

LUXURY HOTELS

TOP OF THE WORLD



VOLUME 2

teNeues



Luxury Hotels

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Introduction 4

Europe

Clare, Ireland	Dromoland Castle	14
Straffan, Ireland	The K Club	18
London, United Kingdom	The Connaught	24
London, United Kingdom	The Savoy	28
Moscow, Russia	Hotel Baltchug Kempinski Moscow	32
Berlin, Germany	Hotel Adlon Kempinski Berlin	36
Berlin, Germany	Hotel de Rome, Berlin	40
Berlin, Germany	The Ritz-Carlton Berlin	44
Frankfurt am Main, Germany	Hotel Hessischer Hof	48
Munich, Germany	Bayerischer Hof	52
Munich, Germany	Mandarin Oriental, Munich	56
Salzburg, Austria	Hotel Goldener Hirsch	60
Salzburg, Austria	Hotel Sacher Salzburg	64
Vienna, Austria	Hotel Sacher Wien	68
Vienna, Austria	Sofitel Vienna Stephansdom	72
Gstaad, Switzerland	Gstaad Palace	76
St. Moritz, Switzerland	Badrutt's Palace	80
Zurich, Switzerland	The Dolder Grand	84
Nice, France	Hôtel Le Negresco	88
Paris, France	Hôtel Le Bristol Paris	92
Paris, France	Hôtel de Crillon	96
Paris, France	Four Seasons Hotel George V	100
Paris, France	Hôtel Ritz Paris	104
Milan, Italy	Four Seasons Hotel Milano	108
Rome, Italy	Hassler Roma	112
Rome, Italy	Portrait Suites	116
Venice, Italy	Bauer II Palazzo	120
Barcelona, Spain	Mandarin Oriental, Barcelona	124
Mallorca, Spain	St. Regis Mardavall Mallorca Resort	128
Istanbul, Turkey	Çırağan Palace Kempinski	132

Africa

Marrakech, Morocco	La Sultana Marrakech	138
Marrakech, Morocco	Royal Mansour	142
Cairo, Egypt	Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at the First Residence	146
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	Emirates Palace	150
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	Shangri-La Hotel Qaryat Al Beri	154
Dubai, United Arab Emirates	One&Only The Palm	158
Jerusalem, Israel	Mamilla Hotel	164
Beirut, Lebanon	Le Gray, Beirut	168
Purros, Damaraland, Namibia	Okahirongo River Camp	172
Shaba National Reserve, Kenya	Joy's Camp	176
Praslin, Seychelles	Raffles Praslin Seychelles	180
Cape Town, South Africa	Ellerman House	184
Cape Town, South Africa	Mount Nelson Hotel	188
Cape Town, South Africa	The Twelve Apostles	192
Clanwilliam, South Africa	Bushmans Kloof	
	Wilderness Reserve & Wellness Retreat	196
Johannesburg, South Africa	Saxon	200
Kruger National Park, South Africa	Singita Lebombo & Sweni Lodge	206
Madikwe Game Reserve, South Africa	Molori Safari Lodge	212

America

Honolulu, USA	Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort & Spa	218
Beverly Hills, USA	The Beverly Hills Hotel	222
Santa Monica, USA	Shutters on the Beach	226
Chicago, USA	The Peninsula Chicago	230
New York, USA	Crosby Street Hotel	234
New York, USA	Hôtel Plaza Athénée	240
New York, USA	The Carlyle	244
New York, USA	The Greenwich Hotel	248
New York, USA	The Mark	252
British Virgin Islands, Caribbean	Necker Island	256
Dominican Republic, Caribbean	The Peninsula House	260
Mustique, Caribbean	Cotton House	264
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Alvear Palace Hotel	268
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Faena Hotel+Universe	272
Cuzco, Peru	Hotel Monasterio	276
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Hotel Fasano	280
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	La Maison	284
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Santa Teresa	290
São Paulo, Brazil	Emiliano	294

Asia

Mumbai, India	The Taj Mahal Palace Mumbai	298
New Delhi, India	Aman New Delhi	302
New Delhi, India	The Imperial	306
Udaipur, India	The Oberoi Udaivilas	312
Bangkok, Thailand	Banyan Tree Bangkok	316
Bangkok, Thailand	The Eugenia	320
Phnom Penh, Cambodia	Raffles Hotel Le Royal	324
Beijing, China	Aman at Summer Palace	328
Hong Kong, China	Hullett House Hotel	332
Hong Kong, China	The Landmark Mandarin Oriental	336
Hong Kong, China	The Upper House	340
Shanghai, China	Fairmont Peace Hotel	344
Shanghai, China	The Peninsula Shanghai	348
Shanghai, China	The PuLi Hotel & Spa	352
Singapore, Singapore	Raffles Hotel Singapore	356
Bali, Indonesia	Alila Villas Soori	360
Bali, Indonesia	Alila Villas Uluwatu	364
Jakarta, Indonesia	The Dharmawangsa Jakarta	368
Tokyo, Japan	The Peninsula Tokyo	372

Australia

Adelaide, Australia	Thorngrove Manor	376
Sydney, Australia	Blue Sydney, A Taj Hotel	380

New Zealand

Auckland, New Zealand	Mollies	384
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Introduction

The color of the bathrobes at the Ritz in Paris could best be described as “a touch of peach.” The soft pastel hue flatters the complexion when guests look in the mirror in the morning. Attention to even the smallest detail is an essential component of luxury in a hotel. Being looked after in the most attentive of ways; personal service by highly trained staff; the dedication with which every wish is fulfilled, ideally before it’s even expressed—those are the things that make all the difference.

Luxury hotels don’t sell beds, they sell dreams. They provide the stage for a grand entry, or they offer a glamorous retreat designed to exclude the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Grand hotels are milestones in the cultural history of every major international metropolis; landmarks that shape its face. They invite us to travel back in time to bygone eras, like the legendary Raffles in Singapore or the Imperial in Delhi—properties that have preserved the special flair of the colonial age while offering guests every modern amenity imaginable. They let us get up close and personal with history, like the magnificent Paris palace hotels where Queen Marie Antoinette took piano lessons, Coco Chanel kept a suite for 30 years, and Ernest Hemingway was a regular. New hotels create their own history which makes them unique. The Peninsula in Shanghai, opened in 2010, was inspired by the Chinese harbor city’s glamorous times in the 1930s and 40s; the Aman at Summer Palace in Beijing draws on the generous hospitality the Chinese imperial court was famous for.

Luxury in hotels has a myriad different facets, ranging from the lavish opulence of grand hotels with their marble-and-gold-studded lobbies illuminated by priceless crystal chandeliers to the understated smartness of contemporary urban hideaways. These set new styles and showcase new trends. In Asia, extravagant simplicity is merging with the highest standards of quality in the selection and finish of materials. This allows the idea of perfect harmony, which is so deep-rooted in Far Eastern thinking, to take shape in architecture and design.

Authenticity, the charm of the out-of-the-ordinary, a genuine sense of place: these aspects are becoming increasingly important. In order to give her Crosby Street Hotel in New York a village feeling, London designer Kit Kemp built a rooftop garden where the chef de cuisine grows herbs and chickens lay eggs for breakfast—a true luxury in 21st century SoHo. Globe-trotting guests have more choices than ever before. Today, they can enjoy the stylish ambience of a traditional property like Hotel Sacher in Vienna; tomorrow, they can tackle the challenge superstar architect Jean Nouvel designed for guests of the Sofitel Vienna: rooms where even the smallest detail is in monochromatic gray.

This lavishly illustrated book showcases the entire spectrum of luxury hotels and invites you on a journey around the globe to the world’s most beautiful and spectacular hotels—from the megacities of South America and Asia, to the most historic grand hotels in Europe, to the most luxurious lodges in the wilderness of Africa.

Bärbel Holzberg

Thorngrove Manor

Adelaide, Australia

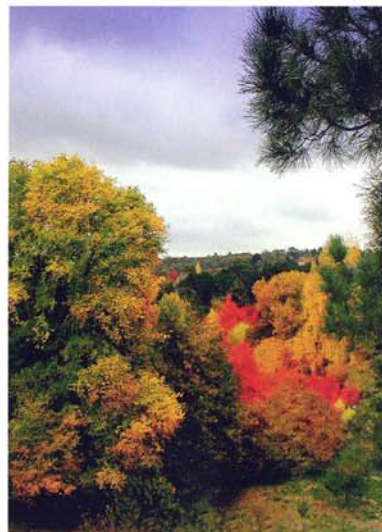
With its turrets, bays, and half-timbered construction, this estate outside of Adelaide looks like it belongs in a medieval fairytale even though it was only built in the mid-1980s. Kenneth Lehmann—the owner, architect, and host—has dedicated more than 25 years to this project, and it has become his life's work. Lehmann was inspired in part by the manor houses of British settlers who attempted to recreate the aristocratic lifestyle of their homeland in their new world: being eccentric, exotic, and a little bit crazy was well tolerated at that time in aristocratic circles.

Mit seinen Türmchen, Erkern und dem Fachwerk wirkt das Anwesen nahe Adelaide wie aus einer mittelalterlichen Märchenszenerie entsprungen und wurde doch erst Mitte der 80er Jahre erbaut. Genau genommen arbeitete Kenneth Lehmann, Besitzer, Architekt und Gastgeber, seit mehr als 25 Jahren an diesem Kunstwerk, das zu seiner Lebensaufgabe wurde. Eine der Inspirationsquellen sind die Herrenhäuser der britischen Siedler, die versuchten den aristokratischen Lebensstil der Heimat in ihre neue Welt zu transportieren: Exzentrisch, exotisch und ein bisschen verrückt zu sein, war damals in Adelskreisen wohl gelitten.

Avec ses petites tours, ses encorbellements et ses colombages, cette propriété située près d'Adelaïde semble sortie tout droit d'un conte du Moyen Âge. Elle a pourtant été bâtie au milieu des années 80. Il faut préciser que Kenneth Lehmann, propriétaire, architecte et maître de maison a travaillé à cette œuvre d'art durant plus de 25 ans et qu'elle est devenue la tâche de toute sa vie. Il s'est notamment inspiré des manoirs des colons britanniques qui ont tenté de rapporter le style de vie aristocratique de leur pays natal dans le nouveau monde : jadis, dans les cercles de la noblesse, excentricité, exotisme et folie légère étaient appréciés.

Con sus torreones, almenas y vigas vistas, la mansión cercana a Adelaida parece salida de un cuento de hadas medieval, pese haber sido construida a mediados de la década de 1980. Kenneth Lehmann, propietario, arquitecto y anfitrión, trabajó durante más de 25 años en esta obra de arte que se ha convertido en el objetivo de toda una vida. Una de sus principales fuentes de inspiración fueron las mansiones de los colonos británicos, que intentaron exportar al nuevo mundo el aristocrático estilo de la patria: en los círculos más selectos de la época, la excentricidad, el exotismo y una brizna de locura se consideraban de buen tono.

Con le sue torrette, i bovindi e la travatura a traliccio, questa struttura nei pressi di Adelaide sembra uscita da un libro delle fiabe del Medioevo, eppure è stata costruita solo a metà degli anni 80. In realtà Kenneth Lehmann, proprietario, architetto e gestore dell'hotel, ha lavorato per oltre 25 anni a quest'opera d'arte, scopo e senso della sua vita. Una delle fonti d'ispirazione furono le case padronali dei coloni inglesi, che volevano ricreare nel loro nuovo mondo lo stile di vita dell'aristocrazia del loro paese: evidentemente alla nobiltà di allora non mancava il gusto per l'eccentrico, l'esotico e il vagamente folle.



This five guest room estate in the wine-growing region of South Australia looks like a romantic wonderland.

Wie ein romantisches Wunderland mutet das Anwesen mit seinen fünf Gästezimmern im südaustralischen Weinland an.

Ce manoir de la région vinicole du sud de l'Australie doté de cinq chambres vous transporte au pays des merveilles.

Con sus cinco habitaciones para huéspedes, el establecimiento en los viñedos del sur de Australia se antoja a veces un romántico País de las Maravillas.

Come un romantico paese delle meraviglie, questa struttura con cinque camere spicca nel paesaggio di vigneti dell'Australia del sud.



Many of the pieces in the flamboyantly furnished rooms were collected on trips to Europe: the tapestries from France, and the wooden panels from a 19th-century church.

Von Reisen nach Europa stammen viele der Sammlerstücke in den flamboyant ausgestatteten Räumen, die Tapisserien aus Frankreich, Holzpaneele von einer Kirche aus dem 19. Jahrhundert.

Les pièces de collection présentes dans ce décor flamboyant proviennent de voyages en Europe — des tapisseries de France, des panneaux de bois provenant d'une église du XIX^e siècle.

Muchas de las piezas de coleccionista de la llamativa decoración de las habitaciones proceden de viajes por Europa: tapizados de Francia, paneles de una iglesia del siglo XIX.

Molti dei pezzi da collezione che arricchiscono le sontuose camere provengono da viaggi in Europa: le tappezzerie dalla Francia, i pannelli di legno da una chiesa ottocentesca.

