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HOT FOR 2016

Five new 'wow'-factor hotels

Because some swanky stays are really worth travelling for...

Cal Neva, California

Frank Sinatra's favourite Lake Tahoe hang-out (he even bought it at one stage) saw Dean Martin, Marilyn Monroe and Judy Garland check in during its heyday — not to mention some shady mobsters. In January, it emerges rejuvenated for a glittery new generation (calnevaresort.com).

Amanemu, Japan

Japan-bound for peace, quiet, and hot springs? Amanemu, opening in March, is the luxury one to watch. Set in Shima, home to Japan's most sacred shrine, it's just a couple of hours' train-ride from Kyoto. Each suite has its own private onsen to bathe in, and tranquil terraces overlook the wild, island-studded Ago Bay (amanemu.com).

The Pig at Combe, Devon

Southern England's Pig hotels (currently in the New Forest, Hampshire, Dorset and Bath) have armies of devoted fans waiting to book in. More of their charming, country-chic rooms will lighten the waiting list in June, when this little piggy opens in Devon's Otter Valley — a forested hideaway with the signature vegetable garden, loft and stable rooms, and a working Georgian range in the kitchen (thepighotel.com).

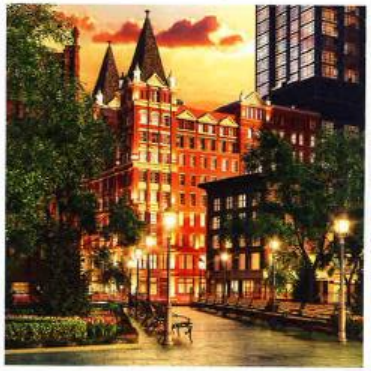
The Beekman, New York

With a nine-storey, balconied golden atrium bathed in rays from a large skylight, Lower Manhattan's Beekman hotel is no wallflower. The listed red-brick building is already a city landmark, and its many past lives include spells as a theatre, library and university building. In February, the reincarnated hotel will have an equally showstopping restaurant, by Keith McNally, famously of NY institutions Balthazar and Minetta Tavern (thebeekman.com).

L'Amandier, outside Marrakech

An hour from the city, L'Amandier hides in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains, its low, rusty terracotta buildings fringed with fragrant lavender. It's quite the retreat after a blast of hectic Marrakech, with design that's a love letter to Moroccan style — mosaic tiles, woven rugs, lace-patterned lanterns — but with a pared-back, modern edge (lamandierhotel.com).

Staying away: chic bathroom at Amanemu; clockwise from right, the listed red-brick Beekman; Moroccan style at L'Amandier; the Pig at Combe



ONE TO WATCH

No frills beds

Budget-hotel brand Tune has kick started minimal rooms with add-ons at an extra charge (its cheapest don't even have windows). This could prove handy — not everyone uses the wi-fi, hairdryer or TV — or infuriating (tunehotels.com).

Don't believe the hype about...

'Anything you see on another publication's *What's Hot* list. They say "Pop up wasp-trekking in boutique North Korea with a native healer"; they mean "Look how much cooler than you we are!" Personally, I'm looking forward to going to Scotland.'
Ed Grenby, editor

'The Turkish village of Alaçatı. It might have boutique hotels and dinner hotspots (it was even in Rick Stein's great series *From Venice to Istanbul*) but the Ceşme Peninsula is all wind farms, big hotels and busy traffic. For R&R, the Datça and Bozburun peninsulas really are *much* nicer.'
Nick Redman, deputy editor

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