

# HOT THE LIST 2008

Welcome to the definitive guide to the hottest new hotels in the world. From a shortlist of thousands we have selected the 65 best new places to stay, in the most comprehensive Hot List ever. Our experts from all over the globe have used their discernment and insider knowledge to bring us the most stylish, most innovative, most luxurious hotels, whose settings range from desert islands to capital cities, starting with our own

## UK, EUROPE & RUSSIA



### BELGIUM

Be Manos, Brussels: page 214

### CROATIA

Adriana, Hvar: 145

### DENMARK

Axel Hotel Guldsmøden,  
Copenhagen: 214

### ESTONIA

Hotel Telegraaf, Tallinn: 214

### FINLAND

Hotel Glo, Helsinki: 214

### FRANCE

Hôtel Le Bellechasse,  
Paris: 142

### Hôtel Particulier

Montmartre, Paris: 214

Seekoo Hotel, Bordeaux: 214

### GERMANY

The Charles Hotel, Munich:  
216

### GREECE

Baby Grand Hotel,  
Athens: 216

Mykonos Grace: 142

Mystique, Santorini: 216

### HUNGARY

Lánchíd 19, Budapest: 216

### IRELAND

Capella Castlemartyr,  
County Cork: 216

The Ice House Hotel & Spa,

County Mayo: 218

### ITALY

Ca' Sagredo Hotel,  
Venice: 141

The Chedi Milan: 218

JK Place, Capri: 144

### PORTUGAL

Fontana Park Hotel,  
Lisbon: 143

Romaneira, Quinta dos  
Sonhos, Douro Valley: 140

### RUSSIA

The Ritz-Carlton,  
Moscow: 218

### SPAIN

Hospes Madrid 218

L'Avenida Hotel,  
Mallorca: 141

### SWITZERLAND

Le Richemond, Geneva: 218

### UK

The Connaught, London: 139

Cotswolds88 Hotel,  
Gloucestershire: 220

Hotel du Vin & Bistro,  
Cambridge: 220

Hotel TerraVina,  
Hampshire: 220

Malmaison Liverpool: 220

## AFRICA, INDIAN OCEAN & MIDDLE EAST



### EGYPT

Four Seasons Hotel  
Alexandria at San Stefano,

Egypt: 222

### MALDIVES

Banyan Tree Maldives

Madivaru: 222

The Beach House at  
Manafaru Maldives: 222

### MOROCCO

Angsana Riads Collection  
Morocco, Marrakech: 222

### MOZAMBIQUE

Azura, Bengueria Island: 222

Ibo Island Lodge,

Quirimbas: 224

### RWANDA

Sabyinyo Silverback  
Lodge: 224

### SOUTH AFRICA

La Residence,  
Franschhoek: 146

Hout Bay Manor,  
Cape Town: 148

### TANZANIA

Lupita Island Lodge,  
Lake Tanganyika: 224

### UAE

Raffles Dubai: 148

## AUSTRALASIA, ASIA & PACIFIC OCEAN



### AUSTRALIA

Qualia, Queensland: 149

### BHUTAN

Taj Tashi: 150

### CHINA

Hotel Côté Cour SL,  
Beijing: 224

JIA Shanghai: 226

Kayumanis Nanjing: 226

Mansion Hotel,  
Shanghai: 226

### JAPAN

The Peninsula Tokyo: 151

### NEW ZEALAND

The Farm at Cape  
Kidnappers: 151

### SINGAPORE

Naumi: 226

### SOUTH PACIFIC

Posada de Mike Rapu,  
Easter Island: 226

### THAILAND

Alila Cha-Am, Gulf  
of Thailand: 226

Six Senses Hideaway Yao  
Noi, Phang Nga Bay: 228

## THE AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN



### ARGENTINA

Moreno Buenos Aires: 228

### BRAZIL

Hotel Fasano Rio  
de Janeiro: 154

### CANADA

The Hazelton Hotel,  
Toronto: 228

### CARIBBEAN

Hermitage Bay,  
Antigua: 155

### COLOMBIA

La Passion, Cartagena: 228

### MEXICO

Mandarin Oriental Riviera  
Maya, Mexico: 228

La Purificadora,

Puebla: 153

### USA

The Bowery Hotel,  
New York: 229

Colony Palms Hotel,  
Palm Springs: 229

InterContinental San  
Francisco: 229

6 Columbus, New York: 155

Solage Calistoga,  
California: 229

The Tides Hotel South  
Beach, Miami Beach: 229

For reviews of the hotels not in the pages immediately following, turn to **page 214**



# THE HOT LIST 2008

➤ **ROOM TO BOOK** The panoramic suite with its roof terrace and river views.

54 quai de Bacalan, Bordeaux (00 33 5 56 39 07 07; [www.seekoo-hotel.com](http://www.seekoo-hotel.com)). Doubles from €180; panoramic suite €360

## GERMANY

### THE CHARLES HOTEL Munich

Named in honour of Charles Forte, founder of the Forte hospitality empire who died last year, The Charles Hotel is Rocco Forte's third hotel in Germany, following hot on the heels of Frankfurt's Villa Kennedy and Berlin's Hotel de Rome, which both opened in 2006. Unlike those, however, this is a brand-new building and feels utterly international. The decor, overseen by Rocco's sister Olga Polizzi, is neutral and unobtrusive: this isn't a place to arrest your senses, it's somewhere to unwind. The basement pool is a generous 15 metres, the adjoining gym is large and well equipped, and the bedrooms are airy and spacious, with Nymphenburg porcelain in the limestone bathrooms and Everyman editions of European authors on the shelves. The restaurant is Italian (Munich is nearer to Venice than to Berlin), and the chef, Giovanni Russo, has created a light, invigorating menu. The location isn't ideal for sightseeing, but the central station and the Lenbachhaus, one of Munich's finest galleries, are both a short walk away.

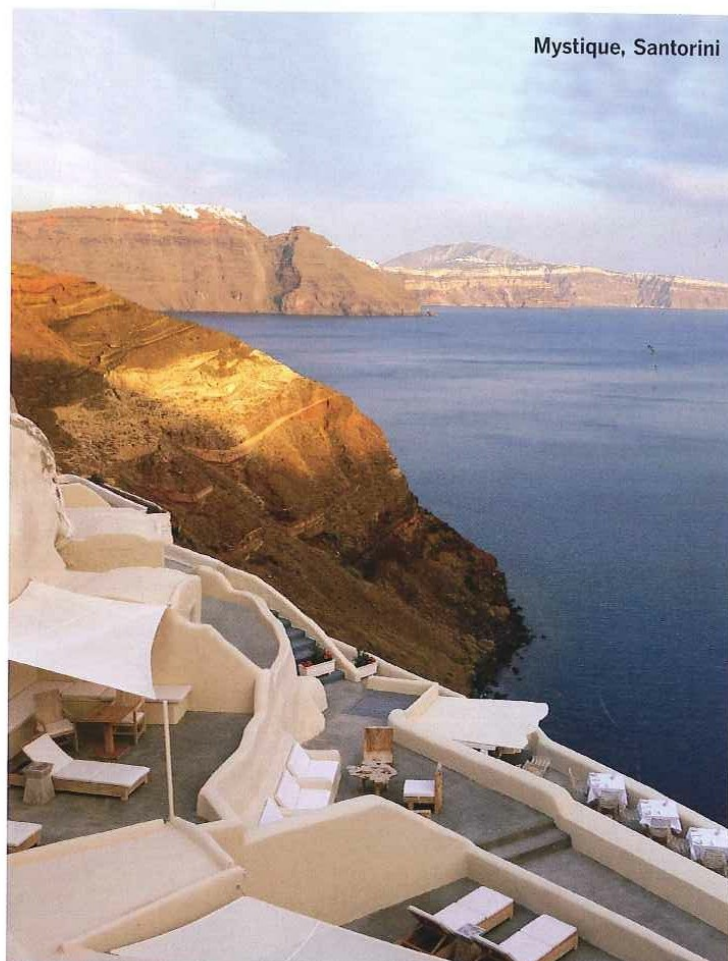
**WHEN TO GO** In early December for the Christmas markets, when the streets are transformed into festive grottoes.

**ROOM TO BOOK** Ask for a room overlooking the botanical gardens, or a corner suite: with windows on three sides, they are light even in midwinter. If your pockets are deep enough, the Presidential Suite has a grand piano, a steam room, and stunning views of the Alps. *Sophienstrasse 28, Munich (00 49 89 544 5550; [www.roccofortecollection.com](http://www.roccofortecollection.com)). Doubles from €375; corner suites from €1,200; Presidential Suite from €5,000*

## GREECE

### BABY GRAND HOTEL Athens

**UNDER £150** With its fake-stucco façade and seedy location by Omonia Square, Baby Grand, the smallest property in the biggest hotel chain in Greece, makes an unpromising first impression. But the oversized flowerpots and retro swing-seat by the revolving front door suggest that this urban bolthole is less conventional than its sister Classical Hotels. Inside, it is eccentric in the extreme. A jungle of plastic leaves encloses the all-white Meat Me restaurant, where fashionable Athenians order gourmet kebabs. Mirrored stairs lead up to the first-floor reception, a psychedelic den plastered in warped graffiti, where two Mini Coopers stand in for front desks. The graffiti theme continues in 55 of the 76 rooms, customised by street artists in outlandish styles, from the Smurfs to Superman, space-age scenes to serene



Mystique, Santorini

landscapes. Furnishings are a curious mix of cutting-edge (Kartell Bourgie lamps) and predictable (leatherette reclining chairs), but somehow it works. Huge beds are strewn with fake-fur throws; iPods come with funky playlists; instead of piped music, there's recorded birdsong in the communal spaces. The hotel has a tiny Carita spa and basement gym with a saucy, see-through ceiling so you can work up a sweat looking up the skirts of diners. Otherwise, there's not much of a view. This is a place for people who like to party. On the morning after, tuck into the excellent buffet breakfast of regional Greek specialities. Billed as a 'why not?' hotel, Baby Grand is refreshingly offbeat. Unlike many Athenian hotels, it's also reasonably priced.

**WHEN TO GO** For a long weekend during the three-week carnival season in February/March. **ROOM TO BOOK** The bedrooms are small, so book a deluxe room or junior suite if you can. *65 Athinas Street, Athens (00 30 210 325 0900; [www.classicalhotels.com](http://www.classicalhotels.com)). Doubles from €150; deluxe rooms from €175; junior suites from €210*

### MYSTIQUE Santorini

It was a fair bet that Mystique, sister property to Vedema Resort Santorini and a member of Starwood's Luxury Collection, would be stellar. With their popstar looks, general manager Antonis Eliopoulos and PR director Kalia Konstantinidou exude success. Mystique clings to a crater's edge above the Aegean, in the village of Oia. But while all the other hotels in the village are painted Cycladic white,

Mystique's curvaceous walls stand out in comforting cream. The hotel is not newly built but a sensitive makeover of one that never made the charts. The bedrooms, carved into the cliff, all have caldera views and the decor complements the troglodytic look with island flair, *Flintstones*-style: coffee tables shaped like large pebbles on limestone floors; bedheads and lamps sculpted from driftwood; cushions embroidered with traditional floral designs. Two suites have treadmills but, with friendly staff, Jacuzzis and those views, you won't need to hyperventilate to reach nirvana. Anyway, all the steps up and down between the suites, the infinity-edged pool and the village obviate the need for a gym. There is a cave-cellar full of interesting wines, and the restaurant serves delicious dishes made with fresh, local ingredients. **WHEN TO GO** Spring and late summer are best, with fewer people and cooler temperatures. **ROOM TO BOOK** One of the two spacious (70-square-metre) villas. *Oia, Santorini (00 30 22860 71114; [www.mystique.gr](http://www.mystique.gr)). Doubles from €460; villas from €1,150*

## HUNGARY

### LANCHID 19 Budapest

**UNDER £150** The most striking recent addition to Budapest's historic riverside, the Lánchíd 19 is named for the nearby Chain Bridge. Its innovative design stands in stark contrast to the three dull chain hotels across the water. Since it opened in August 2007, the Lánchíd has become a city

landmark, thanks to a unique façade that ripples in harmony with the river. It is made of strips of glass, each covered in tiny paintings of water-themed subjects such as fish or river snails. The glass sheets are linked to a weather sensor so that they move as the wind changes. The façade is illuminated at night, turning the hotel into an urban lighthouse. Guests who simply want to enjoy the view of the city from river-facing rooms can press a stop button, and the glass sheets slide away to the side. The Lánchíd 19 is the first Hungarian member of Design Hotels, and its 45 rooms and three suites have a cosy but stylish feel. The Panorama Suites facing the river have huge terraces and spectacular views. Each room has its own design quirks, such as a magnetic chessboard on the wall, or a choice of coverings for a chair. While the overall look is hip and modern, the hotel also puts history to good use: the Lánchíd 19 was built on the remains of a medieval water-tower that once supplied the royal castle, and the tower's basement is now a party room. The staff are young and friendly, and the Buda-side location is superb: the castle is just behind, while the museums, bars, clubs and cafés of Pest are nearby.

**WHEN TO GO** Spring, summer or autumn.

**ROOM TO BOOK** Panorama Suite one or two, facing the Danube.

*Lánchíd u 19-21, Budapest (00 361 419 1900; [www.lanchid19hotel.hu](http://www.lanchid19hotel.hu)). Doubles from €181; Panorama Suites from €360*

## IRELAND

### CAPELLA CASTLEMARTYR

County Cork

Despite its dramatic, 12th-century castle and adjoining palatial, 17th-century manor house, the initial impact of Castlemartyr does not come from its beautiful buildings but from its high standard of service. The attention to detail begins with a call from a personal assistant before you leave home to arrange an itinerary, which might include a horse-drawn carriage trip around the 220-acre grounds, golf on the Ron Kirby-designed links or treatments at the Auriga Spa. The decor is more understated opulence (antique oak floors; Persian rugs; subdued colours) than cutting-edge design, and the most striking room is the Knight's Bar, with its high, rococo ceiling. Chef Roger Ohlsson (from London's two-Michelin-starred Pied à Terre) presides over the Bell Tower restaurant – three rooms with views of the formal gardens – and the restful Garden Room; his inventive use of East Cork's renowned produce is a key attraction. Only 11 of the 109 bedrooms are in the manor house; the rest are in a new wing. All are uniformly luxurious and spacious. The marble bathrooms have large baths and walk-in showers. A highlight is the spa designed by Raison d'Etre, with its glass-enclosed Ozone pool, indulgent lunar-cycle treatments with Organic Pharmacy products in 10 treatment rooms, 24-hour gym and vitality pools. **WHEN TO GO** Summer, to enjoy nearby beaches, fishing trips, dolphin sightings and the beautiful East Cork countryside. ➤