

# Condé Nast Traveller

THE WORLD MADE LOCAL

MAY/JUNE 2023

## THE HOT LIST 2023

THE BEST  
NEW HOTELS  
AROUND  
THE WORLD

PLUS

THE RAW MAGIC OF MARSEILLE  
SLOW ROMANCE IN THE PELOPONNESE  
MENORCA'S QUIET RENAISSANCE  
FRESH BUZZ AT THE ENGLISH SEASIDE

# THE HOT LIST

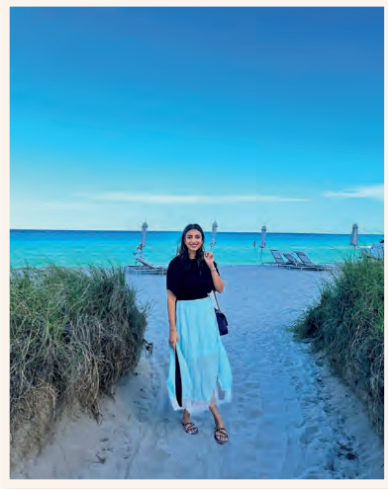


## INDIA

### VILLA PALLADIO JAIPUR

Villa Palladio, the third Jaipur venture by Swiss-Italian hotelier Barbara Miolini and her Danish design collaborator Marie-Anne Oudejans, is a riotous ode to Rajasthani craftsmanship and colour. On the outskirts of the city, it is as much a bijou wunderkammer as a retreat, with striking white crenellated walls above red awnings and a delicious confection of carved stone trellises, block-printed fabrics, hand-painted walls and chequerboard marble courtyards.

Miolini and Oudejans first worked together on Jaipur's similarly jewel-like Bar Palladio, and their dual imagination shines even brighter in this restoration of a traditional haveli townhouse, with a layout that echoes the gardens of paradise in Islamic theology. Nine dollhouse-like rooms – including four in grounds dotted with rose bushes, jasmine and palm trees – come patterned in red and white with gold accents, each with cloud-like beds, printed bath robes and soft Jaipuri slippers. Blue skies and the forested hills of the lesser Aravallis are picturesquely framed in the arches of the breakfast terrace, and candlelit dinners are brightened by starlight. The hotel is happy to arrange outings to the city and surroundings, and there's a small stable. The spa offers Tibetan treatments and the sun-warmed pool has a candy-striped cabana and pavilion bar. At night the dining area serves Italian and Indian food in a gorgeous, secret-garden-like space. DIVYA MISHRA  
*Doubles from about £262; villa-palladio-jaipur.com*



THE BEST HOTELS ARE CULTURAL artefacts in their own right, and true reflections of the zeitgeist of their time and place. They are living houses of art and architecture, food and wellness. They must suit the local palate and yet attract international travellers. They take years to build or restore but must be close to perfect when they open, with the ultimate in technology and decor. They immerse guests in the local culture with excursions and experiences, and they open their doors to that culture with creativity and passion.

Passalacqua, which appears on our 2023 Hot List, is tiny, just 24 suites. It sits right on Lake Como and every inch of this neoclassical villa bursts with history and colour, patterns and flowers and curios, each object lovingly sourced by owner Valentina de Santis and her team. It is a tribute to Italian heritage and craftsmanship, a reflection of the nation's heart and soul. You will feel this throughout your stay, especially at breakfast time when you're eating freshly ground pistachio paste by the spoonful. Passalacqua is glorious in summer, of course, but one time I visited, when it poured it was equally beautiful. Clouds rolled across the grey lake, surrounding the estate as if it were suspended between sky and water, in a dream.

Once in a while I have a moment when everything goes slow motion in the midst of incredible action, and I think about how surreal the world we live in can be. It happened this January when I was at the launch of Atlantis The Royal, a dazzling hotel on Dubai's Palm Islands, also on our Hot List. While we were dining at Heston Blumenthal's newest restaurant, we were asked to put our phones away in small, stylish pouches – Beyoncé was about to begin a private concert for us. It was when she was singing "Ave Maria" that the grandeur and staggering ambition of the hotel struck me: the 795 rooms, suites and penthouses, the 90-plus swimming pools, the marble, the golden toothbrush in my room. We had been told all these facts about the hotel in the months before the opening, but this was the moment when everything came into focus for me. The story of the new Atlantis is the story of Dubai: always evolving, always trying to outdo itself, but with a new-found confidence and elegance on a world stage. Watching one of our greatest living artists perform in the Middle East, in this extravagant setting that was once an empty expanse of desert, surrounded by a troupe of Lebanese female dancers who had just won *America's Got Talent*, made me feel connected, lucky and alive. Isn't that what travel is all about?

This year's Hot List is full of big hits and small gems. I hope you have the chance to visit a few and imbibe the fresh wonder of the best new hotels in the world.

**DIVIA THANI**  
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## ON THE COVER



VILLA PALLADIO JAIPUR  
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ATUL PRATAP CHAUHAN

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KOH LANTA, THAILAND

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