

Condé Nast Traveller

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

JANUARY 2011 £3.90

WIN
5 NIGHTS IN
BARBADOS
(worth £3,000)

Where to go in 2011

Great bargain breaks for all seasons

THE GOLD LIST

Our definitive choice of the

WORLD'S BEST HOTELS

Winter wonderland

Elks, wolves, beavers
and bison in Yellowstone
National Park

Egypt

Ancient temples,
hot springs
& desert beauty



The palace hotels of
Istanbul

Australia

Your essential guide to the Great Barrier Reef



01 >



THE GOLD LIST 2011

Your definitive guide to the

WORLD'S BEST HOTELS

Welcome to the seventh annual Gold List. Chosen by the magazine's editors and travel experts using six criteria, these are the best hotels for

★ AMBIENCE & DESIGN ★ LOCATION ★ FOOD
★ ROOMS ★ LEISURE FACILITIES ★ SERVICE

KEY TO SYMBOLS



Has appeared in the GOLD LIST five or more times



New entry this year

★ LOCATION

THE AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN

★ **Amangani, Wyoming**

NEW ENTRY A three-storey luxury lodge overlooking Wyoming's Snake River Valley, Amangani is one of the finest places to stay in the USA. The design team behind this striking sandstone-and-redwood building obviously kept the snowy panoramas in mind when sketching out their plans,

and there are high ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows in both the public areas and 29 suites. As you'd expect from Amanresorts, there's a well-equipped Health Center, and creative American cuisine is served in The Grill.

X-factor The hotel has sensational views of Jackson Hole's high-mountain

plateau and the Tetons, mountains which – lacking foothills – shoot up from the plateau floor,' says Gold List contributor Stephen Wood.

1535 North East Butte Road, Jackson, Wyoming 83001, USA (00 1 307 734 7333; www.amanresorts.com).
Doubles from \$565

Continued on page 146



BEST HOTELS FOR LOCATION

THE AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN

Amangani, Wyoming *this page*
The Wickaninnish Inn, Canada *p146*
The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman *p146*

★ ASIA

Aman at Summer Palace, Beijing *p147*
Leti 360°, Indian Himalayas *p147*
RAAS, Jodhpur *p147*

★ EUROPE

Hotel Imperial, Vienna *p147*
Hotel Cipriani, Venice *p147*
Nimb, Copenhagen *p147*

AUSTRALASIA & SOUTH PACIFIC

Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney *p148*
Longitude 131°, Australia *p148*
Capella Lodge, New South Wales *p148*

★ AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST & INDIAN OCEAN

Banyan Tree Maldives at Vabbinfaru *p148*
Mena House Oberoi, Cairo *p148*
Singita Grumeti, Tanzania *p148*

★ UK

The Lanesborough, London *p148*
Bovey Castle, Devon *p148*
Lucknam Park Hotel & Spa, Wiltshire *p148*

Sheer spectacle: view from the cliff-edge Amangani in Wyoming

► Danish cuisine, Nimb Brasserie for Scandinavian, and tapas at Nimb Vinotek. **X-factor** This is a fantastical yet incredibly hip place, and it's the only hotel that opens directly onto the Tivoli Gardens,' says Gold List contributor Francesca Syz. Bernstorffsgade 5, 1577 Copenhagen, Denmark (00 45 88 700000; www.nimb.dk). Doubles from £305

AUSTRALASIA & SOUTH PACIFIC

★ Shangri-La Hotel Sydney

A slick, 563-room hotel in the Rocks district, the Shangri-La Hotel Sydney has fantastic facilities. There are 80 Horizon Club rooms for business travellers, with a club lounge, complimentary evening drinks and free suit-press, and a terrific business centre. The spa opened last February; Altitude restaurant, which serves Modern Australian cuisine, has floor-to-ceiling windows with great harbour views. **X-factor** Blu Bar on 36, high above the city, has stunning views of Sydney's opera house and harbour bridge. 176 Cumberland Street, The Rocks, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia (0800 028 3337; www.shangri-la.com). Doubles from A\$355 (about £220)

★ Longitude 131°, Australia

Just 10km from Uluru (Ayers Rock), the resort's 15 glass-fronted, 'designer' tents provide a very luxurious take on camping. Architect Philip Cox's conical structures – set in the Outback's sand dunes – were inspired by Bedouin encampments, and come with air-con and Bose sound-systems. Activities offered include Aborigine township tours, visits to artists' communities and dinners beneath the stars with the in-house astronomer. Modern Australian cuisine is served in the central Dune House. **X-factor** The spectacular setting amidst Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. All tents have views of the famous rock. Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Northern Territory, Australia (00 61 2 8296 8010; www.longitude131.com.au). Doubles from A\$4,080 for two nights (about £2,545)

★ Capella Lodge, New South Wales

At the southern end of Lord Howe Island, 600km off the Australian mainland, the nine-suite Capella Lodge provides luxury in a paradise-like setting. There's an upmarket beach-shack feel to the accommodation: rattan lamps, polished wooden floors and basalt bathrooms set the tone while huge windows provide views of the mountains, forest, beach and sea. Facilities include an infinity pool, day spa, and walks to explore the flora and fauna of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. The open-plan Capella Restaurant makes excellent use of freshly caught seafood. **X-factor** This boutique lodge has views

of two spectacular mountains and the world's most southerly coral reef – and it's two hour's flight from Sydney or Brisbane,' says Gold List contributor Mike Dolan. Lagoon Road, Lord Howe Island, New South Wales, Australia (00 61 2 9918 4355; www.capellalodge.com.au). Doubles from A\$1,300 (about £810)

AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST & INDIAN OCEAN

★ Banyan Tree Maldives at Vabbinfaru

Wrapped around a white-sand beach overlooking a lagoon-lapped coral reef, this 48-villa resort is a favourite with sun-seekers and eco-travellers. The former come for its



from the Pyramid of Cheops. The 420 rooms are decorated in an opulent Moorish style with four-poster beds, plenty of plush cushions and heavy wooden furniture. Facilities within the 40 acres of grounds include a pool, spa and fitness centre, and an 18-hole golf course that is due to reopen this month after renovation. Restaurants include The Moghul Room for Indian cuisine, and 24-hour dining at Khan El Khalili. **X-factor** The unrivalled views of the pyramids. The rooms and suites in the original, 19th-century hunting lodge have the best views and guests are advised to book well in advance. Pyramids' Road, Giza, Cairo, Egypt (00 20 2 3377 3222; www.oberoihotels.com). Doubles from US\$224

elevated best,' says Gold List contributor Peter Browne. Serengeti, Tanzania (00 255 27 250 8976; www.singita.com). Doubles from US\$2,090

UK

★ The Lanesborough, London

This opulent, 19th-century hotel on Hyde Park Corner has 52 rooms and 43 suites. All are decorated in rich fabrics and furnished with period pieces that conceal hi-tech accoutrements. Facilities include a spa and a limousine service, as well as a personal-butler service that includes unpacking and pressing clothes on arrival. Cocktails are served in the Library Bar and cigars can be smoked in The Garden Room. The recently launched Apsleys restaurant was awarded a Michelin star last year. **X-factor** Guests couldn't wish for a better London location: Knightsbridge, Kensington, Belgravia and Buckingham Palace are all within walking distance. Hyde Park Corner, London SW1 (020 7259 5599; www.lanesborough.com). Doubles from £495

★ Bovey Castle, Devon

Set in the Dartmoor National Park, this country-house hotel has 64 rooms and suites, all of which have recently been revamped by interior designer Annabel Elliot. A former stately home, it has retained its best features, including the oak-panelled Cathedral Room and the balustraded garden terraces. Archery, tennis, falconry and fishing are available, plus there's an 18-hole golf course and Elemis Spa. The Edwardian Restaurant serves seasonal fare; the Oak Bar menu lists 150 cocktails. **X-factor** The 14 three-storey granite lodges provide the opportunity to stay in the manicured grounds. North Bovey, Dartmoor National Park, Devon (01647 445000; www.boveycastle.com). Doubles from £225

★ Lucknam Park Hotel & Spa, Wiltshire

At the centre of a lush, 500-acre estate, which incorporates croquet lawns, tennis courts and even an equestrian centre, Lucknam Park near Bath certainly takes some beating on the location front. The main house is home to 42 recently refurbished rooms, decorated in a classic-contemporary style, as well as the Michelin-starred The Park restaurant and the more informal The Brasserie. Opportunities to pass the time are endless; but guests should definitely check out the excellent spa in the park's walled garden. **X-factor** The Coral and Tower Suites, in the bays at the front of the house, have the finest views of the parkland. Colerne, Chippenham, Wiltshire (01225 742777; www.lucknampark.co.uk). Doubles from £295

sleek & stylish

Elixir Art's stunning deluxe rooms - Rose & Daphne



your secret Aegean address

Tatler knows. Its taste for the exclusive, the alternative, the unexpected, took it to the edge of Turkey's Datca peninsula, and a corner of the Aegean so secluded that you need a boat to find it. But its seasoned critics fell in love with what they found there. They chose Elixir Art as one of Tatler's 101 Best Hotels for 2010. And who are we to argue? We'd rather let our beloved chic retreat speak for itself. See more in our 2011 Collection, or online.



For your copy of the 2011 collection please call ELIXIR on 020 7722 2288 or visit our award winning website elixirholidays.com

thatched beach-house accommodation, as well as its powder-soft beach and spa, the latter for its diving school and Marine Lab, which is instrumental in conserving the islands' green-turtle population. Everyone loves the delicious Maldivian and global cuisine in the beachfront Ilaafathi, and post-dinner cocktails in the Naiboli Bar. **X-factor** The Vabbinfaru Villa, set in its own landscaped garden, has an outdoor pavilion and beach sala. Vabbinfaru Island, North Malé Atoll, Maldives (00 960 664 3147; www.banyantree.com). Doubles from US\$875

★ Mena House Oberoi, Cairo

A former hunting lodge in the Giza district, the Mena House Oberoi is just 700 metres

★ Singita Grumeti, Tanzania

Comprised of three lodges, Singita Grumeti is spread over 340,000 acres on the edge of the Serengeti National Park. The nine-cottage Singita Sasakwa Lodge provides the most sumptuous accommodation, with colonial-style decor and private infinity pools, four-poster beds and claw-foot bathtubs. Singita Sabora Tented Camp has nine ultra-luxurious tents set on an open plain, while Singita Faru Faru Lodge has nine secluded suites on the Grumeti River. All offer twice-daily game drives with professional guides. **X-factor** Who needs a plane when you can have sensational, soaring views of the Serengeti from your own pool at Sasakwa Lodge? This is classic East Africa at its