

Untold Stories

Even though the year hasn't yet come to a close, we've already brought you news of more just-opened hotels and resorts than we can count — here in the U.S. and in every corner of the world. But, yes, a few noteworthy newbies didn't make our pages. Here, in a quick game of catch-up, 16 other beauties that arrived on the scene in 2013 that you'll want to put on your radar.

BY ANDREW SESSA



El Encanto

United States



El Encanto (Santa Barbara, Calif.)

This West Coast resort represents the rebirth of one of the country's most storied hotels. Orient-Express spent seven years and \$134 million turning the nearly century-old celebrity stomping ground — former guests include everyone from Carole Lombard to Leonardo DiCaprio, FDR to JFK Jr. — into a California-cool getaway, and the family-friendly hotel now blends influences both classic and contemporary across seven palm-dotted acres and 92 bungalow-style rooms and suites. Seek satiation in the coastal cuisine of chef Patrice Martineau, who has cooked at New York's Daniel and London's Savoy; and find salvation at the new spa. From \$525. *800 Alvarado Place; 800-393-5315; elencanto.com*

Don't miss: Stroll under and around the romantic, wisteria-lined, redbrick arbor and lily pond, a painstakingly restored original feature dating to 1918.

Hotel Zetta (San Francisco)

The innovative folks at the Viceroy Hotel Group designed this new arrival for the eco-savvy high-tech set. In the trendy SoMa neighborhood — in a 100-year-old neoclassical building — the 116-room spot combines natural materials, diverse textures, and of-the-moment art in creative ways, resulting in sleek, loftlike spaces. Contemporary comforts abound, from Illy espresso machines and wireless-enabled 46-inch flat-screen HD TVs in rooms to the lobby bar and lounge created to attract upwardly mobile Internet entrepreneurs and venture-capital types. From \$275. *55 Fifth St.; 855-212-4187; hotelzetta.com*

Don't miss: Unwind in the Playroom, a unique social space featuring a pool table, shuffleboard, and video and board games both new and retro, plus a London-style red telephone booth you can use to order room service.

The Langham (Chicago)

The Windy City has long been one of the country's great hotel destinations, with sumptuous stays in many downtown skyscrapers. This 300-plus-room property continues that tradition, occupying 13 floors of a landmark 52-story Ludvig Mies van der Rohe-designed building. In keeping with this architectural pedigree, Langham recruited Mies' grandson, Dirk Lohan, to design the midcentury-inspired lobby and David Rockwell to do the sleek bar and contemporary Mediterranean restaurant from chef Tim Graham, lately of Chicago hot spot TRU. The spa focuses on the healing powers of traditional Chinese medicine. From \$395. *330 N. Wabash Ave.; 800-588-9141; chicago.langhamhotels.com*

Don't miss: Do eye the art, including works by Claes Oldenberg and Anish Kapoor.

Topping Rose House (Bridgehampton, N.Y.)

What with the success of his New York, LA, and Las Vegas restaurants — plus his ongoing run on Bravo's hit show *Top Chef* — it seems everything Tom Colicchio touches turns to gold. These days, that's especially true of this luxe B&B that debuted 22 rooms and a spa this summer, after opening as a Colicchio-helmed restaurant a year ago. Located in Long Island's tony East End, the petite inn comprises a white-clapboard Greek Revival home built in 1842 and several newly constructed, contemporary outbuildings, with comfortably residential and neutrally toned modern classic interiors throughout by top designer Alexandra Champalimaud. From \$950 (including breakfast). *One Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike; 631-537-0870; toppingrosehouse.com*

Don't miss: For a good calorie burn, and to see the sights, take a spin around town on one of the inn's complimentary bikes.



Amanoi

Asia

Amanoi (Núi Chúa National Park, Vietnam)

It has been a big year for Amanresorts, which opened Aman Canal Grande in one of Venice’s finest palazzos in June and debuted this Vinh Hy Bay beach resort in September. Here, 31 clean-lined, artisanally crafted guest pavilions — all with private sundecks, some with pools — plus five villas sit on 100 coastal acres in a national park boasting incredible biodiversity. Beyond the wildlife viewing, Aman junkies will find all the requisite pleasures, not least of all two pools (one carved into granite cliffs, the other at a bayside beach club) and a spa bordering a lotus blossom-dotted lake. From \$750. 800-477-9180; amanresorts.com

Don’t miss: Boat out with local fishermen, then dine on the catch at a beach barbecue or in the privacy of your suite.

Regent Bali (Sanur, Indonesia)

At this new arrival on Bali’s Indian Ocean coastline, 25 residences and 94 suites — the smallest nearly 1,000 square feet — all have wood-screened indoor-outdoor living spaces with handmade hardwood furniture, rich textiles, and creature comforts including flat-screen HD TVs, Bose sound systems, and a butler-summoning call-button. Six restaurants, bars, and lounges await, as do a spa and oceanside infinity pool. From \$350. *Jalan Kusuma Sari No. 8; 866-630-5890; regenthotels.com/bali*

Don’t miss: Immerse yourself in the local culture with excursions to temple ceremonies, cooking classes, craft demonstrations, and schools.



Bedarra Island Resort

Australia

Bedarra Island Resort (Great Barrier Reef)

Nearly destroyed by a cyclone in 2011, this beloved Barrier Reef retreat reopened in July under new ownership and with a top-to-bottom redo. The newly eco-smart snorkeling paradise has reduced its size to just seven two-person villas across 110 rain-forested acres, now powering itself almost exclusively from solar panels, with water sourced from a granite-filtered spring. Each uniquely designed, freestanding villa gives way to seemingly endless expanses of powdery white sand and turquoise-sea views, with ready access to the wonders of the surrounding coral reefs. From \$890. 011-61-7-4068-8233; bedarra.com.au

Don’t miss: Bring your appetite to a chef-prepared private dinner for two — beachside. Or opt for a gourmet picnic lunch on a private island.

Cicada Lodge (Nitmiluk National Park, Northern Territory)

With its March debut, this safari-style retreat opened up a new Australian region to the upscale crowd. At the 18-suite hotel, a joint venture between the Jawoyn Aborigines and Indigenous Business Australia, immerse yourself in local culture and get your adrenaline pumping with luxe-adventure excursions, such as swims in pristine waterfalls and canoe rides down a river that begin atop the park’s eponymous sandstone gorge. The softer side of all this? Amenities such as Champagne on arrival, sunset canapes, and gourmet re-spins of classic bush cuisine. From \$595. 011-61-8-8971-0877; cicadalodge.com.au

Don’t miss: Take a private helicopter on a guided visit to one of the Jawoyn’s 40,000-year-old rock-art sites, many never before accessible to the public.



Waldorf Astoria Panama

Central and South America

B Arts Boutique Hotel (Lima, Peru)

In Lima’s artsiest neighborhood, this boutique gem marks the first high-end hotel in the waterfront Barranco district, where you’ll find some of the city’s best shopping, dining, and cultural attractions (including Peruvian fashion photographer and *Vogue* favorite Mario Testino’s new gallery, MATE). The 17-suite belle epoque mansion, lovingly restored to capture the clubby aesthetic of its original early 20th-century design, also houses a restaurant from Oscar Velarde, the force behind La Gloria, an eatery on the forefront of the city’s burgeoning contemporary-Peruvian food scene. The of-the-moment art collection has been assembled, in part, through a collaboration with Galería Lucía de la Puente, a Barranco powerhouse just next door. From \$450. *San Martín 301; 011-51-7-700-5106; hotelb.pe*

Don’t miss: Start your evening with pre-dinner drinks and snacks at the bar-café, an especially popular spot with hip locals at night from Thursday to Saturday.

Waldorf Astoria Panama (Panama City)

The opening of this 248-room-and-residence stay just outside the financial and entertainment districts confirms this capital’s growing reputation as a luxury destination. Just step into the building’s soaring lobby, with its handcrafted latticework, gold lighting, and Italian-marble floors, and you’ll know that something special awaits within Latin America’s first Waldorf Astoria. The many amenities and services include rainfall showers in marble bathrooms; personal concierges; a Life Fitness gym and grand spa; and six restaurants and bars, including the Asian-focused Ginger, which specializes in sushi. From \$129. *47th and Uruguay streets; 800-925-3673; waldorfastoriapanama.com*

Don’t miss: Make a splash in the seventh-floor outdoor pool, finished with gold mosaic tiles and claiming unrivaled city and ocean views.

Europe

Domaine de la Baume (Provence, France)

Perhaps a Provençal idyll with an artistic pedigree is in order? We've got the place: this new 15-room hotel in the charming, yellow-hued villa that 20th-century expressionist painter Bernard Buffet called home. In the tiny village of Tourtour, the house sits on 99 acres of French-style gardens, olive groves, ponds, and waterfalls, with a swimming pool, chapel, and petite spa, too. Interiors evoke the countrified

elan of 18th-century Provence, all toile de Jouy and colorful florals, simple wood furniture, and terra-cotta tile floors. The restaurant's cuisine changes often, with the chef gathering ingredients at the village market. From \$570. *2071 route d'Aups; 011-33-4-8313-2727; domaine-delabaume.com*

Don't miss: Spend a day canoeing or hiking in and around the nearby Verdon Gorges, with a gourmet picnic lunch.



TRISTAN SHU



Domaine de la Baume



Gritti Palace

Four Seasons Hotel
Lion Palace



Four Seasons Hotel Lion Palace

(St. Petersburg, Russia)

This 183-room hotel has taken over an early 19th-century imperial structure just steps from the Winter Palace and the Hermitage. A nearly 10-year restoration and renovation has brought the palace back to its original splendor, with granite columns and gilded carved-plaster details in the lobby, followed by neoclassical hardwood furniture and black lacquer, gilt, and chinoiserie accents in the pastel-hued rooms and suites. A Michelin-starred chef holds court in the Italian restaurant, while the four-story spa — complete with skylight-lit domed pool and Russian-style sauna — is built into the building's original triangular courtyard. From \$450. *1 Voznesensky Prospekt; 800-819-5053; fourseasons.com/stpetersburg*

Don't miss: Brave the hotel's decadent vodka-and-caviar tastings, with 40 types of vodka on offer and caviar served on a sturgeon-shaped ice sculpture.

Gritti Palace

(Venice, Italy)

As face-lifts go, this one's a doozy: During a 15-month closure — and at a cost of some \$55 million— Starwood's Luxury Collection remastered this Grand Canal grande dame. Overseen by Chuck Chewning, the creative director of the home furnishings and fabric company Donghia, the redo debuted to oohs and aahs in February, impressing with its reams of custom-woven Rubelli silks, book-matched marbles, and repurposed pieces from the hotel's priceless holdings of Italian art and antiques. The result? A centuries-old Venetian baroque beauty that wears her age exceptionally well. From \$570. *Campo Santa Maria del Giglio; 800-325-3589; thegrittpalace.com*

Don't miss: Sign up for a hands-on cooking adventure at the Gritti's culinary school, relaunched after a decades-long absence and led by executive chef Daniele Turco.



Torralbenc



J.K. Place Roma

J.K. Place Roma (Rome)

Hotelier Ori Kafri, who mastered the boutique stay with his J.K. properties in Capri and Florence, has now brought his pitch-perfect concept to the Eternal City's historic center, opening this 30-room spot in a century-old former school building just off the Via Condotti shopping mecca. Kafri has teamed up once again with Florence-based architect Michele Bönan to create vintage-modern spaces that reference the midcentury aesthetics of both *La Dolce Vita* and Tom Ford's *A Single Man*, with custom furnishings and flea-market finds filling every individually decorated room, as well as the lobby, bar-lounge, and contemporary Roman restaurant. From \$780. *via Monte d'Oro, 30; 011-39-06-98-2634; jkroma.com*

Don't miss: Order a Bellini at the lively bar, made with the same beloved recipe — using prosecco and fresh peach marinated in a special white wine — as at J.K.'s Capri location.

Shangri-La Bosphorus

(Istanbul)

Turkey's largest city boasts an ever-expanding number of top-shelf hotels, the most recent from Hong Kong-based Shangri-La, which brings an apt East-meets-West sensibility to a city that famously straddles Asia and Europe. The hotel's restored neoclassical facade masks a modern interior of glass and marble, with smart teal-and-cream decor in its 186 rooms, more than half of which boast Bosphorus views. Also of note: two restaurants, one China-focused, the other globe-spanning; and a Chi Spa combining influences both Asian and Turkish. From \$715. *Sinanpasa Mah, Hayrettin Iskelesi Sok, No.1, Besiktas; 866-565-5050; shangri-la.com/istanbul*

Don't miss: Book dinner on a private Bosphorus river cruise arranged by the hotel, with traditional Turkish cuisine and entertainment.

Torralbenc

(Menorca, Spain)

Set amid 70 acres of fields and vineyards, this rustic-luxe roost on Menorca's sandy southern coast adds sophisticated style to the farm-side stay. The owners have reinvented the whitewashed and fitted-stone buildings of a 100-year-old farm, creating 27 rooms and cottages, a locally and seasonally minded restaurant, and an 80-foot saltwater pool surrounded by green lawns. Neutral tones and natural materials rule the day, with windows framing picturesque views of the area's powdery white beaches and the Mediterranean Sea, both only a few miles, and a quick car or bike ride, away. From \$220. *011-34-971-377-211; torralbenc.com*

Don't miss: Savor a private wine-tasting or dinner in the property's Fig Tree Cave, whose provenance dates back to prehistoric Menorcan civilizations. ■

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Shangri-La Bosphorus

