

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.**

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## Hotels to Have on Your Radar

By Jessica Flint

Check out how these luxury hotels are changing. Plus, add these three cities to your next vacation itinerary

### CHECK OUT

#### Town and Country

Luxury hotels are having an identity crisis: Those known for their far-flung settings are edging into business hubs, and those that pride themselves on their city-centric locations are creeping into remote destinations.

Aman junkies no longer have to go the ends of the earth to experience the brand's tranquil oases traditionally found in places such as Bhutan. Following its first urban Aman in 2014, in Tokyo, Amanyangyun opened this winter in Shanghai's Minhang district near downtown. Next up: A New York Aman, in 2020.

Meanwhile, Six Senses—think the Maldives and Seychelles—is eyeing a 2019 New York opening. Then there's the Park Hyatt, with locations in finance capitals such as Beijing. It recently unveiled its first Caribbean island hotel, on St. Kitts. One&Only, in business beach towns like Dubai and Cape Town, has launched a nature brand (think Rwanda and the Australian wilderness). Not to be outdone, the Ritz-Carlton, which already has Ritz-Carlton Reserve resorts in places like Bali—is extending from on-land to at-sea, with cruises via a 149-suite yacht coming in 2019.

#### Hard Hotel Cities Step It Up

Some business locations have so many workable places to stay that it's impossible to pick what to

book. Others cities, not so much. Here, three cities that are upping their hotel games.

Rome has plenty of boutique hotels (J.K. Place Roma, D.O.M. Hotel) and apartment-like stays (Fendi Private Suites, the Portrait Roma, PiazzadiSpagna9), but Rome's grand dames needed facelifts. First came last year's renovation of Dorchester Collection's iconic Hotel Eden, which has been a high-end Roman retreat since 1889. Now the St. Regis Rome, in a historic 1894 palazzo, is undergoing a full renovation to be finished this year.

Barcelona's upscale game has long been dominated by big hotels—the Majestic Hotel & Spa, the Hotel Arts and the Mandarin Oriental—though a crop of smaller offerings has opened more recently, including the Serras Hotel and Cotton House.

**A very recent addition to the latter group, the Almanac Barcelona, is where to stay now. It opened late last year steps from the Passeig de Gracia. Opt for a room with a terrace.**

Nashville has never had great places to stay. Up to now, the top choice was downtown's boutique 21C Museum Hotel—which opened last spring. This summer, the JW Marriott Nashville will bring elegance to the SoBro neighborhood with 533 guestrooms, a 10,000 square-foot outdoor pool and, on the 33rd floor rooftop overlooking the city, an outpost of chef Michael Mina's award-winning Bourbon Steak restaurant.