

OBJECTS
OF DESIRE

HOSPITALITY



Conrad Athens The Ilisian, Greece ↑

With panoramic views of landmarks like the Acropolis, the Lycabettus Hill and the Aegean Sea from many rooms and within walking distance of museums, parks, galleries and boutiques in the Greek capital, the former Hilton Athens returns as the Conrad Athens after an extensive makeover. In this sprawling property, skip the gym workout for a run on their outdoor running track on the rooftop or swim in one of the largest pools in the city.

Nine restaurants and bars promise to spoil guests for choice with a selection of international and authentic Greek cuisine. Besides the 307 rooms and suites done up stylishly with original artwork and private balconies, there are three Presidential suites as well as a mega penthouse.

Opening in June

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/athgri-conrad-athens-the-ilisian/>

THE LUXE ADDITION

The hottest new luxury addresses of 2026

Pallavi Pasricha

From heritage properties in historic European capitals to lavish escapes in private islands and desert realms, hotels are upping the ante on luxury and extravagance. As the year unfolds, the choices will be many—take your pick from a grand palazzo in Venice to iconic addresses in London, Rome and Athens, immersive desert camps in Rajasthan and Oman, an Italian retreat in the Maldives and even a former prison in Japan. Spice picks the hotels expected to become the most coveted stays in 2026.

↑ Bvlgari Resort Ranfushi Maldives

In the gorgeous Maldivian archipelago where luxury addresses abound, Bvlgari's first resort will raise the bar even higher. Merging contemporary Italian design with island living, it will be located 45 minutes away by sea plane from Male at Raa Atoll. Its 54 keys will include 33 beach villas with their own pools, 20 overwater villas and an ultra-exclusive Bvlgari Villa. Familiar restaurants abound—Bao Li Xuan, the Chinese fine-dining from Shanghai, Hōseki, the Japanese concept in Dubai and Tokyo and of course Il Ristorante—Niko Romito, the famed Italian restaurant curated by the three Michelin starred chef. When shopping pangs hit, go to La Galleria, a concept store that will stock niche items from international designers.

Opening month yet to be announced
https://www.bulgarihotels.com/en_US/ranfushi



Orient Express Venezia Venice, Italy

In the quiet district of Cannaregio in Venice, step back into an era defined by grandeur at a 15th century palace that is getting a new lease of life by the brand that defined luxury train travel 150 years ago. In a private boat, guests will pass through a historic Gothic portal in a canal to reach the new hotel, with Gothic windows, a spectacular octagonal staircase, a gilded ballroom and original frescoes by Italian artists. The 47 stay options include opulent rooms, suites and two apartments. Think Venetian style sliding doors, hand-painted art work and velvet drapes. There'll be a fine dining restaurant with private boat access, an all-day restaurant overlooking a garden and courtyard and the iconic Wagon Bar from the days of the Orient Express train.

Opening in April

www.orient-express.com/en/hotel/europe/italy/venice/orient-express-venezia

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The Malkai, Oman

This will not be just a stay option in the Middle Eastern emirate, but a journey into the heart of Oman. Fifteen Bedouin inspired luxury tented pavilions will host guests at three separate venues—the date plantations of Barkaa, the soaring Al Hajar mountains and the remote dunes of Sharqiya Sands, as they travel on a luxury SUV through some of the country's most dramatic landscapes. Guides and customised itineraries will ensure personalised tailor made experiences, whether it is snorkelling, trekking or just star gazing in the vast desert. Spas, infinity pools and Omani cuisine will be the highlights at the retreats.

**Opening between
October and December**
<https://www.themalkai.com/>



↑ Hoshinoya Nara Prison Hotel, Japan

This could well be the most unique hotel opening of the year as former solitary confinement prison cells are reimagined as luxury suites in Nara, the ancient Japanese capital where tourists mingle among the deer that roam freely in the city. Hoshinoya Nara Prison, a red brick building built in 1908 was classified as an Important Cultural Property of Japan due to its historical significance and architectural excellence paving the way for its transformation into a luxury hotel with 48 suites. Each suite has a separate area for dining and living. There's a lounge and dining hall where you can indulge in Japanese and French cuisine. It will retain its prison era identity both in its name and a museum on the premises.

Opening in June
<https://hoshinoresorts.com/en/hotels/hoshinoyanarakangoku/>



Waldorf Astoria London Admiralty Arch, United Kingdom

History and a royal past will soon turn London's Admiralty Arch into one of the British capital's most coveted hotel addresses. Standing directly opposite Buckingham Palace with The Mall on one side and Trafalgar Square on the other, the landmark was commissioned by King Edward VII in memory of Queen Victoria and later served as the office and residence of Winston Churchill. This year it begins a new life as the city's first Waldorf Astoria with 100 luxurious rooms and suites, a spa and wellness sanctuary. Chefs Clare Smyth and Daniel Boulud, who hold seven Michelin stars between them, will helm two speciality restaurants. Head to the rooftop terrace or stay in a two-bedroom suite on the fourth floor for uninterrupted views of Buckingham Palace.

**Opening between November
and December**
www.hilton.com/en/brands/waldorf-astoria/



↑ JW Marriott Ranthambore Resort & Spa Rajasthan

Next time you set out to catch a sight of the Royal Bengal Tiger in its most prolific home, do it in the lap of luxury from the 127 tented suites and family tents that JW Marriott is bringing to the edge of the Ranthambore National Park in Rajasthan. When the safari is over, dine under the stars on food made from fresh organic produce from the garden on the premises, hit the gym, or indulge in a pampering session at the spa. There's also a kids club to keep them busy while you relax at the Safari Lounge.

Opening between October and December
<https://jw-marriott.marriott.com/>

The Leela Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

This year, the Golden City will welcome yet another luxury property. Sprawled across 30 acres on the edge of the Thar desert, The Leela Jaisalmer will open with 80 rooms and tented villas. Located close to Jaisalmer Fort, it will be a tranquil desert retreat with a spa to pamper yourself in, a pool, a man-made lake and multiple dining options. In a city that is fast emerging as a favourite destination for the big, fat Indian wedding, a grand pillarless ballroom and expansive courtyards promise to provide a dramatic setting for milestone events.

Opening month yet to be announced
www.theleela.com/



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Six Senses Dubai, UAE

In a city where vertiginous architectural frills dominate the hotel landscape, Six Senses will carve a different path in its UAE debut. Located on Palm Jumeirah's West Crescent, along a private beach stretch, the focus is on seclusion. Inspired by coral reefs, the architecture with curved rooflines, a shaded garden, winding walkways and courtyards permeates a sense of calm. While the hotel, with 61 rooms and 172 branded residences is contemporary in design, the resort places the majlis—a traditional Emirati gathering space—at its heart, with the concept reflected across its restaurants, bars, pool, library, games room, and kids' club. The brand's holistic living mantra will be moored in a massive 60,000 square feet wellness space, social club and signature Six Senses spa.

Opening between March and August

www.sixsenses.com/en/new-openings/the-palm-dubai/

Rosewood Rome, Italy

If you fancy indulging in a Roman Bath in the former underground vault of a bank, then head to Rosewood Rome when it opens. One of Rome's most storied addresses—the former headquarters of Italy's Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL), that dates back to the 1900's. Overlooking Via Veneto, one of the city's most elegant boulevards, the hotel will have 155 rooms including 50 suites housed in the former bank and two adjoining buildings. Besides the subterranean Roman Bath, there will also be a rooftop spa. The hotel, not too far away from the Trevi Fountain, will also house a rooftop bar with sweeping views of the city, while a contemporary Italian bistro, lobby bar and cafe will complete the Roman experience.

Opening date yet to be announced

<https://www.rosewoodhotels.com/en/rome>



Four Seasons Resort Red Sea at Shura Island, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's hottest new tourism hub, the Red Sea coastline, will see this ultra-luxury resort open on Shura island. Surrounded by turquoise waters on three sides, some of the hotel's 149 rooms and suites will have views of the sea while others have beach access. From scuba diving and snorkelling to discover the vibrant treasures of the Red Sea, which has one of the world's largest barrier reef systems to kitesurfing, kayaking and more, water sports could be the highlight of your stay. Cuisines will range from Mediterranean, Levantine to Italian, at its six restaurants and lounges.

Opening between January and April

<https://www.fourseasons.com/redseashuraisland/>



The Langham, Custom House, Bangkok, Thailand

One of the most anticipated hotels opening in Bangkok this year will be a riverfront property located in an iconic building dating back to 1888 on the Chao Phraya River. Once a prominent gateway to the city, the historic Customs House with its impressive neo-Palladian architecture, grand staircase and impressive four storey hallway will be the centrepiece of a larger complex that fuses the past and present. A former post office in the complex will offer modern amenities while a new building will house 78 luxurious rooms. One of the signature restaurants, T'ang Court, The Langham, is an outpost of Hong Kong's three Michelin-star Cantonese restaurant. In a city famed for its wellness treatments, the Chuan Spa will offer rejuvenating therapies.

Opening between November and December

www.langhamhotels.com/en/the-langham/bangkok/

