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From royal opulence to huts on the edge of civilisation: the 10 greatest hotels of the decade



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30 DECEMBER 2020 • 3:15PM

It has been the toughest of years for the entire travel industry, marked by the chaos and uncertainty caused by Covid, and with very few positive moments to look back on. This is as true for hoteliers as anyone else: grand opening plans were thrown into disarray by the pandemic and the global travel bans that ensued, and plenty of hotels originally scheduled for 2020 have now had their debuts postponed until the new year. Those that have opened since March have been met with little fanfare and just a smattering of guests.

But despite the difficulties, a handful of new hotels have arrived to set new standards of luxury on the travel scene, from stylish city stays in Paris, Tokyo and Warsaw to off-the-grid retreats in Sweden, Utah and the Dolomites. What's more, they have continued the trend of a decade or more, of hoteliers stretching the boundaries of grandeur and adventure.

This list honours those who, for each of the last 10 years, we feel have done the most to provide new and exciting experiences for travellers...



The Brando continues the vision of its founder and namesake, the actor Marlon Brando, that this dream atoll remain pristine while also offering guests holiday comforts of the highest level

2014

The Brando, Tahiti

Marlon Brando fell in love with the Polynesian island of Tetiaroa while filming *Mutiny on the Bounty*. He bought it in 1966, and almost 50 years later (and 10 years after his death), his dream of an ecologically sensitive guest resort was realised. There are paradise island hotels to rival it, but The Brando continues to stand out, even before you take into account the remarkable measures taken to preserve Tetiaroa's fragile ecosystem. The presiding sense of castaway bliss draws the great and good, including the Obamas, who went to the resort shortly after leaving the White House in 2017.

Read the full review: [The Brando](#)