



THE HOT LIST 2014

OUR PICK OF THE BEST NEW HOTELS IN THE WORLD

ITALY

AMAN CANAL GRANDE,
VENICE

News that Amanresorts was going to take over a historic palazzo on the Grand Canal had been bubbling under for years. When the 24-suite hotel finally opened in June 2013, it became clear what had taken so long. The late Renaissance Palazzo Papadopoli is a Casanova fantasy of sweeping staircases, carved marble fireplaces and frescoed reception rooms dripping with chandeliers. Restoring all this, while fashioning an Aman-style hotel out of what had been the family home of conte Giberto and contessa Bianca Arrivabene (who still live on the top floor) was a huge challenge. It would have been easy to turn the piano nobile ballroom or Giberto's father's library into more bedrooms, especially given the draw of their Grand Canal view; instead they have been left intact, with the first becoming the dining room of the hotel's Asian/Venetian restaurant, while the latter remains a quiet library. The sense of space – along with discreet service – makes guests feel they own the palazzo, if only for the duration of their stay. The big, elegant bedrooms blend Venetian ornament with sober tones of grey, cream and white; among five Signature Suites, the ornate Alcove Tiepolo allows you to lie in bed contemplating an authentic Tiepolo



THAILAND

INIALA BEACH HOUSE, PHUKET

Eleven brilliant designers worked on the three villas and penthouse at Iniala and the results are eye-popping, mostly in a good way. Each room is different: a hanging bed, undulating wicker ceiling and gold-domed private spa here; a floor that moves like sand, china-studded wall, or dazzling white marble bathroom there. Add a restaurant overseen by the three-Michelin-spangled Spanish chef Eneko Atxa, a sensational pasty chef and a cool sommelier and you won't want to share Iniala with anyone else (which, by the way, is always an option). Each of the three, three-bedroom villas has a private spa, and at the end of the day – once you have finally rolled off the massage bed – it's rather delectable to wander off to the 22-seat private cinema (all shag pile and air-con) or the games room, starring a Thai boxing ring (plus instructor) and Swarovski-studded pool table, after depositing the children in their own private quarters with fort and tree-house. With Phuket airport barely 20 minutes away, and a hotel next door for guest overspill, Iniala's perfectly pitched for a wedding or multi-generational family get-together. Albeit on an oligarch size budget. **FLASH POINT** Iniala owner Mark Weingard donates 10 per cent of profits to his charity, the

USA

THE REDBURY, MIAMI

After a total refurbishment, the former Fairfax hotel reopened in November last year as a fresh-faced 59-room boutique property. It may look like a bit of a runt standing in the shadows of its lofty Collins Avenue neighbours such as the 13-story Delano, but as the smallest member of the SBE group behind the Raleigh and glamorous SLS Miami hotels, it just serves to emphasize that bigger is not necessarily better. There's no lobby, so check-in is at the valet stand on 18th Street, where black-and-white floor tiles and red Adirondack chairs hint at the edgy, playful design by Ashley Manhan within. Upstairs the corridors are lined with grey-and-white chevron wallpaper and punctuated with vibrant red, lemon yellow and flamingo-pink doors. The bedrooms are big, with mirrored wardrobes, lipstick-red desk chairs and boxy Geneva alarm clocks; faux vintage turntables and a stack of 78s encourage nostalgic sing-alongs with Nat King Cole, Marvin Gaye and Ben Harper. There are great views from the rooftop pool terrace, and plans to add a herb garden and proper bar this



UK

ROSEWOOD LONDON

There's no shortage of snazzy new hotels in London, so how to stand out? First, find a place to call your own. For its UK debut, Rosewood Hotels (its portfolio includes The Carlyle in New York) has created not just a new hotel, but also a new area: 'Midtown'. Whether you buy into the rebranding of Holborn or not, its initially eyebrow-raising location is actually quite handy, being a stroll from Covent Garden, the British Museum and Oxford Street. This grand Belle Epoque building was originally the home of Pearl Assurance (the company installed the decadent, seven-story marble staircase) and more recently the Chancery Court Hotel. After a £85-million refit, the vibe is distinctly English manor house, with flat-capped doormen and jars of sweets in the lobby and bedrooms. The grey, taupe and cream scheme is jazzed up with Asian accents (lacquered black furniture, Chinese porcelain cups in the marble bathrooms) and a copy of Sartre and homemade sole gin in the bedrooms. The library-like Scarfs Bar (lobster curries by day, killer cocktails by night) and the glittering Mirror Room (all squishy chesterfields and a sophisticated menu including rose veal tartar and pan-seared foie gras) lie at either end of the rose-bronze corridor separating the lobby from the outside world. The new Holborn Dining Room from ex-Ivy head chef Des McDonald adds brasserie buzz on the