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# TRAVEL+ LEISURE

*the best* **NEW  
HOTELS**

| IT LIST 2016 |




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The background image is a photograph of a grand, historic interior space. It features a balcony with an intricate wrought-iron railing in the foreground. Behind the balcony is a large, ornate doorway with glass panels. The ceiling is high and decorated with elaborate gold leaf patterns and a central medallion. The walls are also adorned with detailed carvings and patterns. The overall atmosphere is one of classic elegance and historical grandeur.

# itlist 2016

Each year, *Travel + Leisure* checks in to hundreds of buzzy new properties, but only a select few earn a place on the It List, our annual editors' choice awards. What sets these 49 winners apart: a refreshing take on service and design, an uncharted location, or enough glitz and glamour to make a classic destination feel fresh again. In short, these are hotels worth traveling for. Here, 20 of our favorites—find the full list at [tandl.me/itlist](http://tandl.me/itlist).

## THE SCENE MAKER SOHO HOUSE ISTANBUL

Hotels have been opening in Istanbul at quite a clip lately. But none captures the energy of the city quite like the Soho House in Beyoğlu, set in a cluster of buildings that includes the former American Embassy. The inlaid wood and gilded interiors had been hiding under drywall and white paint; now, they embellish a private club for members and hotel guests, with three restaurants, a speakeasy-style bar, and a rooftop pool, where a glittering crowd smokes and air-kisses into the night. The rooms, in a new structure across a pretty courtyard, impress on their own: warm, tactile cocoons of dark wood layered with beautiful textiles. Think of them as a necessary respite from the formidable chic next door, so close and yet so far. [sohohouseistanbul.com](http://sohohouseistanbul.com); doubles from \$272.





## THE NEW GRANDE DAME | COTTON HOUSE HOTEL

BARCELONA

If a city hotel could ever mimic the why-bother-going-out feeling of a resort, it would be the Cotton House. Set in a 19th-century Neoclassical landmark—once the Cotton Producers Guild—the 83-room gem from Autograph Collection has been deftly reinvented by designer Lázaro Rosa-Violán. His preservation of many original features, like the spiral staircase, tiled floors, and intricately carved ceilings, gives the lobby a sense of history. The location by the boutiques of Passeig de Gràcia is another plus. Nonetheless, we saw guests content to stay on-property, lounging by the rooftop pool and reading in the library. [hotelcottonhouse.com](http://hotelcottonhouse.com); doubles from \$263.

## THE CULTURE MAGNET | FAENA

MIAMI BEACH



Developer Alan Faena tasked Baz Luhrmann and Catherine Martin with helping him reimagine the historic Saxony Hotel, the anchor of his six-block-long cultural district. The result? A surreal mash-up evocative of late-period Gianni Versace and the Moulin Rouge. The lobby has eight Juan Gatti murals, including neo-Baroque images of skulls and horses. In the garden is Damien Hirst's *Gone But Not Forgotten*, a giant 24-karat-gold-gilded woolly-mammoth skeleton. Los Fuegos, Francis Mallmann's first U.S. project, serves a rib eye with chimichurri that transcends the hype. And the guest rooms are over the top, with red velvet armchairs and turquoise carpeting. Up next is an arts center by Rem Koolhaas/OMA. Brace yourself, America: the FaenaLand invasion has begun. [faena.com](http://faena.com); doubles from \$745.

## THE BEACH BABE | ONE&ONLY OCEAN CLUB

PARADISE ISLAND, BAHAMAS

When A&P heir Huntington Hartford II conceived his Bahamian retreat a half-century ago, it's unlikely that he could have pictured guests arriving in Bentleys with Wi-Fi. But times have changed—and so has this property, following a partial but impactful face-lift. The most exciting addition is the oceanfront infinity pool, where couples sip elderflower martinis from butler-serviced chaises. The 52 rooms in the original Hartford Wing were also enlarged and redone; the colonial-style décor was swapped out for clean-lined furnishings and blue-and-cream hues. Hartford would definitely have approved. [oneandonlyresorts.com](http://oneandonlyresorts.com); doubles from \$1,035.

