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The 2020 Hot List

For 24 years we've been putting together our compendium of the latest and greatest from the worlds of hotels and cruise—but we've never published it in a year like this. We know that right now you're probably wondering when you'll be able to take your next trip. When you do, though, we encourage you to use these exceptional openings and launches as your guide. It will be worth the wait. —THE EDITORS

For the complete 2020 Hot List of cruises and hotels, go to cntraveler.com/the-bests/hot-list

The Hot List



WATER MILL, NEW YORK

A Fresh Way to Reset

The first wellness retreat in the Hamptons has a kick-off-the-espadrilles-and-down-a-tumeric-juice carefreeness, because its philosophy is thrillingly simple: Focus on the basics of self-care by tapping into what cofounder Amy Cherry-Abitbol likes to call intuitive wellness. It's just what high-strung visitors to the area need. The point of **Shou Sugi Ban House** isn't to break anyone down, military- or medical-style, but rather to create a space—in sun-flooded barns and blond-wood studios with deep-soaking Japanese tubs—that is a recipe for happiness. There's gentle morning yoga and strolls on the beach, though if lounging by the pool feels like the right speed, that's fine too. Dinners, overseen by Noma cofounder Mads Refslund, of roasted duck breast and Japanese eggplant served at the communal table are a major highlight. The point is to indulge in all the things that are good for us (including that third slice of Danish seeded bread with plum preserves at breakfast), so that we can learn to live the way we all want to—and feel better for it. *From \$935 per person; shousugibanhouse.com*

► TRENDING

Splendid Isolation

More than ever, solitude is what travelers are seeking to help them properly get away—and these hotels have it. At the newly relaunched **andBeyond Sossusvlei Desert Lodge** in Namibia, sand dunes form the backdrop for all-day hikes before the blanket of stars descends, steering dinner conversations toward a search for zodiac signs. Anantara went deep into the desert too for its latest opening, **Tozeur Resort**, which brings travelers into the beautiful stillness of Tunisia's lunar-like inland for the first time. Across the ocean in Australia, subtle **Mount Mulligan Lodge** in northern Queensland sits at the base of a large sandstone rock that has held significance for the Kuku Djungan people for 37,000 years. The colors are green-on-green in Chile's remote Millahue Valley, where **Vik Chile** has assembled Puro Vik, which maintains its connection to the outdoors at all times, including via the views from its sleek glass-walled suites.

PHOTOGRAPH: ALICE GAO

The Hot List



CAPE TOWN

Welcome to the Neighborhood

No matter what design wizardry unfolds inside Cape Town hotels, the superlative views of Table Mountain always end up stealing the show. But quirky **Gorgeous George**, in the heart of the still-rough-around-the-edges Central Business District, gives visitors a fresh perspective. Thanks to its vantage point above the richly textured architecture of the city bowl, the windows look out over neoclassical landmarks, observing gabled Cape Dutch rooftops in conversation with Art Deco towers. It took six years for the owners to seamlessly renovate an Art Deco structure and its Edwardian neighbor, and given this mishmash of influences, the result is a hotel that

could exist nowhere in the world but in the heart of the Mother City. Designer Tristan du Plessis imbued the interiors with a strong “local is lekker” sensibility, to borrow a popular South African catchphrase, which prizes things made close to home. In the lobby this means blue-and-white Delft tiles by Capetonian ceramist Lucie de Moyaencourt that map out the neighborhood, South African brands like 4th Rabbit agave at the bar, and plush leather sofas from Artifact (cushiness quotient: high). Gorgeous George lives up to its name—it’s just the kind of clever, design-centric hideaway that the area sorely lacked. *Doubles from \$150; gorgeousgeorge.co.za*