

Condé Nast Traveler

SPECIAL REPORT
THE WAR FOR
THE SOUL
OF ALASKA

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

MAY 2012

HOT LIST

121
BEST
NEW
HOTELS
IN THE
WORLD

(INCLUDING 48 UNDER \$200)

PLUS...
20 SIZZLING
RESTAURANTS
35 SYBARITIC
SPAS



AND...

A 32-page special section.

16th Annual

Hot List 2012

The Year's 121 Top New Hotels

Including 49 under \$300 a night*

WE ALL KNOW what makes a good hotel good: impeccable service, excellent food, beautiful grounds (and let's not forget a bed so plush that you dread going home). But for all of us here at *Condé Nast Traveler*, a good hotel is more than just a blissful temporary roost: It's also a bellwether, an important peek at what you, our readers, are really looking for in your travels, not to mention in the very destinations you're traveling to.

This year's Hot List, our sixteenth, includes 121 properties in 49 countries, with three countries making their debut: Kuwait (with the Hotel Missoni), Montenegro (Aman Sveti Stefan), and Serbia (Square Nine). Best represented on the list? The United States leads the pack with 12 entrants, followed by the United Kingdom, China, and Italy (all with 7 apiece). But as revealing as these numbers are, they don't tell the whole story. The real stuff we love sharing with you is our 41 reviewers' enthusiasm for these properties, which, although they range wildly in size, price, and style—from the four-tent Sanctuary Zebra Plains camp in Zambia (the smallest hotel on the list) to the \$3,878-a-night all-inclusive Abu Camp in Botswana (the most expensive)—all have one thing in common: We never wanted to leave. We hope you won't either.

PLUS

Hot Spas

35 blissful new places to relax and recharge

▶ 129

Hot Tables

5 cities, 21 superstar chefs, 20 dishes you need to try

▶ 139

75

MAY 2012

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CHILE

Singular Patagonia,

Puerto Bories

🔥 The specs: A 57-room hotel fashioned from a 1915 cold-storage plant near Puerto Natales, gateway to Torres del Paine National Park. Estancias once shipped their sheep to the *frigorífico*, where hundreds of workers prepared the meat, wool, and hide for export to Europe.

The look: Governed by strict conservation rules, Chilean architect Pedro Kovacic left the brickwork and still-functioning machinery intact and installed a funicular that rises soundlessly from the hotel's entrance—the old tannery and herding pens—to the reception area, a glass cube suspended above century-old pulleys, pumps, and pipes. Ample guest rooms are decorated with Edwardian-style good taste (mahogany writing desks, brass side lamps), and a glass wall overlooks the wind-whipped shore of Last Hope Sound. **The experience:** At first, guests do little but gawp at the surroundings; once settled, the saddle up on neighboring estancias, bike the blustery coast, or chug up the sound in the hotel's 16-passenger motor launch. The sumptuous breakfast ranges from linseed and quinoa to the finest fetas and cured Patagonian lamb. **If only...** coordination with the Santiago reservations office were smoother; confirm spa treatments and excursions directly with the hotel. **The room to book:** Those close to the elevator save a lengthy to-and-fro (56-61-722-030; thesingular.com; doubles from \$520). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷