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TRAVELLER

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FLORENCE

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WIN!

A LUXURY STAY ON
SCOTLAND'S ISLE OF ISLAY

Seychelles

How a new generation is transforming adventure travel in the Indian Ocean paradise

Northern Ireland

Going off-grid among the standing stones & dark skies of the Sperrin Mountains



ALSO: BATH // BERLIN // LATVIA // SWITZERLAND // TURKEY // VALPARAÍSO // HOTEL AWARDS 2021



TRAVELLER

HOTEL AWARDS

2021

FAR MORE THAN JUST A PLACE TO STAY, HOTELS CAN MAKE OR BREAK A TRAVEL EXPERIENCE. AND AS WE TENTATIVELY BEGIN TO EXPLORE THE WORLD AGAIN, WHERE WE CHOOSE TO CHECK IN MATTERS MORE THAN EVER. OUR AWARDS CHAMPION THE NEW AND IMPROVED PROPERTIES THAT HAVE STOOD OUT FROM THE CROWD OVER THE PAST YEAR — WHETHER IT'S AN EXCITING NEW REFURB, OUTSTANDING ECO CREDENTIALS, SPECTACULAR ARCHITECTURE OR UNFORGETTABLE GASTRONOMIC EXPERIENCES THAT LINGER LONG IN THE MEMORY



IMAGE: FREDERIK WISSINK

THE WINNERS

Grand Redesigns

MANDARIN ORIENTAL
RITZ, MADRID

City Slicker

THE HOXTON, ROME

Good Egg

XIGERA SAFARI LODGE,
BOTSWANA

Lord of the Manor

CASTELLO DI RESCHIO,
ITALY

Love Shack

BÃI SAN HỒ,
VIETNAM

Castaway

KISAWA SANCTUARY,
MOZAMBIQUE

Boutique Break

CAN FERRERETA,
MAJORCA, SPAIN

Leave the World Behind

ANGAMA SAFARI
CAMP, KENYA

On the Money

THE HARRISON CHAMBERS
OF DISTINCTION, BELFAST

Comeback Kid

NOMAD LONDON, LONDON

Design Den

PARADERO TODOS
SANTOS, MEXICO

Gourmet Getaway

TILLINGHAM, EAST SUSSEX

THE JUDGING PANEL

JULIA BUCKLEY

Freelance travel writer

LEE COBAJ

Freelance travel writer

EMMA GREGG

Freelance travel writer

LAUREN JADE HILL

Freelance travel writer

LAURA HOLT

Travel writer and editor

FRANCISCA KELLETT

Travel writer and editor

JULIET KINSMAN

Sustainable travel consultant

TRAVIS LEVIUS

Luxury travel writer

JOHN O'CEALLAIGH

Luxury travel consultant

PÓL Ó CONGHAILE

Freelance travel writer

JONATHAN THOMPSON

Freelance travel writer

& THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

TRAVELLER (UK) TEAM



GOOD EGG

We're commending the hotels putting community, sustainability and conservation at the heart of their operations



XIGERA SAFARI LODGE, BOTSWANA

Relaunched in January 2021, Xigera is truly immersed in the Moremi Game Reserve — so much so, in fact, that it takes its name from the pied kingfishers that hover over the silvery channels of the Okavango Delta. In a part of Africa where every lodge makes sustainability a priority, Xigera goes the extra mile. It already has a state-of-the-art renewable energy centre, composter and water treatment plant, and electric safari vehicles are next. It's rooted in people as much as it is nature, too, with eye-catching fabrics, hand-crafted furniture and sculptures by celebrated contemporary African artists making this a beautiful place to rest your head after a day in the bush. From \$3,180 (£2,283), all inclusive, including local airport transfers. xigera.com

RUNNERS-UP

THE HOTEL BRITOMART, AUCKLAND

New Zealand's first Five Green Star eco-certified hotel produces greenhouse gas emissions around 50% lower than the building code requires. But that's not all: they've thought of everything, from eco-friendly paint and driftwood door handles to organic linen. The ocean-friendly seafood restaurant champions underrated but healthy and delicious local species. From NZ\$287 (£145). thehotelbritomart.com

CIELO LODGE, COSTA RICA

This striking newcomer was once a logging site but has been transformed into an eco-lodge that's entirely off-grid, powered by solar panels and small-scale hydroelectricity with wastewater used for landscaping. And this is Costa Rica, so expect a full immersion in nature, with wildlife walks along a series of waterfalls, or a night-time frog trail. From \$410 (£295), full board. cielolodge.com



LORD OF THE MANOR

With their exceptional attention to detail, opulent surroundings and golden treasure trove of experiences, these stately stays are fit for royalty



CASTELLO DI RESCHIO, ITALY

Properties like this don't — and can't — come around often. Count Benedikt Bolza used to live in this 1,000-year-old castle, but this year he moved out, turning the estate and its former chapel into a stunning, 36-room hotel. The location sells itself: tucked among the green furrows of the countryside, with cypress and pine trees. But what sets Reschio apart is that it's a swirling modern excavation of the past. Bolza, an architect, has designed everything, from the beams to the lampshades, as well as a Roman-style spa in the former wine cellar, and a lush, foliage-filled Palm Court injecting some 21st-century frippery. Rooms deviate slightly from the stone-walled aesthetic, too, and are almost city-chic, with modern four-posters alongside deco-style lamps and mid-century chairs — with the exposed beams and bucolic views reminding you this is ultimately rural Umbria at its best. From €790 (£672), B&B. reschio.com

RUNNERS-UP

AIRELLES CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES, LE GRAND CONTRÔLE, FRANCE

This is as exclusive as it gets, with just 14 rooms in the palace itself. There's gilded stucco, chandeliers and regal upholstery, with bold-patterned accessories in the rooms. Guests get out-of-hours access to the grounds, and there's also a Marie Antoinette-inspired afternoon tea. From €1,735 (£1,468), B&B. airelles.com

BIRCH, HERTFORDSHIRE

It's a country house hotel, but not as we know it. The Grade II-listed property, for years a conference centre, has been transformed into a warren of co-working spaces and lounges. The vibe veers towards festival over hotel, with everything from a cocktail tipi to roaming chickens. From £150. birchcommunity.com