DESTINATION ASIA
THE 10 BEST NEW HOTELS

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Style central

Asia’s 10 best new hotels

CHRISTINE MCBABE

THE WAREHOUSE HOTEL, SINGAPORE: From the town behind some of Singapore’s smartest restaurants comes this 37-room hotel fashioned from a riverfront heritage godown (warehouse) at groovy Robertson Quay. Cool urban interiors by local firm Anytime and top notch “mod-sin” (modern Singapore) cuisine from leading chef William Lim make this a stylish alternative for travellers seeking a slightly different side of the city. The hotel is rigorously “locally made”, from the tea, coffee and minibar inclusions to the staff uniforms and fleet of hotel bicycles. The food includes a left-style suite with river views and rooftop swimming pool. More thewarehousehotel.com.

137 Pillars Suites & Residences, BANGKOK: With just 34 suites, the highest infinity pool in the Thai capital and an on-call London car fitted with champagne bar, this luxury hotel in fashionable Thonglor has all five-star bases covered. Occupying floors 24-32 of a residential block, the suites offer great city views from large balconies, and each features a private wine cellar, generous marble bathrooms, “mani” bar and the services of a butler. Dial up a personal shopper for a visit to the nearby Emporium and Emporium retail mecca or pop into the 28th-floor day spa. Swedish chef Peter Marx gives traditional Thai a modern twist at 21st-floor Nimme. More 137pillarsbangkok.com.

RAWAI ISLAND, THAILAND: Thirteen white-sand beaches, three sparkling lagoons and five untouched islands should be more than enough to lure guests for three hours by ferry, then sea plane, from Singapore to this newly opened eco-resort in the southern Thai island. After tempting daywrecks are the food, produced from the island’s garden, the 24-marine tented safari suite, all-terraced bungalows and enveloping virgin rainforest. This is a marine conservation area, so resort builders have taken a low-impact approach; no heavy machinery was used in construction and fishing, and pesticides are banned. More rawaiisland.com.

CAPE KUDU HOTEL, KOH YAO NOI, THAILAND: Cape Kudu is one of the most remote of Phang Nga’s outposts. It’s a luxurious retreat on a small, unpaved island in the middle of Phang Nga Bay. It’s a perfect destination for the discerning visitor. The 14 suites, each with a private balcony and terrace, are designed to take advantage of the property’s coastal views and lagoon frontage. This is a great spot to kick back but if you like to keep busy there are ample water-based activities and plenty of classes, from basketball to Thai boxing. More capekuduhotel.com.

HOTEL LIN BEIJING: Blurring the line between work and play, this always-connected millionnaire is driving an important sector of hotel development. Shangri-La’s Jiu brand is a case in point. The newest hotel in this group, located in Beijing’s China World Complex, comes with its own gastropub and brewery, giant gym and a 24-hour business-cum-leisure centre complete with cafe and work pods. Pick of the 450 work-friendly, loft-style studios are the larger corner chambers with views of the Kem Koohaas-designed CCTV headquarters. More hotelin.com.

HOTEL STRIPES, KUALA LUMPUR: Architectural collection: Sister property to Kuala Lumpur’s grand dame Majestic Hotel, the thoroughly modern Stripes opened earlier this year in lively downtown Jalan Kamunting with a stylish rooftop pool and bar and 128 smart guestrooms decorated with large format white-brick refuse photos of the “hood” and featuring gratis Wi-Fi and minibar. Nearby you’ll find The Row, 22 shophouses dating from the 1940s refurbished to house cafes, bars and galleries. The hotel’s super-slim bistro with its red brick arcades and vintage sputnik light fittings serves French classics, while the casual Snig is the perfect spot for coffee. More stripsku.com.

AUNAARAVJANASUONANAN / VIO

THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN, SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2017

ANANTARA KALUTARA RESORT, SRI LANKA: Tucked away on Sri Lanka’s southwest coast, an hour from Colombo, this family-friendly Anantara boasts an impressive pedigree, with the original resort designed more than two decades ago by legendary local architect Geoffrey Bawa. The project languished for years until one of his proteges picked it up. There’s no mistaking Bawa’s hand in the resort’s spacious arrivals hall and lobby; he passed back “tropical modernism” has also influenced the 141 guest rooms, suites and pool villa, each with a private balcony or terrace to take advantage of the property’s coastal views and lagoon frontage. There’s a large day spa, children’s club, three restaurants and a resort library fashioned after Bawa’s personal study and overlooking many of his original sketches. More anantaranuwara.com.

BISHANGARH, RAJASTHAN, above left; Alila Fort Bishangarh, above; Sonesta Jati, The Maldive, top; Rawai Island, Indonisia, above; The Warehouse Hotel, Singapore, top left; Alila Fort Bishangarh, Rajasthan, above left

137 Pillars Suites & Residences, below left; Kerry Hotel Hong Kong, below right
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