TRAVEL

Best New Hotel Openings 2021

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The BOLD insider report on the newest places to check in

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This is our first #BoldHotels List 2021. 10 newcomers that are leading the charge and anchoring the boutiques of what makes a great hotel. These aren't just brilliant places to stay, they're also leaders in their respective destinations. Some are pioneers, others hard-hit by pandemic and extraordinary hoopers that are shaping a bold tourism path.

The list that follows is our definitive guide to the hotels that aren't just getaways in a place, but destinations in their own right.

1. KALESMA MYKONOS
Mykonos, Greece

You're watching the sunset over the brilliant blue Aegean Sea from your hilltop whitewashed villa, sipping a cocktail and contemplating your next move. Do you head into the charming town of Chora (aka Mykonos Town) – and of the nearest you feel like you're in the land of myth, Kalesma was inspired by the laid-back grandeur of the Greek island of Mykonos, with a neutral, earthy colour palette, Cycladic architectural aesthetic, and Bougainvillea-infused arbors.

Greek designers K Studio and Studio Bouroi-Ioannidi used local materials such as wood, marble and stone to create a modern interpretation of the island's traditional architecture. Inspired by the Kalesma name, Kalesma means "the beach" in Greek, and has a little, the lively Kalesma beach, and a lot of have a sprawling terrace and full island pool with unobstructed views of the Aegean Sea.

Venturing further up the hill, Piano Bar, serves up locally sourced Cycladic specialties such as cheese pies, fresh fish, and Kalesma's signature Mykonian-inspired island-infusions and offers, with an emphasis on Greek wines (try Assyrtiko from Santorini).

While Mykonos is known for its social life, beaches and private villages, the friendly proprietors can recommend hidden coves that are off the beaten tourist path or arrange a private yacht charter to nearby Delos.

kalesmamykonos.com

2. VIRGIN HOTELS LAS VEGAS
Las Vegas, USA

Even ice cream is taken up a notch at Virgin Hotels Las Vegas, the city's newest all-in-one playground that's anchored by a 1950s-inspired ice cream parlour, Sweet Tooth. The hotel, a bold, fun experiment in the wonder of pandemic-ERA and beyond, is the work of Virgin Hotels founder Sir Richard Branson and his company, a reimagined casino resort that mixes Virgin's passion for music and entertainment with a bit of Las Vegas' over-the-top spirit.

Venues such as Rabbit Hole's Office, the Speakeasy Virgin's offers and the legendary Nobu as well as The Drop Room – a hidden, Instagram-friendly, sensational, immersive, multi-sensory short-immersive and private drop-zone.

It wouldn't be Virgin without top-notch entertainment, and its Vegas property doesn't disappoint. Here's The Theatre, with a star-studded lineup. Dionne Warwick, Lionel Richie and Barbra Streisand are among the artists on the, and the 60,000-square-foot Pinkbeger Sun Casino. Mooney Blake brings nostalgic Vegas-style glamour to the casino floor, with a mix of classic table games and slots. Guests can also pick up pool cards outside a resort pool complete with Mediterranean-style cabanas, decor and VIP-only alcoves and daybeds with the best two-story Mykonos-themed Dry Cabanas, featuring an open-air stage. There's no better place to get your pool pandemic groove on.

virginhotels.com

3. 1 HOTEL TORONTO
Toronto, Canada

Stay in a soft cocktail or a cozy chic rooftop oasis – poolside during the day under the stars after dark – with unobstructed views of Toronto's skyline. Rich Finishes are woven at the city's newest urban retreat, 1 Hotel Toronto. Formerly the Thompson Hotel, opened this August in Toronto's trendy Entertainment District, the property is a sanctuary for sustainability-minded travellers, with ecologically-healthy furnishing and finishes and design inspired by the city's natural environment, the beauty of Lake Ontario and the overwhelming culture of the passing seasons. Work sliding barn wood doors and reclaimed wood furniture are complemented by a mix of textiles and finishes made from Toronto-based artists, bedded and sold to support local artisans in a environmental footprint.

The hotel lobby, for example, will feel a daily market stand selling farm-fresh produce, and 1 Kitchen Toronto one of the new restaurants will feature an all-day menu that relies on local, organic suppliers within a 50 kilometre radius. 1 Hotel Toronto is also home to Casa Madera, the first Canadian outpost by the experienced dining experts The Madera Group, which serves reimagined Mexican and coastal cuisine.

A state-of-the-art fitness centre, redesigned rooftop pool and electric house car service round out this sustainable city retreat.

1hotels.com/toronto

4. VALA HUA HIN
Petchaburi, Thailand

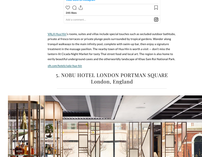
Make up to the sound of the sea, and start the day with an invigorating vinyasa flow or beachfront paddle. Then kick back under a gracious parasol on a stretch of white sand lined with palm trees, backed by verdant greenery. What could be a better antidote after a year in lockdown? Beachside bliss is exactly what you'll find at Vala Hua Hin, a new luxury hideaway in central Thailand.

The resort has been designed from the ground up to help guests escape into nature (with, of course, the occasional cocktail). Nestled in a lush, secluded valley, it's about an hour's drive from the capital of Thailand and a very unforgettable vacation.

Vala Hua Hin's rooms, suites and villas include special touches such as secluded outdoor bathtubs, private al fresco terraces or private plunge pools surrounded by tropical gardens. Wander along the property's 1.5 kilometre beach, or explore the surrounding area by bicycle, tuk-tuk or golf cart. Treatments in the massage pavilion. The nearby town of Hua Hin is worth a visit – don't miss the lantern-lit Cicada Night Market for tasty Thai street food and local art. The region is also home to world's beautiful underground caves and the otherworldly landscape of Khao Sam Roi National Park.

valahuahin.com/en/aw-hh

5. NOBU HOTEL LONDON PORTMAN SQUARE
London, England



Locals flock to London since after until late for lively beats, grand the opening of this the iconic Nobu hotel brings Far East Flair to the Marylebone neighbourhood, close to cafes, bakeries and independent boutiques. Stepping into the dramatic height lobby of the Nobu Hotel London Portman Square, it's open and airy, filled with natural light, white-line rooms and sedan (designed by Nobu Matsuhisa himself) and a lush, tranquil courtyard garden. Guests can choose from 165 rooms and suites, lux-suites, lux-lux-suites and deluxe-seating-for-8s. A contemporary approach to both aesthetics and hospitality is emphasized throughout, taking inspiration from Japanese architectural disciplines and minimalist design, a Nobu-iconic Nobu Japanese culinary celebrating.

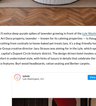
The opening sees the iconic Nobu Berkeley Street restaurant move to its new home, through a still Nobuna Nobu Kaiseiyoshi Nobu the world's or your. Mouth-watering Black cod.

But don't miss the year-round outdoor terrace and Rolls Ent Bar, a Japanese-style gin garden. Inspired by the Japanese tradition of Kanpai (cheers), the bar's menu of Nobu-inspired cocktails and tasty of Nobu Cigarettes garbage – hope the sweet. Read and one of Nobu's Monsoon in the Rolls Ent, cocktails to the spring the ambience found on the ornately designed terrace. The property also features Nobu's first ever Pilates studio.

nobu-portman-square.co.uk

6. LYLE WASHINGTON DC
Washington, USA

You'll notice deep arcade gallery of concrete greeting in front of the Lyle Washington DC. And inside the Art Deco property, lamedeh – known for its calming properties – is thoughtfully used in abundance throughout the lobby and guest rooms. Lamedeh is a Hebrew word for "to teach" and the Lyle Group created director Jess Brown was aiming for in the lobby, which opened this spring in the U.S. capital's Dupont Circle historic district. The design drawn from Hebrew scrolls in series of calm and comfort in a contemporary, with the hint of spaces in details that celebrate the Brutalist in Japan Art Deco features. Rich wood headboards, rattan seating and Berber carpets.



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Each room feels intentionally high-end residential: harkening back to the 1940s when the Lyle was an Art Deco apartment building. This aesthetic is carried through to the hotel's restaurant and bar, Lyle's, with bespoke furniture, cork covered walls and custom Herman Miller pendant cluster. Flanked by an open kitchen — but you can still get a cheeseburger here. Perhaps most notable is the striking white couch that runs through the centre of the restaurant — with, of course, a stain-resistant fabric, necessary for a restaurant that serves 20 reds by the bottle.

lyleldt.com

7. HUMANITI HOTEL MONTREAL
Montreal, Canada

You're lying on an oversized sun bed, next to the pool, soaking up the sun and enjoying a bottle of chilled rosé. And yet, you're a stone's throw to all the charms of historic Montreal and the Quartier des Spectacles. Billed as an antidote to social isolation, the newly opened Humaniti Hotel Montreal is heavily influenced by what we've all been missing for the past year and a half: socialization. Case in point, the ultra-urban h3 lounge and terrasse are perfect for sparking conversation while sipping an aperitif and sampling oysters with maple miso sauce.

humanitihotelmontreal
Montreal, Quebec, Canada | Humaniti Collection

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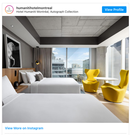

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Designed by Andrew Escobar, Humaniti features innovative architecture, modern design and plenty of natural light. While the rooftop pool might be the showstopper in this "live well" hotel, so too are the fresh, local flavours and territorial cuisine featured in its three drinking and dining establishments that celebrate Quebecois culture (and to work it off, there's the two-storey Hyper gym). The tranquil Spa Humaniti offers a range of signature facials conceived by Montreal's skincare guru to the stars, Jennifer Brisbois; who counts Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama among fans. Stay in one of the light-filled Hibiscus rooms, which feature two walls of floor-to-ceiling windows with postcard views of the St. Lawrence River.

humanitihotel.com

8. VANDERMARCK BOUTIQUE HOTEL
Collingwood, Canada

When it comes to luxury lodgings in the four-season resort town of Collingwood, The Vandermarck is making a mark, giving a historic home a boutique hotel feel. Built in 1912 for the town doctor by renowned Toronto architect Eden Smith (the first in Canada to work with the arts and crafts style), this heritage property was once known as the Bedd House. Now it's been reimagined as a contemporary oasis for guests, near Collingwood's historic downtown, scenic waterfront and extensive trail network. Everything has been selected with care, from the luxury linens and hand-crafted bath products to touches like local packets from Blue Mountain Tea Co. Even the photography on the walls features local photographers and local attractions. Setting it apart, though, is the statement Herman Miller furniture and pieces such as the Noguchi accent tables or Eames Hang-It-All.

Instagram

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There's also a dreamy outdoor sitting area with water features and plenty of cushy seating, perfect for resting after a day at Blue Mountain, Wasaga Beach or the Bruce Trail. Nine suites — many with gas fireplaces and private balconies — are located on three floors, accessible by the original staircase. There's no front desk, everything can be done from the convenience of your smartphone, ensuring maximum privacy.

thevandermarck.com

9. FAIRMONT CENTURY PLAZA
Los Angeles, USA

Built on the former backlot of 20th Century Fox Studios, the Century Plaza Hotel opened its doors in 1966, quickly becoming an L.A. hot spot that hosted generations of Hollywood celebrities, foreign dignitaries and U.S. presidents. Over time, however, it lost some of its lustre — until now. Fairmont Hotels & Resorts has reopened the iconic crescent-shaped property after a meticulous restoration (to the tune of US$2.5 billion), now called the Fairmont Century Plaza.

Originally designed by Minoru Yamasaki, the mid-century modern L.A. landmark has been transformed by acclaimed Canadian design group Yabu Pushelberg to include 251 guest rooms and 49 suites, retaining its glamorous lobby and legendary ballroom (which has hosted every sitting president since Lyndon B. Johnson). The lobby is connected to a series of public places and fountains that had once a central lawn and gardens, surrounded by exclusive boutiques and restaurants such as Lumière, helmed by award-winning executive chef Jason Franey.

fairmontcenturyplaza
Fairmont Century Plaza

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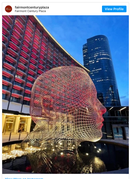

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fairmontcenturyplaza

A fresh perspective. Here our Jeanne Pierrot sculpture, Laura stands regal against our historical facade. #FairmontCenturyPlaza

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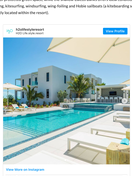
The real showstopper, though, is the Fairmont Spa Century Plaza — a 14,000-square-foot showplace, with experiential showers, scenarium, Himalayan salt room, aromatherapy steam room and hammam. Plus, there's a rooftop pool with unparalleled views of the L.A. cityscape. It all pays homage to the hotel's storied past, but is now a place to see and be seen.

fairmontcenturyplaza.com

10. H2o LIFE.STYLE RESORT
Turks and Caicos

Bid stress vacation goodbye to lounge poolside with a cocktail in hand, whiling away the hours. For those who prefer to maintain their active lifestyle while on vacation, H2O Life.Style Resort's slight tip the perfect getaway. Start the day with a yoga session on the beach and a healthy smoothie at HeavTree Bar, then head out for an afternoon of kiteboarding on the turquoise waters of Long Bay Beach (one of the most sought after beaches for water sports enthusiasts from around the world).

The brainchild of two Canadians living in Turks and Caicos, Rob Ayer and Nicolas Boucher, this oceanfront wellness resort was specifically designed for active travellers who appreciate sustainable design. While it's close to all the action, the secluded enclave is tucked away in a lush four acres of protected green space, while the shallow Caicos Banks offers ideal conditions for kiteboarding. Kitsurfing, windsurfing, wing foiling and Hobie sailboats (a kiteboarding school is conveniently located within the resort).



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The extensive health and wellness program includes weekly rooftop yoga, tennis courts and a 24-hour state-of-the-art fitness centre. Ultra-modern suites, with furnishings by Restoration Hardware, come in a range of layouts for groups of all sizes, all with large picture windows and walkout terraces that look out onto the turquoise waters. Relax, recharge — and burn off a few calories, too.

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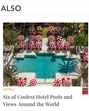

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Six of Coolest Hotel Pools and Views Around the World

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