



#### THE AMERICAS

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# PALACIO NAZARENAS, Cusco, Peru

THE SPECS Fifty-five oxygenenriched suites in a 16th-century convent built over Incan foundations, a short walk from the Plaza de Armas. THE LOOK Colonial grandeur—elaborately carved wooden furniture, courtyards scented with herb gardens—updated to out-luxe the hotel next door (the Monasterio, considered one of the continent's top accommodations).

THE EXPERIENCE Your personal butler will get in touch before you arrive and hand you a maté de coca at check-in, then give you a tour of the property's two chapels and secret passageways. (www.palacionazarenas.com)
Doubles from PEN1.160 (₹23.900)

## DORADO BEACH, A RITZ-CARLTON RESERVE, Puerto Rico

THE SPECS A hundred new rooms and 14 suites in modern villas along an unspoilt beach about 32km west of San Juan.
Occupying the site of Laurance Rockefeller's famous Dorado Beach Hotel, the property includes an exceptional spa, a 17km nature trail and Mi Casa by José Andrés, which marries haute to local cuisine. THE LOOK Built of coral stone that reveals the founding fossils within, the 11 two-storey villas house understated, warm and attractive rooms.

THE EXPERIENCE Easy, resort-style living with a focus on service and the tropical surroundings. (www. ritzcarlton.com) Doubles from US\$959 (₹52,120)

# WYTHE HOTEL, New York

THE SPECS A converted turnof-the-century factory with
70 rooms, a rooftop bar and a
standout restaurant. THE LOOK
Poured concrete floors, exposed
brick, custom toile wallpaper and
subwilly-tilled bathrooms. Skyline
views of Manhattan, Brooklyn,
and Queens steal the show.
THE EXPERIENCE Restaurateur
Andrew Tarlow helped put
Williamsburg on the city's nightlife
map with Marlow & Sons and
Diner, so it stands to reason that
the focus of his new hotel venture

is the restaurant. Crowded with

diners ordering roasted meats

and seasonal produce, Reynard

has the feel of a French bistro-

large wooden bar. Guest rooms

feature Goldies products in the

hathrooms and minibars stocked

with Mast Brothers chocolate. At

the rooftop bar, DJs spin against a

backdrop of the New York skyline.

(http://wythehotel.com) Doubles

café chairs, banquettes and a

# from US\$179 (₹9,730) THE NOMAD HOTEL, New York

THE SPECS A restored turn-of-thecentury beaux arts building with 168 rooms in the trendy Flower District. THE LOOK One of the best examples of idiosyncratic anti-design out there. The NoMad successfully convinces you that you're in someone's home, not in a hotel. The walls are dark grey. the furniture is all gleaming leather and the guest-room walls are hung gallery-style with framed ephemera evoking 1950s French colonialism. THE EXPERIENCE The NoMad shares a certain self-conscious but convincing antiques-store, artisanal style with its next-block neighbour the Ace, albeit on a more elegant scale. Standard rooms are cosy and homely and feel like a wellappointed bedroom in a New York City town house, with crisp white sheets, tiny writing desks, Oriental carpets and refreshingly low-tech electronics. (www. thenomadhotel.com) Doubles from US\$395 (₹21,460)

#### **ASIA & AUSTRALIA**

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# FOUR SEASONS HOTEL GUANGZHOU, China

THE SPECS A 344-room hotel occupying the top third of the International Finance Center, the tallest building in Guangzhou. THE LOOK Exposed structural columns crisscross interiors at interesting angles, and rooms surround a stunning triangular atrium and have views of either the Pearl River or the neon-lit city. THE EXPERIENCE Guangzhou is shedding its rep as a workaday manufacturing hub, and though the clientele swings towards besuited Chinese business travellers, there's reason to descend from this above-ground lair. Several striking new buildings are within walking distance-Zaha Hadid's opera, Guangzhou's main library and the Guangdong Museum-and the hotel has complimentary bikes on rent for jaunts along the Pearl. (www. fourseasons.com) Doubles from RMB2,080 (₹18,330)

# GAYA ISLAND RESORT, Borneo, Malaysia

THE SPECS A seaside resort with 121 villas on the Malaysian side of Borneo, Located within a national marine park, the 30-acre property offers PADI-certified dives to 25 superb spots. THE LOOK Stilted villas with an open-studio layout and views of mangroves, rainforest and the South China Sea. THE EXPERIENCE This 101room resort strives to be many things to many people, and for the most part succeeds. There's a kids' club, a children's pool and daily activities for the families as well as a swim-up bar, a sexy jungle spa and curtained poolside alcoves for the honeymooners. There are aesthetic issues—a distant refinery mars the view and the landscaping needs to grow in-but the coral reef makes for superb snorkelling and diving. (www.gayaislandresort.com) Doubles from RM910 (₹16.320)

#### NIYAMA, Maldives

THE SPECS A family-friendly resort with 86 beach and overwater villas, its pièce-de-résistance is an underwater nightclub with a view of living coral. THE LOOK Appealingly laid-out single-storey villas in two sizes, with cream and pale-green interiors and teakwood decks. Rooms are comfortable but a tad blah, the materials (thin wood veneers, white plastic deck chairs) sub-luxe. THE EXPERIENCE Forty minutes southwest of Malé by seaplane, this popular resort appeals to a youthful crowd with an indoor gaming centre and large in-room fridges-the better to take advantage of the on-site deli. After a day of water sports, excess energy can be expended in the gym or on the dance floor-two DJs keep the nightlife pulsing, spatreatments are available 24/7. and there's a large infinity pool for recuperating during the day. Ouieter pastimes include sunset sails in a picturesque dhoni and snorkelling over the coral nursery with the resident marine biologist (http://niyama.peraquum.com) Doubles from US\$700 (₹38,030)

### W SINGAPORE -SENTOSA COVE

THE SPECS A new 240-room glass-and-steel hotel on Sentosa Island, a playground of beaches, golf courses and water slides 15 minutes by cab from downtown Singapore. THE LOOK Curvilinear, playful and moody. the seven-storey façade gently bends around the massive pool, the accent lighting changing colour-from silver to neon pink to purple—as the day progresses THE EXPERIENCE This W's main draw is its 14,000sq ft pool, which takes up most of the courtyard. Business travellers with family in tow gravitate to the shallow end: club kids, drawn by Sentosa's renowned DJ beach parties, cluster around the swim-up bar. Menu items at the two so-so restaurants include a hodgepodge of buffet dishes. (www.wsingapon sentosacove.com) Doubles from S\$408 (₹17.950)

