TOWN & COUNTRY
TRAVEL
THE GREAT HOTEL GUIDE TO THE WORLD
77 SENSATIONAL NEW PLACES TO STAY
Vongrichten. It’s the best way to escape the concrete jungle, and it’s also the city’s only luxury hotel truly suitable for families. **Wow Factor**
The huge outdoor pool. *M.F.*

**Awasi Iguazu, Argentina**
The first luxury property on the Argentine side of Iguazu Falls, a natural wonder of the world. The 14 African lodge-style villas in the Atlantic rainforest are like treehouses on stilts; each comes with a plunge pool, 4WD vehicle, driver, and guide. Food is a key part of the experience (it’s a Relais & Châteaux property). **Wow Factor** The activities organized by Emilio White, our favorite wildlife guide in South America. *P.I. & T.R.*

**The Shore Club, Turks & Caicos**
The major new resort on Providenciales’s almost impossibly white Long Bay Beach. It’s windier than Grace Bay but ideal for water sports—and practically deserted. The three-to six-bedroom villas, like the suites, have striking mostly white decor that sets off perfectly the incandescent blue of the water. Plus: four pools, three restaurants, a kids club, and a spa (of course). **Wow Factor** You can walk out almost a mile into the sea. *J.S.E.*

**Mukul, Nicaragua**
An Auberge Resort on one of the country’s most beautiful Pacific beaches. *P.G.* (For more see “Confessions of a Travel Control Freak,” page 104.)

**Ones to Watch**
There’s no lack of sea-and-sun spots opening soon: the newly renovated Belmond Cap Juluca, on Anguilla; Silversands—a touch of St. Bart’s glamour on Grenada. Plus: Rosewood Baha Mar, Montage Los Cabos, and, if the stars align, Leonardo DiCaprio’s Blackadore Caye Resort, in Belize.

**Park Hyatt, St. Kitts**
The first five-star beachfront hotel on St. Kitts is among the most exciting resorts in the Caribbean, with gorgeous views of cloud-topped Mount Nevis across the Narrows. The look is contemporary, with stone accents, and there are two pools, three restaurants—and peace all around (the area is still largely undeveloped). **Wow Factor** The 5,210-square-foot Presidential Villas and the Miraval spa. *L.E.*

**The Whitby Hotel, New York**
The fiercely whimsical Kit Kemp opened her second New York Firmdale outpost last year on 56th Street, complementing the wildly successful Crosby Street Hotel. As expected, the bright palette, rich textures (such as decorative columns), and cornucopia of artful flourishes (along with all comforts and excellent service) have brought new chill to Midtown. **Wow Factor** The obsession-inducing headboards. (Not kidding.) *J.S.E.*

**Four Seasons Resort Lanai, Hawaii**
When Larry Ellison bought up Lanai five years ago, he poured millions into by far the most over-the-top resort in America. The activities—including clay shooting, horseback riding, hiking, biking, UTV rides, and helicopter tours—are matched by the luxury of the mahogany-embellished interiors. **Wow Factor** Watching the dolphins in Hulopoe Bay (they’re not captive, just fans). *J.S.E.*
UNITED STATES
From Alaskan adventures to a foodie haven in Healdsburg, it really is America the beautiful.

VINTANA BIG SUR, California The Ahia resort has reopened after last year’s storms better than ever with 15 safari-style glamping tents with canyon views and 39 renovated modern-rustic rooms. The tents are the only luxury digs in Big Sur that take kids of any age. Wow Factor New outdoor cabanas with two treatment tables and a copper tub for two overlooking the redwood forest. J.S.E.

ONE QUICK THOUGHT, Seasona Arguably the most extraordinary new dining/lodging experience in America: a luxurious five-room inn set in Healdsburg over a 55-seat two-Michelin-star restaurant with 11-course tasting menus. The chef/owner is Kyle Connaughton (formerly of London’s Fat Duck), his wife Katina runs the nearby farm, and they both obsess over every detail of food, decor and service. Wow Factor Everything is Instagrammable, and the Japanese room-service breakfast is a showstopper. J.S.E.

SHELTON SLAUGHTER, Alaska This tiny five-bedroom property perched on five private acres 6,000 feet up in Denali National Park is hands down the crown jewel of the Alaskan wilderness experience. It overlooks the most dramatic vistas in the Alaska Range, and activities include heli-skiing, glaci er trekking, and snowshoeing—with feasting on the finest Alaskan seafood. Wow Factor The quiet, and private, aurora borealis viewing in season. M.M.I.

WALDRONG ASTORIA BEVERLY HILLS, LA. The city was in need of a superlative new property, and this has exceeded all expectations. One of the tallest buildings in Beverly Hills, it has 1A at your feet views from the rooftop pool, all rooms have floor-to-ceiling windows, and two of the three restaurants are by Jean Georges Vongerichten. Wow Factor The Signature Suites come with an Aston Martin for your use. D.J.P. & J.F.

THE SMART HOTEL AWARDS
FOUR SEASONS RESORT LAU/ Hawaii When Larry Ellison bought up Lanai five years ago, he poured millions into by far the most over-the-top resort in America. The activities—including clay shooting, horseback riding, biking, hiking, ATV rides, and helicopter tours—are matched by the luxury of the mahogany-embellished interiors. Wow Factor Watching the dolphins in Hulopoe Bay (they’re not captive, just fans). J.S.E.

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THE WHITBY HOTEL, New York The fiercely whimsical Kit Kemp opened her second New York Firmdale outpost last year on 56th Street, complementing the wildly successful Crosby Street Hotel. As expected, the bright palette, rich textures (such as decorative columns), and cornucopia of artful flourishes (along with all the comfort and excellent service) have brought new life to Midtown. Wow Factor The observation-inducing headboards, (not lording). J.S.E.

PARK HYATT, St. Kitts The first five-star beachfront hotel on St. Kitts is among the most exciting resorts in the Caribbean, with gorgeous views of cloud-capped Mount Nevis across the Narrows. The look is contemporary, with stone accents, and there are two pools, three restaurants—and peace all around (the area is still largely undeveloped). Wow Factor The 2,290-square-foot Presidential Villas and the Miraval spa. I.D.

ON THE WATCH There’s a ton of sea and land sports opening soon: the newly renovated Belmond Cap Juluca on Anguilla; Silversea—a touch of St. Barts glamour on Grenada; Plus: Roundhill Blue Mar, Montage Los Cabos, and, if the stars align, Leonardo DiCaprio’s Blackadore Caye Resort in Belize.

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