



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

ROOMS TO DESIRE

A host of happening hostelries 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 →

PHOTO KARYN MILLET



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



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

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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 →

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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? ●

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