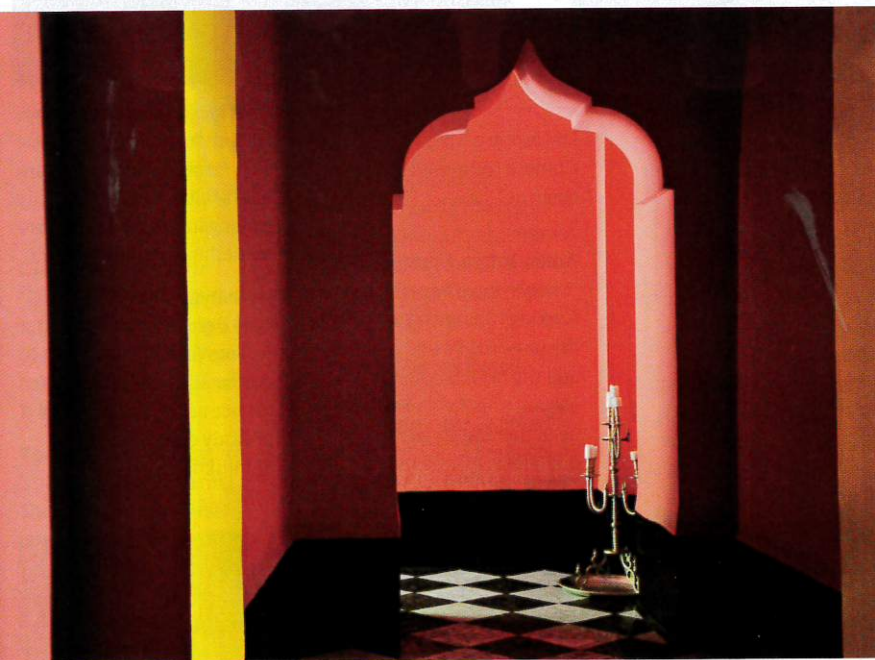
# Marrakech

Even more so than the Jardin Majorelle, with its iconic electric-blue villa and canary-yellow planters, or the Carnival-esque Jemaa el Fna Square, hotels here have the power to transport. Sitting in the grand marble lobby of *Es Saadi*, a hint of orange blossoms and cigarettes in the air, you can almost convince yourself that it's 1968 and Keith and Mick are about to walk by. At the *Royal Mansour*, you'll play out a modern *One Thousand and One Nights* fantasy in a private riad with your own rooftop terrace and hammam. *La Mamounia*, on the other hand, is one big fabulous spectacle. There's nothing subtle about it, from the doormen dressed in billowing white pants, fez, and red velvet cape to the exquisite peacock feather-hued zellige tiles over nearly

every surface (for Moroccan minimalism—white tile, neutral textiles, and cream Beni Ourain rugs—stay at the new *Mandarin Oriental* just outside the city). If your idea of Marrakech is waking to the call to prayer echoing from the Koutoubia Mosque and sipping mint tea in the square, then an Old City riad turned hotel is the way to go, and Vanessa Branson's *El Fenn* is the best in the category. Not sure which version of Marrakech you want? Choose one and just go with it. The city gets deep under your skin. You'll be back.

REBECCA MISNER

Inside the halls of El Fenn.



## Our GLOBAL Hotels ONE SHEET

In some destinations, there is a dearth of great places to stay; in others, there are so many options that you need a trusted recommendation to avoid ending up somewhere mediocre (and still expensive). These are the hotels we don't have to think twice about.

- Amsterdam**, Conservatorium Hotel; Waldorf Astoria
- Athens**, Hotel Grande Bretagne
- Austin**, Hotel Saint Cecilia
- Baltimore**, Four Seasons Hotel Baltimore; The Ivy
- Bangkok**, COMO Metropolitan; The Siam
- Barcelona**, Hotel Arts; Mandarin Oriental
- Beijing**, Opposite House; Rosewood Beijing
- Berlin**, Das Stue; Hotel Adlon Kempinski
- Boston**, Ames Boston Hotel; XV Beacon
- Buenos Aires**, Alvear Palace Hotel; Palacio Duhau-Park Hyatt
- Cape Town**, Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel; One&Only Cape Town
- Capri**, J.K. Place Capri
- Charleston**, Zero George Street; Wentworth Mansion
- Chengdu**, JW Marriott Hotel Chengdu
- Chicago**, The Langham; The Peninsula
- Copenhagen**, Hotel d'Angleterre
- Douro Valley, Portugal**, Six Senses
- Dubai**, One&Only The Palm
- Dublin**, The Merrion
- Florence**, Four Seasons Hotel Firenze; Portrait Firenze; St. Regis Florence
- Galle**, Amangalla
- Hanoi**, Sofitel Legend Metropole
- Hong Kong**, The Peninsula Hong Kong; Upper House
- Istanbul**, Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at Sultanahmet; Soho House Istanbul
- Kyoto**, Hoshinoya
- Las Vegas**, Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas; Wynn Las Vegas
- Lisbon**, Palácio Belmonte
- Mexico City**, Condesa DF; Las Alcobas
- Miami**, The Betsy; Faena Hotel Miami Beach; Soho Beach House
- Milan**, Mandarin Oriental
- Napa Valley**, Auberge du Soleil; Calistoga Ranch
- New Orleans**, Soniat House
- Oslo**, The Thief
- Phoenix**, Royal Palms Resort and Spa
- Rio de Janeiro**, Belmond Copacabana Palace; Santa Teresa Hotel
- Rome**, Portrait Roma; Villa Spalletti Trivelli
- Saigon**, Park Hyatt Saigon
- São Paulo**, Hotel Fasano São Paulo
- Shanghai**, Fairmont Peace Hotel; The Peninsula Shanghai
- Singapore**, Raffles Hotel; St. Regis Singapore
- Stockholm**, Ett Hem; Grand Hôtel
- Tel Aviv**, The Norman Tel Aviv
- Vancouver**, Shangri-La Hotel Vancouver
- Venice**, Aman Venice; Belmond Hotel Cipriani; Gritti Palace
- Washington, D.C.**, The Hay-Adams; The Jefferson; Park Hyatt Washington
- Zurich**, Baur au Lac; Dolder Grand →