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LUXURY  
TRAVEL

***The Best Hotels  
in the World***



# The World's Best Hotels

(AND A FEW THAT DEMAND YOUR ATTENTION)

By Jeremy Murphy

It's become an annual tradition here at Simply the Best to choose the world's best hotels, an entirely subjective process gleaned from years of experience and recognition that our readers have discerning tastes. Whether it's a beachside resort, cozy B&B or glitzy Vegas skyscraper, nothing escapes our radar, or microscope, and we spend a full calendar year scoping out the very best. While not scientific, our criteria includes everything from service and setting to history, luxury and those extra little touches that make your experience all the more memorable.

So, without further adieu, here are the Best Hotels of 2010:

*Twin Farms*  
P.O. Box 115, Barnard, Vermont, 05031  
802-234-9999  
www.twinfarms.com

Fall has never been so fantastic at Twin Farms, yet the luxurious New England resort offers a first class retreat any season. Located on 300 acres of mountains and meadow in Central Vermont, the property, which Architectural Digest called "elegantly rustic, subtly extravagant," indulges all its guests with five star pampering, from luxurious beddings to the down home pleasure of fresh muffins, crisp biscuits, freshly squeezed juices and homemade preserves from a family of raspberry bushes planted more than 60 years ago.

*The Four Seasons Hotel New York*  
57 East 57th Street, New York, New York 10022  
Tel: 212-758-5700  
www.fourseasons.com/newyorkfs

Still the yardstick by which all Big City hotels are measured, The Four Seasons New York continues to set the standard when it comes to service, luxury and setting. The 368-room hotel, designed by renowned architect I.M. Pei, looms large over the New York City skyline, and for good reason. At its top is the \$52 million Ty Warner Suite, which goes for \$32,000 a night and offers panoramic views of the city and Central Park. Oh, and its pillows are weaved in gold.

*The Rittenhouse*  
210 West Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Tel: 215-546-9000  
www.rittenhousehotel.com

Situated on Philadelphia's most fashionable square, The Rittenhouse is a six star hotel in a four star city. The 98-room hotel brings a much-needed dose of glamour to Philly, luring stars like Oprah, Tom Hanks and Bruce Willis with its mix of fawning service, luxurious accommodations and the decadent food at Lacroix, which rivals any Michelin-rated restaurant in France.

*The Inn at Little Washington*  
Middle and Main Streets, Washington, VA 22747  
Tel: 540-675-3800  
www.theinnatlittlewashington.com

Tucked deep away in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and Shenandoah Valley, The Inn at Little Washington, housed in what used to be a gas station and repair shop, is the country's only Five Diamond hotel and restaurant. The cozy 14-room property has hosted everyone from Barbra Streisand to Paul Newman, Al and Tipper Gore and Alan Greenspan, who all come for its whimsical setting (lush tapestry, hand-gilded linen ceilings, 350-year-old floors from a chateau in the south of France and exotic fabrics and silk-fringed lampshades) and its gastronomical food. There might be nothing to do in Little Washington (trust us, there isn't) but that's OK because you won't want to go outside.

*Attention Getter: The Breakers*  
One South County Road, Palm Beach, FL 33480  
Tel: 888-273-2537  
www.thebreakers.com

Sometimes it's easy to forget one of the world's best resorts is right in our backyard. Effortlessly melding its 100-year history with modern conveniences and amenities, The Breakers is a family destination in disguise. Don't let the regal atmosphere fool you, there's an all-star resort set amidst the Italian Renaissance architecture and Boboli fountains. From a private beach to pool side bungalows, decadent food and award winning spa, the family-owned Breakers is a resort setting fit for a king, and his village.

*The Peninsula Hotel Chicago*  
108 E Superior St., Chicago, IL 60611  
Tel: 312-337-2888  
www.peninsula.com/Chicago

Easily the Midwest's most luxurious hotel, The Peninsula brings Zen to one of America's busiest cities. Located in downtown Chicago, steps away from Miracle Mile, the hotel offers first-star indulgences and big hearted service to all those who visit. From its succulent Asian cuisine and Saturday night chocolate fountains to its technologically advanced guest rooms, which come equipped with bedside control panels and marble tubs with TV sets, Chicago doesn't get any more glamorous.

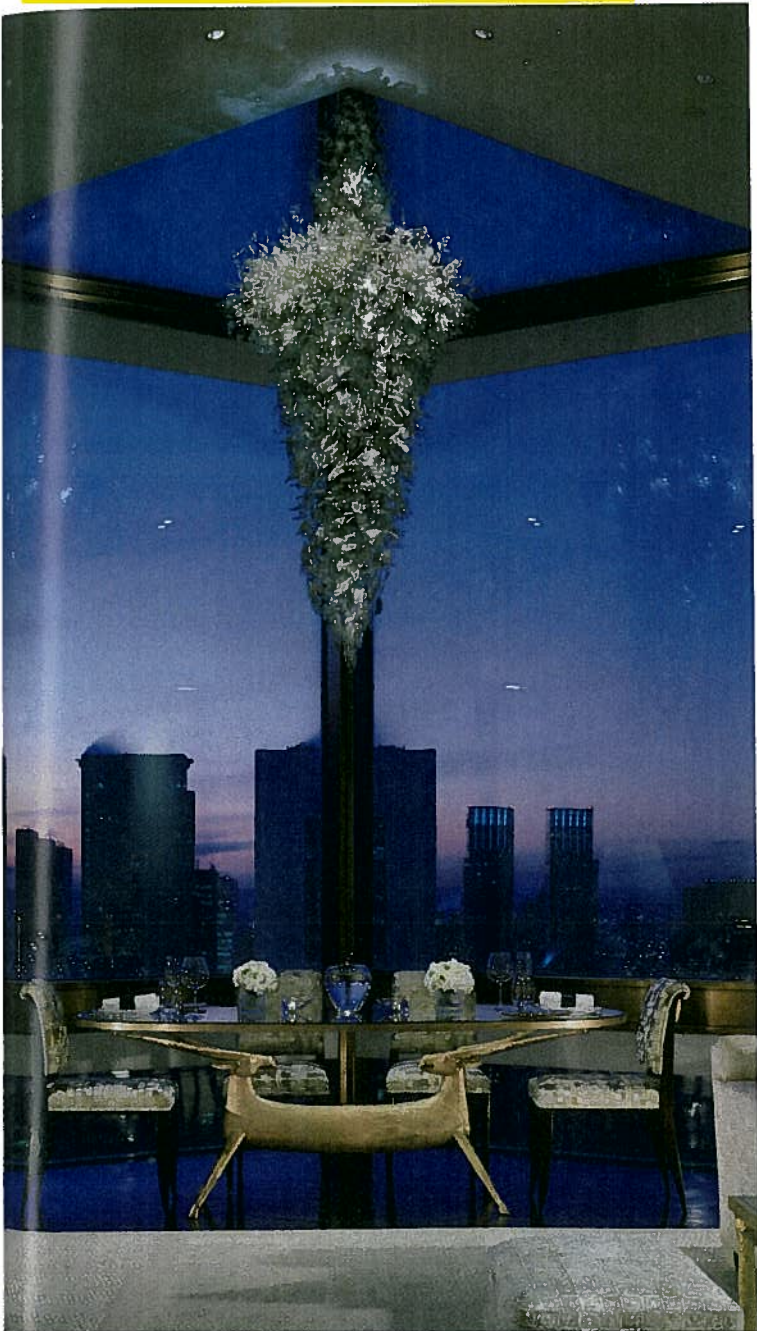
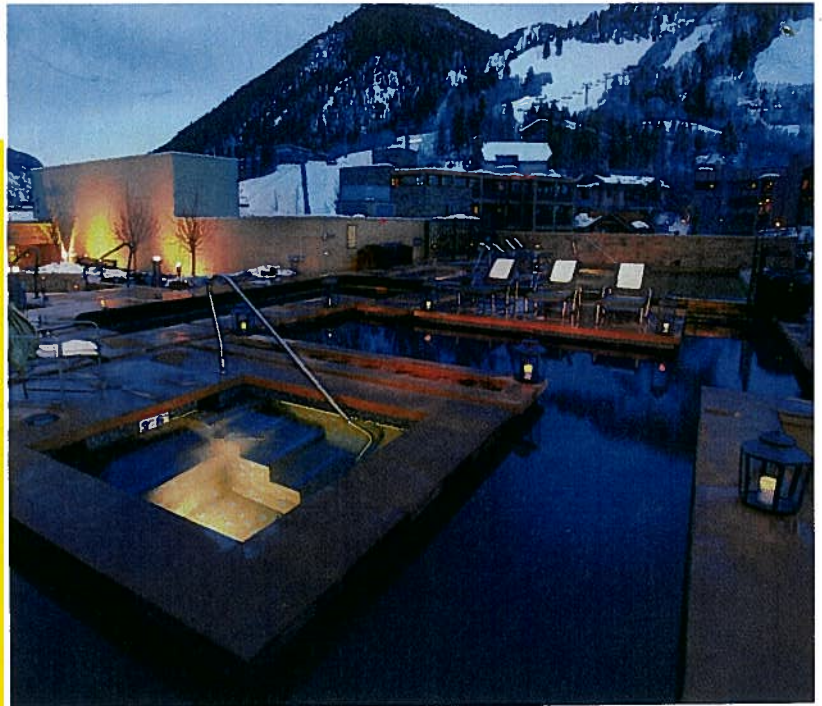
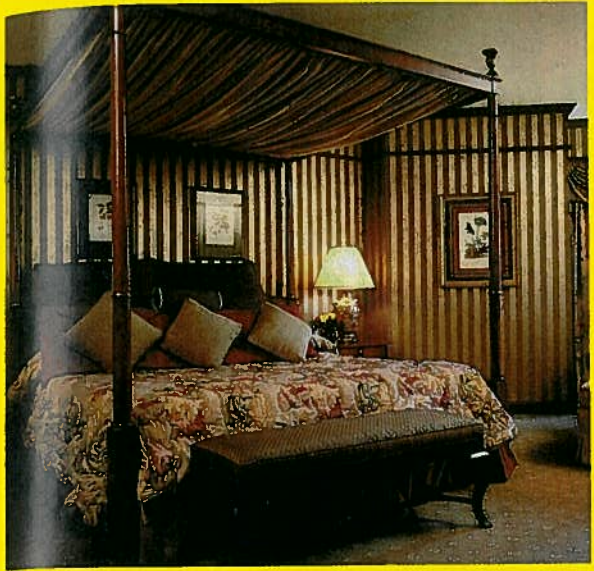
*The Little Nell*  
675 East Durant, Aspen, CO 81611  
Tel: 970-920-4600  
www.thelittlenell.com

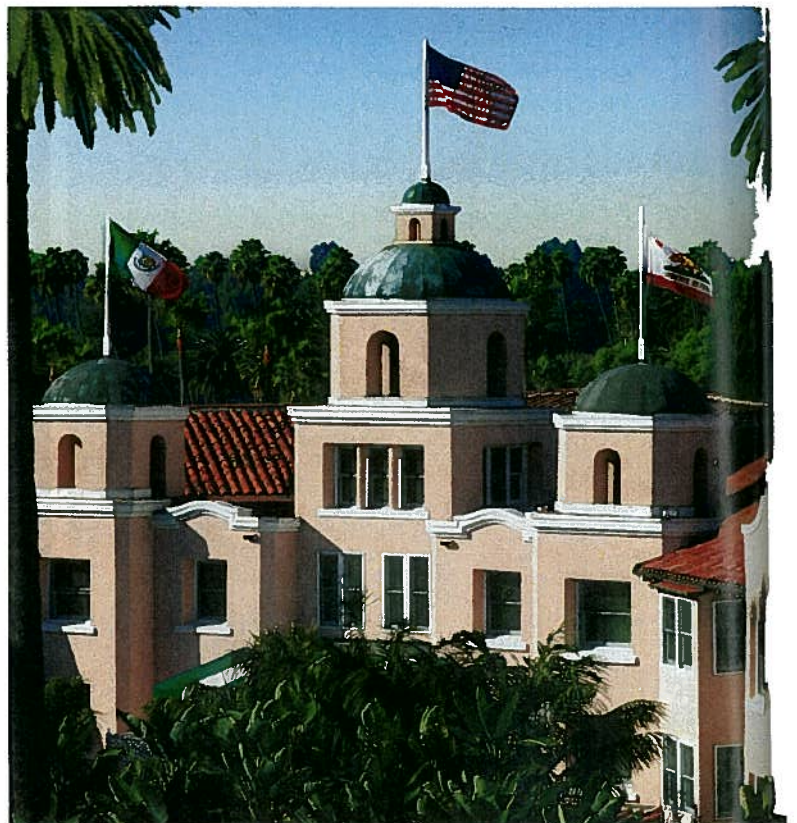
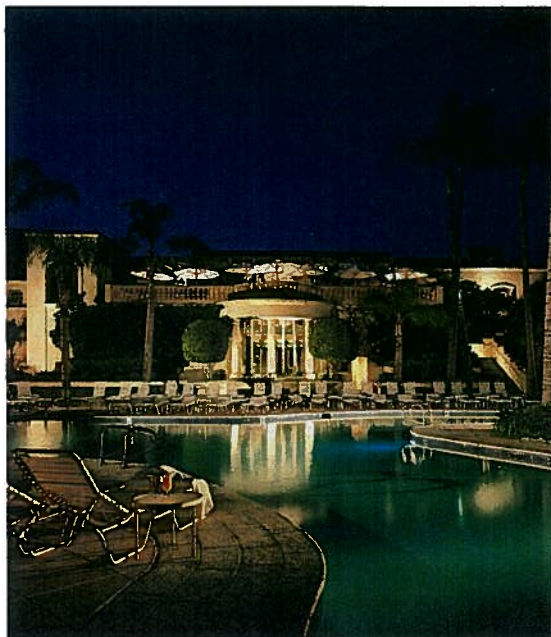
What's left to say about a resort that offers cashmere blankets, fur slippers and Don Perignon for the ride up the ski-lift? Welcome to The Little Nell, a cozy, 92-room ski-resort nestled at the bottom of Aspen Mountain. You'll thank us later.

*The Ritz-Carlton,  
Dove Mountain*  
15000 North Secret Springs Drive, Marana, Arizona  
Tel: (520) 572-3000

Smack dab in the middle of the Sonoran desert, The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain could very well be mistaken for a mirage ... if mirages came with a 17,000 sq. ft spa, Jack Nicklaus-design golf course and an infinity pool and water-slide! Its design was inspired by the geological make-up of the nearby Tortolita Mountains, and used everything from natural flagstone and quartzite floors to raw steel fixtures, copper accents, and historical artifacts, such as geodes and quartz crystal, for its décor. And the setting is positively authentic: there are cactus and critters throughout its many hiking trails, just thankfully not indoors.

Clockwise from top left: **The Rittenhouse**, **The Little Nell**, **The Breakers**, **The Ritz-Carlton Dove Mountain** and **The Four Seasons Hotel New York**





*Clockwise from top left: The Ritz Paris, Coworth Park, The Dorchester, The Beverly Hills Hotel and The Ritz-Carlton Laguna Niguel*

*Attention Getter:*  
*The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay*  
One Miramontes Point Road, Half Moon Bay, California  
Tel: (650) 712-7000

[www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/HalfMoonBay](http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/HalfMoonBay)

It's hard to believe this cliff-side resort is just 30 miles south of San Francisco. Set atop a rugged bluff that overlooks 50 miles of pristine California coastline, The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay is as romantic as they come, providing an intoxicating blend of stunning scenery, refined service and the cozy accoutrements that come with The Ritz-Carlton. Whether you're roasting S'mores on your own terrace fireplace, jogging along a coast side path or taking in a game of golf on its two championship courses, you'll feel miles away from home, and not think twice about it.

*The Beverly Hills Hotel*  
9641 Sunset Boulevard, Beverly Hills, California 90210  
[www.beverlyhillshotel.com](http://www.beverlyhillshotel.com)

How much do we love a hotel that won't allow Lindsay Lohan? For more than 100 years The Beverly Hills Hotel, a.k.a. "The Pink Palace," has hosted the world's elite, and done so with style and class. Surrounded by 12 acres of lush, tropical gardens, exotic flowers and private walkways off Sunset Boulevard, the hotel, with 204 spacious guestrooms and 38 suites, offers its guest glamour, comfort and history -- heck, Liz Taylor honeymooned with six of her eight husbands in its private bungalows.

*The Four Seasons Los Angeles  
at Beverly Hills*  
300 South Doheny Drive, Los Angeles, CA, 90048  
Tel: (310) 273-2222  
[www.fourseasons.com/losangeles](http://www.fourseasons.com/losangeles)

They don't call it Hollywood's living room for nothing. The elegant, boutique property, located just outside Beverly Hills, is reminiscent of a French countryside chateau, but its vibe is anything but. From Hollywood power lunches to glitzy film junkets and glossy photo shoots, The Four Seasons Los Angeles at Beverly Hills caters to the entertainment industry like no other, giving its guests a rare front-row seat to the requisite glamour. Idle long enough at its entrance and you might even see a Beatle -- as in the band.

*Attention Getter:*  
*The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel*  
One Ritz-Carlton Drive, Dana Point, California 92629  
Tel: (949) 240-2000

[www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/LagunaNiguel](http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/LagunaNiguel)

Sitting atop a 150-foot bluff in Laguna Beach, The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel is one of the West Coast's most picture-esque seaside resorts, offering guests' unparalleled ocean

views and a contemporary design that melds classic European elegance with a contemporary Southern California vibe, including surf boards in the lobby and sea shell accents throughout the property. Located half-way between Los Angeles and San Diego, it's the ideal place for a weekend getaway or retreat.

*The Dorchester*  
Park Lane, London W1K 1QA, England  
[www.thedorchester.com](http://www.thedorchester.com)

Timeless elegance: that's the vibe emanating from The Dorchester, London's classiest hotel. A cornucopia of who's who can be seen strolling through its lobby, from Saudi oil sheiks to media barons, Hollywood starlets and members of The Royal Family. And it's no wonder, given The Dorchester is home to Alain Ducasse's first UK restaurant, as well as the Cantonese restaurant China, which lures bold face named like Kate Moss for dinner. Its rooms are among the most spacious in all London, offering guests both English countryside charm and art deco chic.

*Attention Getter: Coworth Park*  
London Road, Ascot, Berkshire SL5 7SE  
Tel: +44 (0)1344 876 600  
[www.coworthpark.com](http://www.coworthpark.com)

Undeniably English ... Irrefutably modern ... Unrivaled comfort. They are fighting words for a resort that just opened, but we couldn't agree more. Coworth Park hotel is already winning raves from the world's most discriminating travelers. Just 40 minutes from Central London, the Georgian country house-inspired hotel is set against 237 acres of picturesque parkland bordering Great Windsor Park, near Ascot and the acclaimed golf clubs at Wentworth and Sunningdale.

*The Ritz Paris*  
15, Place Vendôme, 75001 Paris, France  
[www.ritzparis.com](http://www.ritzparis.com)

Coco Chanel lived here. Need we say more?

*The Hotel Plaza Athénée Paris*  
8, Avenue Montaigne, 75008 Paris, France  
[www.plaza-athenee-paris.com](http://www.plaza-athenee-paris.com)

The world's most chic hotel is also its most glamorous. Staying at The Hotel Plaza Athénée Paris should be on everyone's bucket list, even if the term is bourgeois. Located on the trendy Avenue Montaigne, which has surpassed even Place Vendôme as Paris' most fashionable address, the 188-room Plaza Athénée is unabashed elegance personified, whether you're having a fire star meal at Alain Ducasse or eating croquet monsieur sandwiches at its Galleries des Gobelins, whose hallway could very well be the world's hottest runway. Brimming with Louis XVI and Art Deco décor and Amber scents, The Hotel Plaza Athénée also features the first-ever Dior Institute spa and Paris' most happening nightspot, Le Bar au Plaza Athénée.

## *The George V (of Four Seasons Hotel)*

31, avenue George V  
75008 Paris, France

Tel: +33 (0) 1 49 52 70 00  
[www.fourseasons.com/paris](http://www.fourseasons.com/paris)

The most westernized of the five Parisian palace hotels, The George V is often cited as the world's best managed hotel, with flawless service and an elegant décor that features everything from 17th-century Flanders and Aubusson tapestries to marble floors, inlaid wood furniture, crystal chandeliers and 19th-century sculptures and paintings. The crown jewel of The Four Seasons chain also spends more than 1.2 million Euros a year on just flower arrangements, which says everything.

## *Le Meurice*

228 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris, France

Tel: +33 1 44 58 10 10  
[www.lemeurice.com](http://www.lemeurice.com)

Coco Chanel held her soirees here. Need we say more?

## *Hotel Principe di Savoia*

Piazza della Repubblica 17, 20124 Milan, Italy

Tel: +39 02 62301

[www.hotelprincipedisavoia.com](http://www.hotelprincipedisavoia.com)

No one has ever accused Milan of being picture-esque but what it lacks in greenery it makes up in glamour, and no hotel is more glamorous than The Hotel Principe di Savoia, which positively dominates the Piazza della Repubblica. The 401-room hotel, which has hosted the fabulous since the 1920s, embraces its contradictory nature with aplomb, offering cutting edge class with a potent dose of sophisticated elegance in an urban setting. Its neoclassical design is punctuated by technologically advanced rooms and suites and a clientele that spans every industry and age group, from movie stars to starving models.

## *Four Seasons Hotel Florence*

Borgo Pinti 99, 50121 Firenze Italy

Tel: 39 (055) 2626

[www.fourseasons.com/florence](http://www.fourseasons.com/florence)

A piece of art itself, The Four Seasons Florence is a sight to be seen, and admired. Spread over two 15th century palazzos, the hotel features just 116 guest rooms which, because of historic preservation laws, are set against priceless murals, statues and paintings from the Renaissance. It's also home to Florence's largest private garden and features a spa whose chemical-free products come from the world's oldest pharmacy, Officina Profumo-Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella. The hotel took seven years to build but was worth every minute.

## *Hotel Cipriani*

Giudecca 10, 30133 Venice - Italy

Tel: 39 041 520 7744

[www.hotelcipriani.com](http://www.hotelcipriani.com)

It's hard not to feel like a member of the glamoratti when staying at The Hotel Cipriani, a five-star boutique hotel located at the

top of Venice's Giudecca Island. Long a haven for spoiled starlets, the Cipriani features just 95 rooms set against a tranquil, bungalow-type setting. It's also just a five minute boat ride from St. Mark's Square, which the hotel provides 24 hours a day. But you may not want to leave: spend a few minutes at its 600 sq. ft. salt water pool and you may just spy Brad, Angelina and one of their 112 kids.

## *The Hassler Roma*

Piazza Trinita dei Monti 6, Rome 00187, Italy

[www.hotelhassler.com](http://www.hotelhassler.com)

The best address in Rome, The Hassler hotel has it all: amazing views of the City Center, proximity to the Pantheon, St. Peter's Basilica and the Coliseum, and just a few feet away from the historic Spanish steps. But its boutique like-setting and gracious service is what keep local clients like Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Cruise coming each time. Independently owned and operated, the hotel, with just 95 guest rooms, treats all its guests like family. What's more Italian than that?

## *The Beau-Rivage Palace Switzerland*

Place du Port 17-19, CH 1000 Lausanne 6 - Switzerland

Tel: (+41) 21/613 33 33

[www.brp.ch](http://www.brp.ch)

Coco Chanel had her dog, Gigot, buried there. Need we say more?

## *Attention Getter:*

## *The Ritz-Carlton, Cancun*

Retorno del Rey #36, Zona Hotelera, Cancun,

Quintana Roo 77500 Mexico

Tel: 52 998 881 0808

[www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/Cancun](http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/Cancun)

An oasis of calm in rowdy Cancun, The Ritz-Carlton, Cancun is a party destination for adults ... that is, if your idea of fun is lying on the white sands of the area's largest beach or taking professional cooking classes in its Viking-sponsored Culinary Center. The hotel, just minutes away from Mayan landmarks as well as the bustle of downtown Cancun, includes 365 guestrooms all overlooking the ocean, two award-winning restaurants and Cliff Drysdale-designed tennis courts.

## *The Peninsula Hong Kong*

Salisbury Road, Tsimshatsui, Hong Kong

Tel: 852 2920 2888

[www.peninsula.com](http://www.peninsula.com)

Dubbed the "Grande Dame of the Far East," The Peninsula Hong Kong is the stuff of legend: one of the most technologically-advanced hotels in the world, it also features a helicopter pad on its roof and a fleet of Rolls-Royce Extended Wheelbase Phantoms for its guests' use. But lest you think you're entering Blade Runner territory, relax: the hotel's ambiance is a combination of classical grandeur with timeless elegance. In other words, Rutger Hauer is nowhere in site. stb

Clockwise from top left: The Beau-Rivage Palace Switzerland, Hotel Principe di Savoia, Le Meurice, The Ritz-Carlton Cancun and Four Seasons Hotel Florence

