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MAY/JUNE 2019

THE HOT LIST 2019

ALL THAT'S NEW
AND GROUNDBREAKING
IN TRAVEL

THE WORLD'S BEST HOTEL OPENINGS

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A TWIST ON NEW ORLEANS

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CHINA'S NEXT-LEVEL GUESTHOUSES

AHEAD OF THE CROWD IN URUGUAY



THE HOT LIST 2019

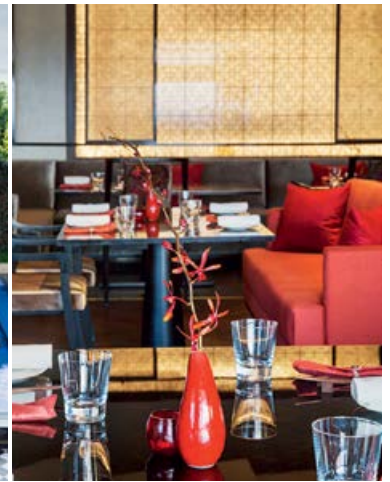
INDIA

THE OBEROI, NEW DELHI

Since it first opened, in 1965, the Oberoi's been a de facto clubhouse for Delhi's who's who, just as popular with locals dropping in to see and be seen as with visiting prime ministers looking for a place to lay their head between meetings.

A two-year closure for a top-to-bottom revamp left a gaping hole in the city's social calendar, but ever since it reopened its freshly buffed doors in 2018, New Delhi has had its high-society haunt back. Stepping inside is arresting—not only because of the jewel-encrusted screen that anchors the lobby but also because the hotel has a purification system that promises the cleanest air in the pollution-choked city. Adam Tihany was tasked with the redo and took subtle cues from the work of Sir Edwin Lutyens, the architect behind the layout of modern New Delhi.

The 220 rooms are generously sized—taking a gamble by reducing the count from 283 paid off—and details like gilt-edged Art Deco touches and sprawling stand-alone bathtubs are suitably ornate. But what will ensure that Delhiites keep returning to celebrate engagements, host reunions, or just because it's Saturday are the restaurants and bars: Beloved Threesixty is better than ever, while newly added Omya and Chinese restaurant Baoshyan are both run by chefs with Michelin-starred spots in London. The magnificent landmark is restored as the pulse point of the city. **FLASH POINT** Rooms look over the Delhi Golf Club and 16th-century Humayun's Tomb. +91 11 2436 3030; oberoihotels.com. Doubles from about \$360



CHINA

BULGARI HOTEL, SHANGHAI

The past 18-odd months have seen a bonanza of hotel openings in China's largest city, notably the Capella in the French Concession, the Middle House in the central Jing'an district, and the astonishing Amanyangyun on the outskirts. Bulgari stands out for its ability to channel the city vibe without losing a sense of its Italian DNA. Foster + Partners designed the tower as a shiny mirror in which to reflect Shanghai's wild eclecticism and energy. Inside, an immaculately choreographed tussle between Italian and Chinese design is enacted in marble and bronze versus silk and lacquer. There are marvelous views in every direction, though there is no need to take an ear-popping elevator ride to the upper levels to peep at Shanghai's history. Those familiar with the brand will notice hallmarks of the jewelry house's other five properties here. The exterior shimmers like a case filled with gems. The 82 rooms—including the ornate Bulgari Suite, said to be the biggest in the city—follow a palette of dark wood and balanced monochrome. Chef Niko Romito's lasagna, like at the Bulgari hotel in Beijing, is the dish to order at Il Ristorante; you'll also want to do lemon gelato at Il Giardino, prosecco at La Terrazza, and a knockout negroni at Il Bar. Directly across from the garden is Shanghai's former Chamber of Commerce, also part of the hotel and redone with a whiskey bar and a superb Chinese restaurant. **FLASH POINT** The edible jewels at Il Cioccolato are delicious if, on a per-carat basis, not much cheaper than the wearable kind in the boutique next door. +86 21 3606 7788; bulgarihotels.com. Doubles from about \$770