

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

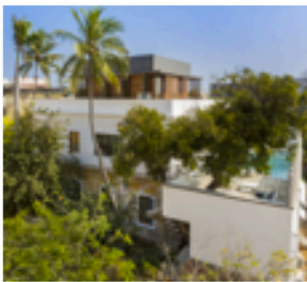
It List: The Best New Hotels 2015

Introducing new hotels that are transforming their destinations

There are great new hotels, and then there are game changers. For our 10th annual editors' choice awards, we picked 43 transformative properties—and vetted each one with a hotel stay.

Our search took us from Anguilla to Australia, from India to Italy.

These remarkable newcomers are a reminder that a great hotel can be a destination unto itself. They provide not just a place to rest your head but also an entire rationale to get on a plane and explore someplace new.



Indie Darling: LA VILLA, Pondicherry, India

About a hundred miles south of Chennai, Pondicherry is a seaside enclave of French-colonial architecture and beachside boulevards. And La Villa—Pondy's most stylish new hotel—ought to help put it on the map. The six-room boutique is housed in a 19th-century former residence in the cobblestoned old quarter, and is run by an enthusiastic general manager who will happily check guests in from comfortable sofas on the front veranda. Designed by Tina Trigala and Yves Lesprit, each of the individually decorated rooms evokes Franco-Tamil heritage, with reclaimed wood and antique cane-woven chairs. On the more unbearable humid days, take a dip in the rooftop pool, shaded by a century-old mango tree.