



Condé Nast Traveller

**SPECIAL
DOUBLE ISSUE**

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THE HOT LIST 2018

**THIS YEAR'S BEST NEW HOTELS,
RESTAURANTS, BEACH CLUBS & BARS**

**+ THE 50 PEOPLE
CHANGING THE
WAY WE TRAVEL
RIGHT NOW**

MOTELS GO ALL RETRO-AGGRESSIVE

BUBBLE HOUSES ARE THE NEW TREEHOUSES

FIRST LOOK AT THE REOPENED RESTAURANT PHENOMENON NOMA

PANTELLERIA MAKES A BIGGER SPLASH

MAXIMUM CITY: A PORTRAIT OF SHANGHAI

THE BOLD ARRIVAL PUTTING TURKEY BACK ON THE AGENDA

WHY CHINESE ARCHITECTS ARE BLOWING OUR MINDS

L.A.'S URBAN SHAMANS

THE GREATEST ROAD TRIP IN SOUTH AMERICA

CHINA
THE MURRAY, HONG KONG

This is the new hotel everyone in Hong Kong is talking about. It's in a great location, slightly above the Central Business District with views down past the mass of banks and mercantile headquarters to the harbour, but what really sets it apart is the compelling design by Foster + Partners. The original building – a relatively diminutive 26-storey office block – opened in 1969, when its distinctive eco-friendly windows, sharply angled to frustrate the tropical sun, were regarded as radical. Today, those same portals provide the 336 rooms and suites with sensational panoramas but, with its expanse of white marble in the lobby and Andre Fu interiors in the signature restaurant, there is little evidence that this was once a hive stuffed with government bureaucrats. The inner-city setting ensures there is a real buzz about the place, with a steady stream of Hong Kong residents and visiting hot shots swinging by to check it out. As a result, the ground-floor Murray Lane bar fills up shortly after sunset (a thirst-quenching lemongrass gin-and-tonic heads the menu), and well-shod diners are finding their way to the latest outpost of Michelin-starred Guo Fu Lu restaurant for its top-notch Cantonese food, including crispy roast goose and delicious king prawns with walnuts. **FLASH POINT** Make the most of the neighbourhood over weekends when the office bees head home: Hong Kong Park (eight hectares) and the Edward Youde Aviary lie just to the east, and the Gothic Revival St John's Cathedral just to the west. +852 3141 8888; marcopolohotels.com. Doubles from about £400



UK
L'OSCAR, LONDON

Jacques Garcia, the French architect and designer behind L'Hôtel Costes in Paris, Marrakech's La Mamounia and the USA's NoMad hotels, knows how to create an atmosphere. His designs are notoriously theatrical. Garcia's inspiration at this grand former Baptist church HQ in Holborn was, he says, Oscar Wilde, who lived and wrote some of his most famous works in London, and whose quote from *A Woman of No Importance* – 'Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future' – is the hotel's mantra. Original religious features and Garcia's opulent vision are overlaid throughout the Grade II-listed building. In bedrooms (there are 39, all different), Royal Doulton terracotta panels depicting biblical scenes sit alongside intricate silk screens stitched with golden butterflies and turquoise peacock feathers. Downstairs, the original 1902 octagonal chapel is now the swinging Baptist Bar and Grill, dishing up reimagined British fare (coronation crab salad; Herdwick lamb saddle with miso braised shoulder) beneath its huge dome. And throughout, the attention to detail is staggering: hand-stencilled walls that took French artists weeks to complete; silver tankards for serving beer that will be engraved with initials for regular guests; a staff wardrobe in custom-made silk, jacquard and cashmere, and 457 Lalique glass hummingbirds, parakeets and cuckoos perching on lights and chandeliers. **FLASH POINT** It's over-the-top, masterful, and London's most decadent opening of the year. +44 020 7405 5555; loscar.com. Doubles from £395

