

a Swan Lake in the picturesque front lawn. Grace Kelly, Elizabeth Taylor and Marilyn Monroe have all sunned themselves at the hotel's famous oval pool. Tony Curtis lived here and Richard Nixon wrote his memoirs in the Swan Lake Suite.

But it doesn't actually matter who you are, because everyone is treated like a VIP here. Each of the 45 suites has its own garden entrance and patio, and is equipped with the latest Bang & Olufsen television and media hub with iPad. People travel from all over to experience the afternoon tea in the garden.

SPEAR'S TOP RECOMMENDED

CITY

THE ADDRESS BOULEVARD DUBAI DUBAI

The Address is where life happens. Whether you're a golfer, sun-seeker, businessman or someone simply looking to relax in pure five-star luxury, then The Address Hotels + Resorts has a collection of amazing hotels in Dubai to give you just that.

The luxury hotel group is launching its most eagerly awaited property in the collection yet – The Address Boulevard Dubai – by the first quarter of 2017. Described as an urban oasis, this is going to redefine what luxury, stunning design and fantastic food are all about.

The Address Hotels + Resorts prides itself on being a place where cool meets warmth, style meets comfort, and where discerning travellers choose to stay time and time again be it for business purposes or pleasure. Its sophisticated environment beats with a vivacious pulse brought to life with the presence of its guests.



The Address Dubai

Each of its properties is situated in the best locations in the Emirate, offering their own fusion of contemporary style and classic elegance. There are sublime spas, tempting restaurants, rich fabrics and stylish furnishings, all accompanied by attentive service and individual touches of flair. In these world-class hotels and resorts, it's easy to relax, recharge and quench your spirit.

The Address Boulevard Dubai, set in Dubai's vibrant city and facing the majestic Burj Khalifa – now a global icon of the UAE – is ready-made for the visitor who is looking to enjoy the finer things Dubai has to offer, including the latest cultural addition to the city Dubai Opera and the excellent shopping at The Dubai Mall, the world's largest retail and entertainment destination.

Each room in the hotel is stunningly designed, with The Address Boulevard Dubai offering a suite or room that has considered every guest's need. The most luxurious of these is the two-bedroom The Address Suite, which is fit for a king.

There is only one available, and it comes with a number of rooms – including a pantry and a study – as well as the most exclusive views of the Dubai skyline while indulging in your

own large living-room area. The Address Suite also includes a stunning lounge terrace, which is the perfect place to relax with friends or family.

For guests looking to pamper themselves, The Address Boulevard Dubai offers some of the best spa options in the world on a floor completely dedicated to relaxation and making guests feel good. While the spa has its own dedicated pool, the hotel boasts an additional two sumptuous swimming pools and a waterfall.

And then, of course, there's the excellent food and world-class restaurants that have become synonymous with the brand. If clients are looking for a larger menu of restaurants, then The Palace Downtown Dubai – managed by The Address Hotels + Resorts – offers five award-winning restaurants with dining possibilities from Arabic to Asian to Argentinian steak, all beautifully designed with immaculate taste and featuring service to match.

HOTEL ADLON KEMPINSKI BERLIN

Located next to the famous Brandenburg Gate and close to all of Berlin's top attractions, the Hotel Adlon Kempinski opened

In 1997, the result of a project that began immediately following the reunification of Germany. It has since established itself as the city's premier hotel for stylish travellers. Even the Queen has stayed here, as have Michael Jackson and Albert Einstein. A historic building destroyed in the final year of the Second World War, it has been rebuilt with a design inspired by the original. Further renovations were carried out last summer, and the hotel has retained Old World Europe feel, but with some contemporary touches such as black granite bathrooms.

There is a two-Michelin-starred restaurant, serving European fare cooked by top German chef Hendrik Ouo, and also a popular pan-Asian serving fusion dishes. Afternoon tea in the super grand lobby is very popular. There is also a renowned spa and swimming pool, a limousine service to ferry guests around, and a shopping arcade and wine store.

BANYAN TREE BANGKOK

Some twenty years running and still going strong, the Banyan Tree is an elegant oasis of serenity in the centre of bustling Bangkok. Located in the upmarket Sathorn area – in one of the more compact skyscrapers – it is a bit of a journey to the city's historical sites, including its many temples. But many may choose to simply luxuriate here. There are jungle-like gardens complete with waterfall, a pool, gym and spa, as well as Chinese, Japanese and Thai dining options. The Verigo Restaurant and Moon Bar are so high up you'll feel you're in the clouds.

The hotel has its own river cruise ship – a nice way to see the city. It is all suites here and each has windows, plush carpets and views of the Chao Phraya river and the twinkling lights of the city. The Banyan Tree brand is synonymous with spa excellence



Hotel Adlon Kempinski

and this is no exception: the signature Tropical Rainmist experience is not to be missed. Shopping is an integral part of any visit to Bangkok and the hotel provides 'shopping companions' to accompany guests to the city's eclectic markets or shopping malls.

THE CHATWAL NEW YORK

Located in and amongst the theatres of Broadway and minutes from Times Square, Rockefeller Center and Radio City Music Hall, the Chatwal is the place in which to enjoy the hustle and bustle of central Manhattan. The building was designed by renowned architect Stanford White, who also designed the original Madison Square Garden. Regularly voted one of the city's best hotels, it has a 1930s Art Deco look and 76 well-appointed rooms and suites, each of which has a copy of *The Great Gatsby* in it, just to highlight that you are really in New York here.

No expense has been spared, with Freixe linens, suede walls, leather desks and state-of-the-art technology in every room. There are even Japanese toilets with heated seats. Its restaurant the Lamb Club was named for the theatre club that used to occupy

this site with members such as Charlie Chaplin and Fred Astaire. Now it serves all-day Modern American cuisine in its bright red dining room. There's an indoor saltwater pool, an Elizabeth Arden spa and fitness centre.

LA FIERMONTINA LECCE, PUGLIA, ITALY

The Fiermontina does not call itself a hotel, but an 'urban resort'. In the Baroque old quarter of the historic city of Lecce in Puglia, this was once the private home of the Fiermontes – a family of businesspeople, one of whom was married to Lady Astor. It has since been fashioned into the most stylish sanctuary, affording guests a huge degree of privacy. There are only sixteen rooms, each unique and finished with Italian furniture and textiles and each with a stone fireplace. The design throughout is minimalist, balanced by antique furniture and an amazing collection of art. There is a sculpture garden with a swimming pool fringed by olive trees.

The Restaurant, as it is called (and, refreshingly, there is only one) serves simple Pugliese specialities such as *orecchiette con le cime de rapa*, or pasta with turnips. All bread and pasta is made on the premises. On a

warm evening there is nothing more enchanting than taking dinner in the courtyard garden. If you can tear yourself away, Lecce is well worth exploring – its Centro Storico brimming with treasures such as the Basilica di Santa Croce and Duomo di Lecce, not to mention the wine bars and cafes and walks through local villages and along coastal paths.

FOUR SEASONS HONG KONG HONG KONG, CHINA

With its Michelin-starred restaurant and singular views over the Hong Kong cityscape, this hotel is as excellent as would be expected with the exceedingly high standards of the Four Seasons brand and the intense hotel competition in this moneyed city. In the heart of the Central district – it has its own entrance in the International Finance Centre shopping mall – the hotel is well placed to enjoy everything Hong Kong has to offer, but still manages not to feel too frenetic. Perhaps this is because of the Feng Shui fountain in front of it or the huge glass lobby that reflects light from the harbour.

This may be a city-centre hotel, but it has every amenity of a coastal resort: there is an infinity pool with underwater music and a lap pool. There are complimentary tai chi classes at weekends. The 399 rooms each have either a harbour or peak view, deep bath and walk-in shower. The world's first Michelin-starred Chinese restaurant – Lung King Heen – is on site, and there is also the Caprice restaurant with two stars.

THE FRANKLIN LONDON

From the outside you would never know this was a hotel, and herein lies its charm. Unlike some of the Mayfair grand-dame hotels, The Franklin is totally

understated, allowing guests to slip into the townhouse existence of privileged locals. The Franklin's position in peaceful Egerton Gardens in Knightsbridge is optimal, close to shops like Harrods and Harvey Nichols and the V&A museum and just a short taxi ride into the West End. And there is an astiduous 'guest experience team' on hand to arrange excursions for guests, though many may choose to simply relax in its pretty private garden.

Recently acquired by Italian entrepreneur Elisabeuta Fabri, the hotel reopened in August 2016 after a lengthy renovation. It has retained its Englishness, but now has shiny new interiors by whimsical designer Anouska Hempel. The 35 rooms and suites now boast carrara marble and limestone floors, mirrored furniture and Italian velvets and silks, giving a touch of opulence to this Victorian house. There is also a dedicated 'wellbeing floor' with a spa and hammam.

GRAND PALACE HOTEL RIGA, LATVIA

In Latvia, hunting is an authentic experience with rich hunting history, green forests and abundance of wild boar, roe deer, red deer, moose, wolves and lynx. The Grand Palace Hotel is ideally situated in the sunning capital, and has an exceptional hunting package including transfer from Riga airport to the hunting lodge and the hotel, luxury five-star accommodation at the Grand Palace Hotel, meals included and access to a professional guide, field preparation of trophies, a veterinary certificate (if needed), and hunting license.

The Grand Palace Hotel itself is rich in luxury and old-fashioned elegance. The downstairs bar and restaurant are among the best in Riga, and features many stuffed animals, hunting trophies and paintings of



The Chatwal

aristocratic humansmen setting the scene for business meetings, and pre/post hunting dinners/drinks. The food in the restaurant is incredibly fine and fit for all tastes, while the bar has a good menu of casual meals to accompany drinks. For an accompanying non-hunting guest, spa treatments, music and arts excursions and sightseeing within the majestic city of Riga can be arranged.

HOTEL DE RUSSIE ROME

The first 'design hotel' to take Rome by storm, the Hotel de Russie is a destination in its own right, especially in summer when its courtyard garden and cocktail bar are the only places to be seen for affluent Romans and visitors. Occupying prime position in the Centro Storico, between the Spanish Steps and the Piazza del Popolo, this is a perfect base for designer shopping and for seeing the city's main historical sights. One of the hotel's big selling points is its concierges who are happy to craft itineraries for guests.

The hotel has its own fleet of electric bicycles available to those who don't wish to explore on foot. Interiors are the result of a collaboration between Rocco Forte's in-house designer Olga

Pollizi and American interiors maestro Tommaso Ziffer; the result is an Art Deco homage to the Inter-war years in Italy. There are 89 bedrooms and 33 suites, like the communal areas, Art Deco-influences and supremely comfortable. Michelin-starred chef Fulvio Pierangolini is at the helm in the Jardin de Russie restaurant, serving up simple, delicious Tuscan fare.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL, HONG KONG, HONG KONG, CHINA

The flagship and first hotel of the Mandarin Oriental group, this sleek hotel, towering above the cityscape in the Central district, epitomises contemporary luxury. Opened in 1963, it became the tallest building in Hong Kong (a 27 floors; this has since been surpassed) and an instant landmark. But it remains an iconic site in this teeming city, blending the very best of Hong Kong's English and Chinese and seafaring heritage. Guests can drink beer from silver tankards in the Captain's Bar or as much champagne as they desire — this hotel being home to the largest collection of Krug in Asia.

There are ten restaurants and bars on site, three of them with

Michelin stars. The hotel is adjacent to the city's best shopping (in the vast Interlinked shopping mall) and takes its role as a base for shoppers seriously, with recent collaborations for guests with Harvey Nichols department store. The spacious rooms and suites offer magnificent views of Victoria Harbour and the Hong Kong skyline. The spa (with Shanghai-inspired barber) is a perfect place to shake off jetlag.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL, TOKYO TOKYO, JAPAN

Conveniently placed in the central neighbourhood of Nishi-Shinjuku, occupying the top floors of a sleek skyscraper, Tokyo's swiftest hotel offers views that reach as far as Mount Fuji on a clear day. Designed in a crisp, contemporary Japanese style, it is a true design fusion of modern and traditional. Its contemporary Japanese design was inspired by the idea of a 'living tree'. 60m² Rooms (Mandarin Grand) have paper lanterns, bamboo bed board and leaf motif fabrics, asserting that connection to nature. All 179 rooms and suites have large windows to maximise the 'wow factor' of the view.

A food highlight is the Tapas Molecular Bar, offering bite-size morsels of culinary alchemy. There's also a French restaurant, a sushi bar and a Cantonese, all with Michelin stars. The spa is consistently voted one of the best in the world. The location is ideal, close to the Ginza shopping district and Imperial Palace. Nishi-Shinjuku, now a business area, was once the heart of Tokyo's crafts scene, and shows charming glimpses of its artisan past.

MARINA BAY SANDS SINGAPORE

Set in three contemporary high-rises fronting Marina Bay,

the Marina Bay Sands is urban luxury in the extreme. The country's most coveted hotel, when it opened in 2010 it was also billed as one of the world's most expensive to build. Its bedrooms have floor-to-ceiling windows, but the hotel's greatest bragging point is without doubt its rooftop infinity pool. The world's largest rooftop pool, it stretches 150 metres across the Sands Skypark, as the hotel's 57th floor is known. Guests can swim on top of the world here.

As well as the pool, the Sands Skypark has an observation deck, with the city's best views, bars and restaurants. Sky on 57 is where celebrity chef Justin Quek cooks up innovative fusion dishes, while the even more famous chef Wolfgang Puck is at the helm of Spago, serving Californian cuisine. Occupying twenty hectares of prime Singapore real estate, it also has on site the world's largest artium casino, a skating rink, two floating crystal pavilions and is connected to the Marina Bay Sands shopping mall and convention centre. A quaint, cosy place this isn't, but in terms of an extravagant base from which to explore this great Asian city, it can't be beaten.

MUSEUM ART HOTEL, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

The Museum Art Hotel survived the recent earthquake that shook Wellington and — after a minor refurb to correct the damage — is more beautiful than ever. Recently acquired by the Australian QT hotel group, specialists in boutique properties Down Under, it's about to get a new name (the QT Museum Wellington Hotel, as it will soon be known), but its style remains the same. And as the name suggests, it is all about art here. Before its sale in 2015

to QT, the hotel was owned by art collector Chris Parkin, and his extensive collection fills every wall of the 163-room venue. These are mainly contemporary paintings, many by local artists, and includes a shiny, limited-edition bicycle parked in the lobby, a portrait of Parkin and one of the New Zealand prime minister, and an irreverent take on the Mona Lisa, in which she wears washing-up gloves.

It is certainly comfortable here; there's an indoor lap pool, a sauna and a flatscreen TV in every bedroom. Classic French fare is served in the restaurant, and the cocktail bar is one of Wellington's most happening spots to drink and be seen.

THE PRESIDENT BY AKARYN VIENTIANE, LAOS

This elegant hotel puts the colonial city of Vientiane, known as the 'Walled City of Sandalwood', firmly on the map. Hopefully not too much so, however, for this is one of the most unspoiled corners of South East Asia. Nestled in the curve of the Mekong River, monks in robes still heavily outnumber tourists here, and well-preserved French colonial architecture and glistening temples fight for attention with birds, butterflies and fragrant frangipani.

The President by AKARYN, which only opened in October, is, true to its name, presidential in style. Just six miles from the airport – which is nice since the flight from London is fourteen hours – it is an oasis of calm amid the Presidential Palace, House of Parliament and Temple of the Emerald Buddha – all sights well worth exploring on foot. The hotel's architecture is colonial with Laotian accents, and a real feeling of glamour is evoked by the high-ceilinged rooms, marble floors and elegant bathroom.

There are 30 bedrooms and two presidential suites; seven superb options for dining (Mediterranean, Laotian, French, Asian, tapas, an oyster bar and high-end buffet), and spa and infinity pool as standard. There are even classical music concerts in the hotel gardens every Sunday.

RITZ CARLTON HONG KONG HONG KONG, CHINA

In the same skyscraper as the International Commerce Centre, occupying the top sixteen floors, the Ritz Carlton Hong Kong commands 360-degree views over Victoria Harbour and the entirety of the city beyond.

Bragging rights for best views in Hong Kong are hotly contested, but the Ritz Carlton wins hands down. The lobby is on the 102nd floor of the building, thus discouraging casual tourists from popping in. The whole of the hotel is festooned with interesting local artwork, most notably the vibrant ceiling mural Horse Galloping Across the Sky (so don't forget to look up). The 312 rooms all have either city or harbour views – and, frankly, it's hard to decide which is more impressive. Hallways are scented with a bespoke fragrance called Black Orchid.

The cocktail bar OZONE, serving signature cocktails and tapas, has the distinction of being the highest bar in the world, at 490 metres above sea level. Elsewhere, there are dining options aplenty, with everything from Cantonese to Italian food on offer.

The top floor spa – billed as a 'cocoon in the clouds' – and indoor infinity pool are also highlights, with their breathtaking views.

In practical terms, the Ritz Carlton is only a twenty minute drive from the airport, and Kowloon is right there too.



The President by AKARYN

SPEAR'S TOP FIVE

COAST & ISLAND

AYANA RESORT & SPA BALI

There's never a dull moment at this 368-room resort above Jimbaran Bay, where you can plant trees, take a Balinese cooking class or even make a body wrap at the spa. Ayana is a scatter of thatched buildings on a bluff high above the Indian Ocean on the southwest of the island. Guests are ferried around by golf buggy and nothing is too much trouble.

The design is bright and contemporary while at the same time traditionally Balinese, with handmade canopied beds in each room alongside local art and artefacts. But this is not a sweet little boutique: there are seventeen restaurants and bars, and eleven swimming pools, all of which are shared between the Ayana and its sister resort Rimba, meaning that the property can offer the most extensive facilities of any resort

on the island, ranging from golf putting to a thalassotherapy spa. The Rock Bar, which is fourteen metres above the sea and accessed by a set of stairs, is considered one of the world's best hotel bars and is an ideal place for sundowners.

BULGARI RESORT BALI

Italian elegance meets tropical luxury at this boutique Indonesian resort set on the Bukit Peninsula in the peaceful south of Bali. A marriage of contemporary Italian and authentic Balinese design, the hotel's interiors, overseen by architects Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel and Partners, are crafted from volcanic stone, Javanese mahogany and local fabrics. The effect is stunning – as one would expect from Bulgari name – with open-air living spaces, lush gardens and an endless infinity pool. For those preferring the beach, a glass flinticular take you to the private Bulgari Beach.

Guests stay in one- or two-bedroom villas dotted around the grounds – the most coveted being on the cliffsides – all with private pools and volcanic black-stone bathrooms, and for those really wishing