



Condé Nast Traveller

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**SPECIAL
ISSUE**

THE HOT LIST

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THE INSIDE TRACK ON
EUROPE'S SECRET BEACHES

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MEXICO CITY
MALAYSIA
PUGLIA FOOD

EXCLUSIVE
THE HIGHS AND
LOWS OF THE BILLION-
DOLLAR POKER
KINGS OF CHINA

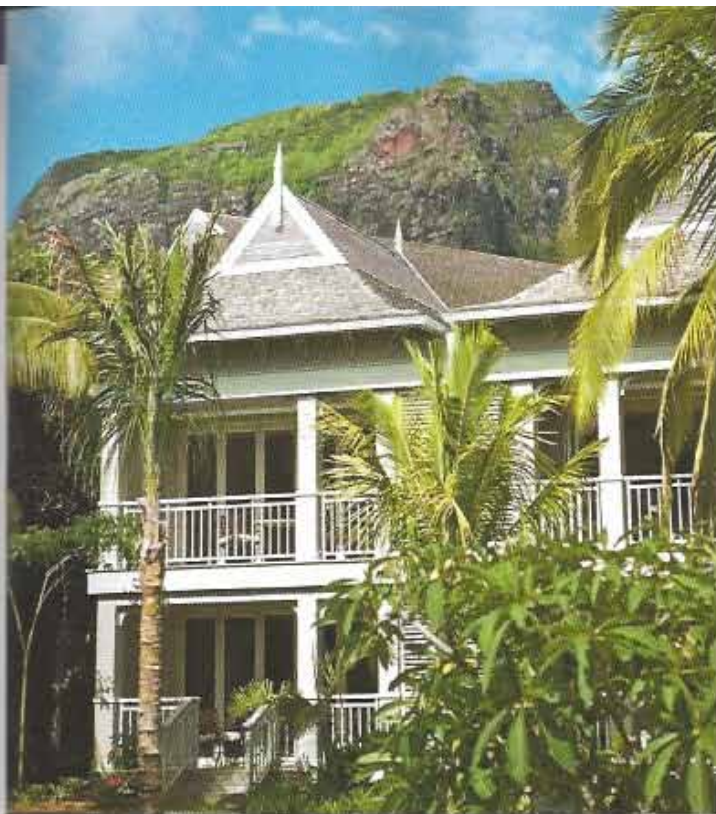
HIDDEN
TURKEY

DON'T MISS
THE DEFINITIVE
GUIDE TO THE
MOST SPECIAL
PLACES TO STAY
IN VIETNAM

DISCOVER THE TINY BEACH VILLAGE WITH THE GROWING REPUTATION

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MAURITIUS

THE ST REGIS MAURITIUS RESORT, LE MORNE

Mauritius's newest hotel seems much more established than it is. The colonial-style villas with 172 airy rooms look artfully weathered in a landscape of twisty-trunked trees, palms and bougainvillea; the service is a reassuring combination of relaxed, US-style efficiency and smiley Mauritian enthusiasm. The hotel's New York sibling (built by Colonel Astor in 1904) is referenced frequently, most notably at the central Manor House, imagined as the Astor family's private retreat, where guests gather for breakfast or around the pool. The six restaurants run from relaxed and driftwoody at the Boathouse Bar & Grill (for lobster and rose) to Michelin-worthy at Simply India, where chef Atul Kochhar produces phenomenal *karari gobhi* (cauliflower parcels with smoked chutney) and *murgh makhani* (mushroom-stuffed tandoori chicken). The 800-metre beach is the main attraction, but there's also a superlative 12-room spa, gym, cinema and watersports centre. But it's the personal touches – the wine you liked at dinner added to the minibar; a white-tablecloth picnic served on a sightseeing trip – that raise the St Regis from sweet to the island's new top contender. **FLASH POINT** A very clever balance of smart glamour and breezy, beachy charm. +230 403 9999; www.stregismauritius.com. Doubles from about £420

ITALY

MONASTERO SANTA ROSA, AMALFI

Even with the advantage of a cliff-top location between the Lattari Mountains and the twinkling Tyrrhenian Sea, Monastero Santa Rosa had to be something special to make it on the super-cool Amalfi Coast. The 17th-century monastery, from which the nuns were evicted in the 1860s, was spotted from the sea 13 years ago by its new US owner, Bianca Sharma, who has spared no expense in turning it into her vision of a perfect hotel. It's an extravagant, stylish, 20-room property with plenty of indulgences – lavish bathrooms, soft beds in fine linen, bowls overflowing with Amalfi lemons – which have erased most of the monastic austerity. Lawns and gardens cascade from a dining terrace down to a cliff-edge infinity pool, where you can recline with a Bellini between spa treatments. Chef Christoph Bob's foraged finferli mushrooms, served in a risotto with burrata and a chilled Pinot Grigio, are Amalfi at its best. **FLASH POINT** Elegance and good living hidden away from, yet within reach of, Amalfi and Positano. A new classic. +39 089 832 1199; www.monasterosantarosa.com. Doubles from about £320



INDIA

VIVANTA BY TAJ - MADIKERI, COORG

The panoramic views of the Western Ghats from this mountain retreat, 1,200 metres above sea level, are staggering. Getting here takes six hours by car from Bangalore, via historic Mysore; the last couple of hours, through coffee and cardamom plantations, are gloriously scenic. The 63 eco-friendly rooms and villas are set in little clusters in 180 acres of rainforest. Built with recycled wood, local granite and river stones, they rest unobtrusively in the landscape; many have open fireplaces and the smartest have terraces. High-adrenalin activities include mountain-biking, trekking and zip-lining; there are also pottery, yoga and cookery classes. Golf buggies ferry guests to and from the pool and restaurants: the Nellaki serves delicious local curries, including *pandi kari* (pork) and *baimbale kari* (bamboo shoot). Tapping into the local vibe, there are indigenous dance performances most evenings and the Jiva Spa offers a Coorg speciality, the Gudda bath, where you are scrubbed, massaged and bathed in a private cabin overlooking the valley below. Absolute bliss. **FLASH POINT** At last there's decent hotel to open up the beautiful Coorg region. +91 827 266 5800; www.vivantabytaj.com. Doubles from about £165

