ULTIMATE BEACH



TRAVELER Great Escapes 80 PLACES TO GO NOW

THE HOT ISSUE

Hot Trends in **TOKYO**

Hot Nights in

BARCELONA

Hot Sauce in

BOLIVIA

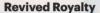
Hot Springs in

COLORADO

Epic Views

PANORAMIC WINDOWS ONTO THE WORLD

Shades of blue saturate the sea-to-sky views from Le Barthélemy Hotel, on St. Barths' Grand Cul-de-Sac beach. At Amanemu. private terraces and onsen hot baths overlook forested islets and oyster rafts in Japan's "Bay of Pearls." One of National Geographic's Unique Lodges, Seal River Heritage Lodge added a six-tent Tundra Camp for exclusive access to northern Manitoba's Arctic terrain, Explora Valle Sagrado, in Peru, looks up-and around-to a ring of serrated Andean peaks. On the urban flip side, majestic Table Mountain fills the floor-to-ceiling windows at The Silo, in Cape Town, South Africa.



GRAND HOTELS WITH FRESH MAKEOVERS

Timber Cove, a 1963 Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired lodge, features new redwood-decked suites overlooking California's Sonoma coast. The Beekman transformed a 19th-century building into Lower Manhattan's destination hotel, thanks partly to the soaring nine-story atrium lobby. The reopened Hotel Royal Savoy, in Lausanne, restored its art nouveau exterior and appended a state-of-the-art Swiss spa The historic Pulitzer Hotel, in Amsterdam, added a courtyard sculpture

Stay cool (from top) at The Robey's rooftop, in Chicago; Le Barthélemy's pool, in St. Barths; and Timber Cove's Great Room, in California.

garden, giant swings, and

themed suites.







Lovers' Corners

HIDEAWAYS FOR ROMANCE

The barrel-vaulted, 16th-century chapel at Masseria Trapanà, in southern Italy, provides a cozy setting for making —or renewing—vows. Sandals Royal Caribbean, in Jamaica, introduces luxury South Pacific-style over-the-water villas-with outdoor showers and glass floors for viewing marine life-to the region. Casa Laguna Hotel & Spa, in California's Laguna Beach, offers colorful, intimate rooms at a 1920s former artist colony dotted with palm trees. On an island located in the Maldives' Noonu Atoll, Soneva Jani features over-the-water villas with retractable roofs for stargazing. In Mexico, Andaz Mayakoba Resort Riviera Maya fronts white sands ideal for beachcombing, with sleek rooms that look onto tropical gardens, a clear lagoon, or the Caribbean Sea.

Good Neighbors

WHERE TRAVELERS AND LOCALS HANG OUT

The Tilden Hotel, in San Francisco's Tenderloin district, brings in local poets and artists for rotating residencies. Hotel Saint George shares an address-and a clever vibe-with the indie Marfa Book Company, in Texas. Local acts perform at the music club at the Ace Hotel New Orleans, a community magnet in the Warehouse District. The Williamsburg loans bikes for exploring Brooklyn, while Chicago's The Robey opens doors to the arty Wicker Park neighborhood. FOUND: RE Phoenix, which doubles as a gallery for area artists, embodies the Arizona city's downtown revival.