



TRAVEL

The Top 18 New Hotels in 2018

AD circled the globe to bring you the most travel-worthy properties debuting now and throughout next year

TEXT BY CHARU SURI · Pested December 4, 2017





Photo: Courtesy of Hyatt St. Kitts



The phrase "luxury hotel" has a wide array of connotations. But a general consensus among well-traveled guests is that properties with a true sense of place, and those that are an extension of the area's history, are exemplars of true luxurious style. The hotels that are new and exciting for 2018 are those that are not only well-designed but that go far above and beyond brand recognition.

"People want an unpredictable luxury experience," says Jack Ezon, president of New York-based <u>Ovation</u>

<u>Vacations.</u> "They still want their Frette linens, but with a local touch," he adds. In this aspect, independent hotels are making a strong mark.

"What increasingly distinguishes a true luxury hotel is not just the comfort and beauty of the property but rather the personal care, proactive attention, and unique experiences that each and every person on the property extends to the traveler," says Jennifer Tombaugh, president of Connecticut-based guided tour company Tauck. "A warm, heartfelt welcome in this busy, technology driven world is rare and precious," she adds.

Here are the top hotels to watch in 2018, chosen not only for their outstanding design but also for their commitment to hospitality and capturing that sense of place.



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Photo: Courtesy of Four Seasons Costa Palmas

Four Seasons Costa Palmas, Los Cabos, Mexico (Winter 2018)

Forming part of the private beach community of Costa Palmas at the sandy eastern shoreline of Baja (considered its "secret cape") is the 145-room Four Seasons. It also has private residences, a Robert Trent Jones II-designed golf course, and a resort community village. Rooms overlooking the Sea of Cortés were designed by Las Vegas-based *TAL Studio*, and guests have access to an 18-acre organic farm. *costapalmas.com*