

HIGH LIFE

In this month's issue HOTTEST HOTELS OF 2019, IRANIAN KEBABS AND THE MONARCHY'S LAST LINE OF DEFENCE



A CUT ABOVE

Ozwald Boateng: from Savile Row to Heathrow, via Accra, LA, New York and Paris



01.
THE BEACHFRONT BEAUTY
Nobu Hotel
Los Cabos
Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

The first Mexican property from Robert De Niro and chef Nobu Matsuhisa's hotel company. This 200-room Pacific beachfront hotel blends Japanese minimalism with locally sourced Baja Californian materials, such as shoji-inspired closet doors, and teak and stone furniture. Book in for casual elegance and the world's best rock shrimp tempura. Opens summer. [nobuhotels.com](#)

HOTEL HOT LIST 2019

Converted dynamite vaults, a housewarming gift from King Louis XV and a Singapore classic's dazzling reinvention.

Here are the best openings and relaunches across the globe for the coming year





02.
THE GAMECHANGER
The Stratford
at Manhattan
Loft Gardens
Stratford, London

Harry Handelsman, the man behind Chiltern Firehouse, has a new venture – a 143-metre, double-cantilevered skyscraper in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, designed by the architects that built the Burj Khalifa. Rooms have a Scandi aesthetic and access to an incredible sky garden. If you're staying longer than seven days, you can rent one of the building's serviced loft apartments. Opens April. manhattanloftgardens.com



03.
THE TRANSATLANTIC ARRIVAL
The Standard
St Pancras, London
Standard Hotels – which led the transformation of New York's Meatpacking District – has ventured across the pond for the first time to take over the Brutalist Camden Town Annexe. Its original 1970s façade is intact, but there are now three new stainless-steel-and-glass storeys, a roof terrace, an in-house studio and record press. Opens early 2019. standardhotels.com



04.
THE JET-SETTER
Lux* North Male Atoll
North Male Atoll, Maldives
Indian Ocean escapism meets 21st-century design. Each of the 67 futuristic, double-storey villas has interiors by Singaporean firm Miaja, a private infinity pool and a roof deck with breathtaking views. Plus, there's the option to charter the Superpanache yacht for a day of island-hopping with a DJ and a local fishing expert. Opens February. luxresorts.com

05.
THE PARTY STARTER
Caesars Resort
Bluewaters Dubai
Dubai, UAE

The brand synonymous with Las Vegas hedonism has opened the first of a series of non-gaming properties on the man-made Bluewaters Island, which overlooks Jumeirah Beach. The new 301-room resort has a private beach, dining highlights such as the gargantuan Bacchanal Buffet (which serves 3,500 guests a day in Vegas), a kids' club, and an all-out entertainment schedule. Now open. Available via baholidays.com



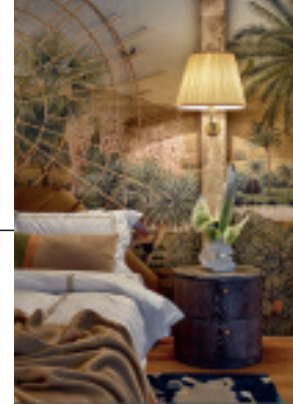
06.
THE URBAN OASIS
Mandarin Oriental
Wangfujing
Beijing, China

Occupying the top two floors of the prestigious WF Central building, the 32nd Mandarin Oriental hotel brings old-world glamour to the heart of Beijing's retail district. Think floor-to-ceiling windows, a sensational spa, four-poster beds, a rooftop garden terrace and views over the Forbidden City. Opens this month. mandarinoriental.com



07.
THE GLAMPER
Nayara Tented Camp
Arenal, Costa Rica

Sleeping in a tent takes on a slightly different meaning when said tent is air-conditioned, has a four-poster bed, a private plunge pool fed by natural hot springs and views over the Arenal Volcano. Best of all, you can stay with a clean conscience – the resort is planting 1,000 guarumo trees nearby to create a sloth sanctuary. Opens autumn. nayaratentedcamp.com



08.
THE FASHIONISTA
Iniala Malta
Valletta, Malta

Two baroque townhouses and a bank on St Barbara Bastion, overlooking the mediaeval Fort St Angelo, have been converted into a 25-room boutique design hotel, with a gym and spa in former dynamite vaults. Expect the original glazed baroque balconies and painted cupola ceilings, plus some phenomenal bathrooms and a concierge with expert knowledge of nearby dive sites. Opens August. iniala.com



09.
THE SEA SCAPE
Fingal
Edinburgh, Scotland

A former Northern Lighthouse Board ship, built in Glasgow in 1963, has been developed by the Royal Yacht *Britannia's* trading company into a 23-room floating hotel moored on the Leith waterfront. Each cabin is named after a lighthouse, there's a ballroom in the bow of the ship and you can sip Moët Hennessy while you gaze through your porthole. Opens this month. fingal.co.uk



11.
THE BLOCKBUSTER
Universal's Endless
Summer Resort –
Surfside Inn and Suites
Orlando, Florida

The vibes are beachy, the giant pool is surfboard shaped and there's an internal pizza delivery service. This 750-room hotel is the first Value category property at Universal Orlando and rooms start from just £57 per night for a seven-night stay. The price includes early-bird admission and free shuttle services to Universal Orlando's three theme parks and Universal CityWalk – now home to a new outpost of Voodoo Doughnut. Miss a Memphis Mafia Fritter at your peril. Opens August. Available via baholidays.com



10.
THE GREEK GOD
Ikos Aria
Kos, Greece

You could just sit back and admire the Aegean Sea views while you sway in your balcony's hanging-basket chair, but that would mean missing out on beach volleyball, Pilates, water sports, tennis courts, a brilliant kids' club and live music almost every night. This all-inclusive resort also has an innovative twist – partnerships with a curated selection of local restaurants across Kos island mean you can dine out free of charge as part of your stay. Opens May. Available via baholidays.com



12.
THE DENOPHILE
Radisson Collection
Tsinandali Estate
Kakheti, Georgia

In the heart of Georgia's wine region overlooking the Caucasus mountains, this building was formerly the home of Alexander Chavchavadze (the aristocrat and father of Georgian Romanticism). Breakfast in the courtyard, curl up by the open fire in the library (with a glass of local wine) and explore the ancient vineyards on foot – or by helicopter.
Opens this month. radissoncollection.com



13.
THE ARISTOCRAT
Château du Grand-Lucé
Loire Valley, France

The former country home of Baron Jacques Pineau de Viennay III, this 18th-century chateau once hosted Voltaire and Mozart, and has been recently restored under the guidance of the French government. Cycle through the white oak forest to a statue of Zeus – a housewarming gift from King Louis XV. The whole property is available for private hire, for a house party worthy of Marie Antoinette.
Opens June. chateaugrandluce.com



14.
THE GAMEPLAN
Nyamatusi Mahogany
Mana Pools, Zimbabwe

Consisting of just two tented suites and two family suites set under mahogany trees on the shore of the Zambezi River (prime for canoeing safaris), this camp combines the wild with the kid-friendly (the 'Cub Club' even has resident child-certified walking safari guides). Head off on an expedition to photograph the Southern carmine bee-eater or spot the big five on a tailor-made game drive.
Opens April. steppestravel.com



15.
THE BEDOUIN
Six Senses Shaharut
Negev Desert, Israel

The first Six Senses in Israel consists of 58 suites and villas perched on a cliff in the south of the Negev Desert (an hour's drive from the Red Sea). There will be on-site camel stables, an open-air 'Cinema Paradiso' amphitheatre, and a fire-pit for late-night feasting. All but electric cars will be banned from the property and outdoor lighting has been planned to minimise light pollution. Check out the Six Senses Spa when you return from your desert expedition.
Opens summer 2019. sixsenses.com



16.
THE NEW OLD GUARD
Raffles, Singapore
Singapore

One of the original international grandes dames (world-famous for its butlers and cocktails), Raffles has had a historic renovation. Most significant are the new dining options – Alain Ducasse is opening his first Mediterranean sharing restaurant Bar & Billiard Room, which will be focused around a charcoal grill, Anne-Sophie Pic (one of the few female chefs to have been awarded three Michelin stars) will be making her debut in Asia with Le Dame de Pic and former *MasterChef China* judge Jereme Leung is opening contemporary Chinese restaurant yi by Jereme Leung.
Opens mid-2019. raffles.com

Photograph: Brian W Ferry

17.
THE FUTURE CLASSIC
Hotel de la Ville
Rome, Italy

The Anglo-Italian, family-run Rocco Forte Hotels group has three openings in the pipeline this year, including the glorious restoration of this smart hotel at the top of the Spanish Steps. Olga Polizzi, the group's co-founder and director of design, has collaborated with architect Tommaso Ziffer to create a glamorous homage to the days when Europe's aristocrats embarked on the Grand Tour of the continent. Expect marble bathrooms, sumptuous velvet chairs, inlaid tables and stunning views over the ancient roofs of the Eternal City.
Opens May. roccofortehotels.com



18.
THE SOUTHERN BELLE
Hotel Bennett
Charleston, South Carolina

There's a French pâtisserie, the Camellias Ladies Lounge is decorated in pink stone from the former Charleston Library and there are etched Art-Deco ceiling mirrors, but this 179-room hotel in Preferred's Legend Collection has a distinct modern edge. Opens this month. preferredhotels.com



19.
THE OLD MASTER
Grantley Hall
Ripon, Yorkshire

Built in the 17th century, this restored Grade II-listed Palladian mansion at the edge of the Yorkshire Dales features free-standing baths. But the two-floor gym is far from old school. Hit the cryotherapy chamber, then retire to the drawing room for tea. Opens spring. grantleyhall.co.uk



20.
THE MINIMALIST
Sister City
Lower Manhattan, New York

From the makers of Shoreditch's Ace Hotel, a property that takes its inspiration from Finnish saunas, Japanese bento boxes, prehistoric rock-cut cliff dwellings and John Cage's 4'33" – in essence, all of the things you need without any of the expensive things that you don't. Expect clean lines, cherry-wood furniture and farm-fresh vegetables in the restaurant.
Opens February. sistercitynyc.com



21.
THE COOL CREATIVE
Tryp by Wyndham
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Priding itself on its access to up-and-coming locations, Tryp by Wyndham's takeover of a former school in the riverfront industrial neighbourhood of Lawrenceville will not disappoint. Each floor will be themed on a trade that was taught in the building (wood, metal, masonry and drafting), there will be work by locals and chef Mike Rado will be serving up sharing plates from the Allegheny Valley in the rooftop patio restaurant. Opens early 2019. wyndhamhotels.com

22.

THE HIGH FLYER

Refuge du Solaise

Val d'Isère, France

France's oldest cable car station is reopening as the highest hotel in the country. At a heady 8,369 feet, ski-in ski-out just got such a stratospheric upgrade that your luggage will need to be transported by snowmobile when you arrive at the top of the lift. Book in for the most sensational 360° mountain views in the Alps. Opens December. ler Refuge-valdisere.com



23.

THE HIPSTER

The Hoxton

Los Angeles, California

The Hoxton is taking over stateside – following the brand's recent openings in Williamsburg and Portland, this conversion of the ten-storey 1920 Los Angeles Railway building (also formerly a sweet shop, a clothes manufacturer, a grocery store and a restaurant) features a basement bar, rooftop pool and kooky design twists such as rattan saloon doors, chevron timber floors, copper shelving and glass-walled wardrobes.

Opens spring. thehoxton.com



24.

THE ROOM WITH A VIEW

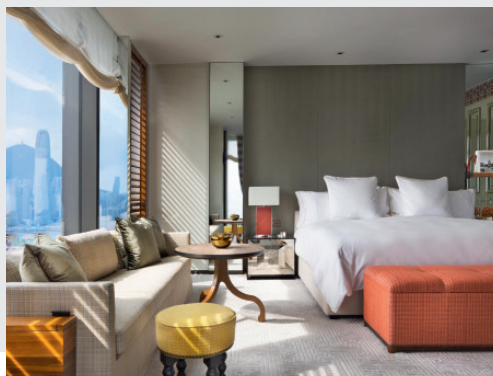
The Rosewood

Kowloon, Hong Kong

This year, the Rosewood moves into 27 floors in a tower styled as a vertical grand residential estate, on the harbour-front in Tsim Sha Tsui in the new Victoria Dockside arts, culture and shopping district.

There's carved limestone panelling in the grand ballroom, rooms have interiors by the New York-based studio Tonychi – doors are lacquered, light streams in through wooden shutters and there are soaring bird's-eye views of Hong Kong Island.

Opens March. rosewoodhotels.com



BA flies to Edinburgh, Rome and New York from London Heathrow, London Gatwick and London City; to Dubai, Beijing, Nantes, Harare, Tel Aviv, Singapore, Charleston, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles and Hong Kong from Heathrow; and to Malé, San José, Malta, Kos, Orlando and Turin (for Val d'Isère) from Gatwick. BA also flies to San José del Cabo in Mexico on a codeshare basis