

ACCOMMODATION

Coming to a hotel near you

What starts as a clever, quirky idea in one hotel is soon a trend in accommodation across the world. Here's a taste of what's to come, writes **Angela Saurine**

1 DAWN SIMULATOR ALARM CLOCKS

Instead of waking to a noisy alarm, the MGM Grand Las Vegas has introduced dawn simulator alarm clocks in its Stay Well Grand collection in which lights are timed to come on gradually over half an hour. The 17 Stay Well rooms and suites cover the entire 14th floor, and also have dimmable bedside lights that can be customised to enhance sleep, shower water infused with vitamin C, which neutralises chlorine for healthy hair and skin, and a photo catalytic coating applied to surfaces throughout the room and bathroom to break down bacteria and viruses.

See mgmgrand.com

2 CHOOSE YOUR FAVOURITE ROOM

Guests at Hilton Sydney can choose the room they want to stay in through a service called Room Select. It is especially popular with regular guests, who can also use their smartphones to check in and open the door to their room.

See hilton.com/Sydney

3 COMPLIMENTARY SMARTPHONE

Lanham Place, Mongkok in Hong Kong, provides guests with a

complimentary smartphone to use during their stay, including unlimited local and international IDD calls to countries including Australia and 3G data connectivity and wi-fi tethering anywhere in the city.



The phone comes pre-loaded with various apps, including news services, a video and camera function, currency converter, MTR train location maps, city tips on what to see, where to shop and where to eat and Facebook. Guests can also download other apps from the Google Play store. See hongkong.lanhamplacehotels.com

4 PERSONALISED ELEVATOR MUSIC

Step into one of the five lifts at the quirky QT Sydney and you will hear a different song depending on how many people are occupying it. If you're alone, expect to hear Eric Carmen's *All by Myself* or if you're with a friend it could be Bill Withers' *Just the Two of Us*. When the count reaches four people the songs become more playful, with favourites such as MC Hammer's *You Can't Touch This* and *Groove is in the Heart* by Deedee.

The custom-built software assesses how many people are in the lift, with each of the five curated playlists featuring eight to 10 songs. See qthotels.com.au



5 ORDER ROOM SERVICE ON A TABLET

South Lodge Hotel in England's West Sussex is a magnificent country house set among hectares of woodland and parkland. The hotel has replaced paper-based in-room directories with tablets to give guests information they may need about the hotel and its amenities. They can also place room service orders, request items such as specialist pillows and DVDs, and access the internet, read newspapers and play app-based games. The tablets

are paired to a particular room but can be used anywhere within the hotel. See southlodgehotel.co.uk

6 FROM PILLOW MENUS TO MATTRESS MENUS

Pillow menus are nothing new but guests at the new L'Amandier hotel in Morocco's Ouirgane Valley can choose the firmness of their mattress and the number and composition of pillows on their bed as well as the toiletry products in their bathroom. See lamandierhotel.com

7 PICK YOUR OWN HERBS

Guests at Hotel El Convento in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, can help chef Luis Castillo pick herbs to cook in their evening meals from the courtyard gardens. Guests who book the Garden to Plate package receive a tour of the garden with the chef while sipping champagne. See elconventohotel.com

8 MANICURE CONCIERGE

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