



The pool and relaxation area of one of Chablé Spa & Resort's casitas on the Yucatán Peninsula

ROOMS TO DESIRE

A host of happening hosteries and regal retreats are making their mark around the globe.

By CLAUDIA ROELKE

From the sleek and classic to the chic and quirky, the season's most eagerly awaited hotel openings herald an exciting year in the world of travel. Channelling the latter – but with an extra dose of hipster edge – is **Sir Savigny** (sirsavignyhotel.com), a 44-room bolthole in Berlin's upscale Charlottenburg neighbourhood with unique Old-West-meets-Art-Deco interiors, a trendy burger bar and an art-filled garden that's the perfect urban escape.

The members-only **Soho House Barcelona** (sohohouse.com) in the city's Gothic Quarter is less quirk and more class, comprising a rooftop terrace, spa and 57 vintage-look rooms

with vaulted ceilings and warm, Mediterranean colours. Also leaning towards the traditional, the beachside **Sikelia** resort (sikeliapantelleria.com) on the Sicilian islet of Pantelleria takes its cues from local culture with 20 sumptuous grey-toned suites set in dammusi-style dwellings, a palm-fringed Sicilian fusion eatery and vinotherapy and mud treatments administered in a charming Arabic garden. More indulgent still is **Eros Santorini** (erosantorini.com), an ultra-private four-villa estate set on 8,000sq m with warm-toned interiors by the illustrious Paola Navone and superlative Greek rations accented with organic ingredients →



Clockwise, from left: the whitewashed buildings of Sikelia on the Italian island of Pantelleria; Miavana's 14 villas nestle in wooded environs of North Madagascar's coast; a room at the hip Sir Savigny, Berlin



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from the property's onsite olive and pistachio groves.

Anchoring a spate of hotel unveilings stateside is the **Four Seasons New York Downtown** ([fourseasons.com](#)), a lofty 82-storey property in Tribeca that scores major points for its 189 lush, Yabu Pushelberg-designed rooms and suites, upscale Wolfgang Puck steakhouse (the celebrity chef's NYC debut) and high-tech spa. Smaller but no less impressive is Chicago's **The Robey** ([therobey.com](#)), whose 69 minimalist rooms in an iconic Art Deco tower in Wicker Park, together with its full-service Cabana Club, rooftop pool and cosy first-floor cafe, comprise a cocooned home-from-home for weary out-out-towners. It's an appreciation for the good life echoed at the **Nobu Hotel Miami Beach** ([nobuedenroc.com](#)), set within Collins Avenue's Eden Roc resort, where guests stay in 35 modern, Japanese-inspired suites, indulge in relaxing Espa treatments as well as its namesake chef's world-renowned cuisine.

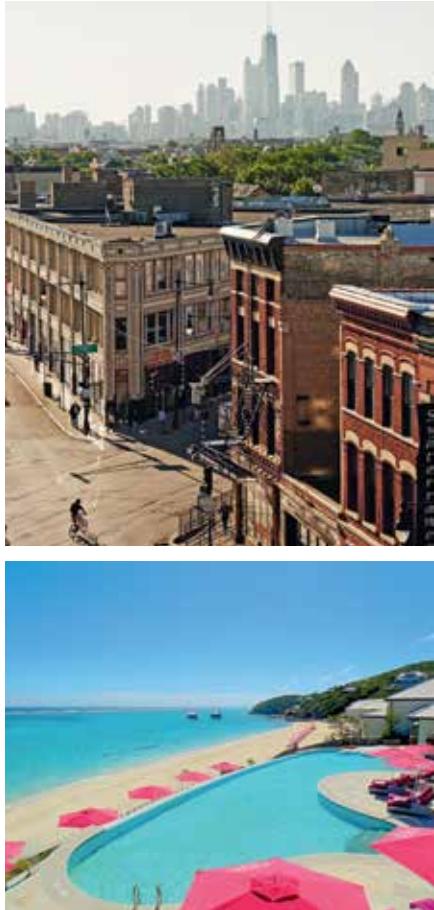
Indeed, sophisticated urban boltholes are popping up in metropolises around the globe: in a historic Bauhaus edifice in central Tel Aviv, the 40-room **Poli House** ([thepolihouse.com](#)) inveigles with futuristic interiors by star designer Karim Rashid, a rooftop pool and art gallery starring

local talents; in Perth, the 500-key **Crown Towers** ([crownperth.com.au](#)) exudes an opulent, old-school luxe vibe with its elegantly arched hallways, bold geometric design elements, indoor garden and lagoon-style pools. The Japanese capital, too, welcomes a swish new showstopper into its fold with **The Prince Gallery Tokyo Kioicho** ([princehotels.com](#)), embracing 250 commodious rooms, an Italian-inflected restaurant and a soaring sky lobby with peerless views across the city.

Santiago de Chile's downtown, meanwhile, debuts its first design hostelry in the wake of a two-year renovation project that has transformed a 1929 mansion into the immaculate **Hotel Magnolia** ([hotelmagnolia.cl](#)), whose marble staircases and stained-

glass windows sit elegantly with the refined decor in its 42 contemporary rooms and seasonal Chilean restaurant. Up in the bustling Bolivian capital of La Paz, 53-room **Atix** ([atixhotel.com](#)) is something of a live-in art gallery for the works of native talent Gastón Ugalde, with a rooftop infinity pool and Jacuzzi giving way to breathtaking views of the mountains ahead to round out the visual experience.

Those seeking some R&R far away from the hustle and bustle of city life have a host of new options to choose from this season. The Yucatán Peninsula's country-house-style **Chablé Spa & Resort** ([chableresort.com](#)) is an intimate retreat for those staying in its 40 bright and spacious villas with private pools. All set within a stunning →



Clockwise from top right: tented accommodation at Oberoi Sukhvilas Resort & Spa in Chandigarh; Spicers Sangoma Retreat, New South Wales; the beachside pool at The Pink Sands Club on the Caribbean island of Canouan; view over Chicago from The Robey

304 hectares, it's a get-away-from-it-all experience buttressed by its cenote spa, organic fare and a well-stocked tequila cellar that is that largest private collection in the world. The Caribbean nation of St Vincent and the Grenadines also boasts a restorative new destination in the form of **The Pink Sands Club** (pinksandsclub.com) on the unspoilt seascape of Canouan Island, whose colourful, sun-lit suites and villas, a Jim Fazio-designed golf course and wellness therapies by Espa tick all the right boxes.

A world away, the **Oberoi Sukhvilas Resort & Spa** (oberoihotels.com) in India's Chandigarh is a secluded destination in and of itself, featuring Indian-inspired guest quarters, striking gardens and a host of invigorating spa options like a Turkish hammam and Roman tepidarium, all flanked by hundreds of hectares of forest at the foothills of the Himalayas.

Also boasting lush, wooded surrounds is the refurbished eco-resort **Spicers Sangoma Retreat** (spicersretreats.com), in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales, where a host of new suites outfitted in natural materials and earthy tones as well as seasonal fare by acclaimed chef Sam Hardinge emphasise a connection to the bush and rainforests of Australia. A glass-walled tent suite, surrounded by forest canopy at the edge of the gorge, offers a particularly cosy perch from which to take in the scene. A more active tropical holiday can be had at the 14-villa **Miavana Island Sanctuary** (timeandtideafrica.com/miavana) off Madagascar's northern tip, where fascinating guided wildlife excursions showcasing the island's pristine natural beauty (including deep-sea fishing, whale-watching and helicopter rides) are par for the course. What better way to start a new year of adventure? ●