

FATFILER®

Travel Guide 2022

The 101 best hotels in the world



The dream team

*They're smooth, they're sharp, they make things happen.
All hail the glamorous lynchpins of hotel life*



The inviting pool at Can Ferrereta where modern style meets Balearic rusticity



Miguel Garcia Feliz

CAN FERRERETA

Santanyi, Mallorca

According to charismatic general manager Miguel, some of the most beautiful beaches in Mallorca can be found near this sleepy, ochre-tinted town in

the south. And he would know: The Connaught hotel alumnus has an innate understanding of the local area – and a knack for bringing it to life for his guests. Ask and he'll tell you about the Norfolk pines that tower over the cobbled courtyards (legacies of the well-travelled family that once lived in the house, parts of which date back to the 17th century); or about the weekly market, which his chefs scour for the freshest tomatoes, ready to blitz into a glorious gazpacho at La Fresca restaurant; or about the Moorish influence, evidenced in the jade-green pool flanked by 100-year-old olive trees. Miguel also has a sixth sense for what his guests need: be it a quiet corner to retreat to – the sitting room with its linen sofas and coffee-table books; a recommendation at dinner – the lobster rice, perhaps?; or a place to unwind after a day of exploring, such as Sa Calma spa. Miguel makes Can Ferrereta a place to enjoy the simpler things while time stands still – nothing beats sipping a gin and tonic, as the evening sun sets the walls aflame. *Doubles from £270, including breakfast (hotelcanferrereta.com).*

LA CHÈVRE D'OR

Èze, France

Hugging the cliffside above the bay of Èze Bord de Mer, this place is about extravagance and one of the best views from any restaurant anywhere. So it takes a special soul such as Mauritian-born Thierry Naidu – who has been this magical property's GM for 22 years – to continue adding a superlative sparkle, and to keep his restaurant-with-rooms the discreet and beautiful star (including two hard-defended Michelin ones) that it is. It was loved by Walt Disney – who is largely responsible for it being turned from a destination restaurant to a small hotel – and over the years has expanded with the purchase of various nearby buildings and houses, to which Thierry has added a few more infinity pools. There is no shortage of fans – so many brides want their weddings here – but despite the demand, he knows how to keep it from being overcrowded and overbuilt.



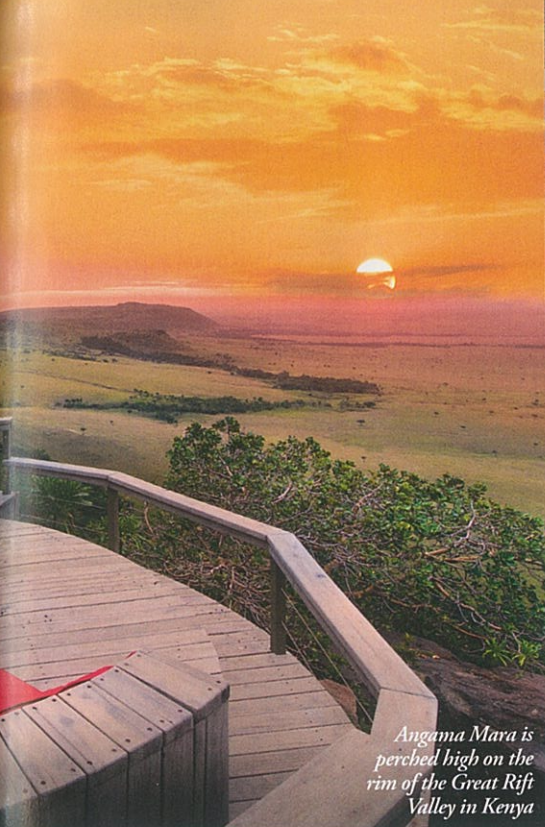
Thierry Naidu

Thierry, who first trained in the kitchen, is the epitome of good taste: witness his successful quest to engage Arnaud Faye as La Chèvre d'Or's newest chef. Today, the restaurant continues to host glamorous guests, all drawn by Faye's exquisite fare. And alongside them, the long-serving sommelier Philippe Magne also has that extra something. What sets this top team apart is their kindness, elegance and generosity of spirit.

Doubles from £380 (chevredor.com).

Steeply terraced grounds at La Chèvre d'Or are filled with sculptures





Angama Mara is perched high on the rim of the Great Rift Valley in Kenya



Belgravia beckons from the wrap-around terrace of The Berkeley's Crescent Pavilion Penthouse



Knut Wylde

THE BERKELEY

London, England

Knut Wylde is joy personified – as is his establishment, from its storybook beach huts (and winter cabins), Blahnik-shaped cookies in the Prêt-à-Portea café to its new infinity pool. ‘We’re the naughty sister to Claridge’s and The Connaught,’ says Knut. Not that this affects the style, service and incredible sophistication. Knut was previously the hotel manager at Claridge’s, with stints at Coworth Park; he also launched the One&Only Reethi Rah in the Maldives and Rosewood’s first Caribbean property – but there’s more to his management than aiming to be the best. During the pandemic, he and the team under his exceptional hotel manager, Lee Kelly, provided 800-plus meals a day to frontline workers, and also helped to provide more than 50,000 meals to the elderly and vulnerable. A very special general manager indeed. *Doubles from £535 (the-berkeley.co.uk).*

SINGITA KWITONDA

Rubengeri, Rwanda

After spending one precious hour with the gorillas in the high-altitude cloud forest, it’s not unusual to feel physically and emotionally spent. Cosy and nurturing surroundings with intuitive service – whether you’re after ginger tea or a stiff drink – are what Singita Kwitonda offers under the unobtrusive leadership of Lydia Nzayo. After arriving back at the lodge, guests have their sore limbs soothed by therapists – the vast bathrooms all have massage tables – and chefs serve fall-off-the-bone roast lamb to parties at the kitchen counter. Born in Rwanda but raised in Europe, Lydia swapped Barcelona for the hills of Volcanoes National Park ahead of this lodge’s long-awaited opening in 2019. As a single woman, it took courage to return to her roots. Lydia can hold her own in Kinyarwanda and Swahili, which eases cooperation with local suppliers and park wardens, and is proud to be part of her country’s conservation success story. *Doubles from £1,520, full board (singita.com).*



Lydia Nzayo

Soak in views of Volcanoes National Park from the deck at Kataza House lodge at Singita Kwitonda

PHOTOGRAPHS: ANDREW MOORE; ARTURO + LAUREN; ELSA YOUNG; HELEN CATHCART; JAMIE MCGREGOR SMITH; PASCAL LATTES; VINCENT LEROUX

ONES TO WATCH SIX SENSES ROME

Poised to take the lead of Six Senses’ first property in Italy, **Francesca Tozzi** is a Roman who has held prime positions managing such glamorous dolce vita shrines as Il Pellicano and Villa La Massa with great aplomb.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL HONG KONG

Amanda Hyman is this illustrious group’s secret weapon: she saw MO London through its landmark reopening. Now she’s off to the fabled island, the wonderful Torsten van Dulleman will take over at Hyde Park.

MAYBOURNE RIVIERA

Slick as can be, this new role for **Boris Messmer**, a former deputy GM at The Connaught, will no doubt see him thrive: a rising new star on this mythical stretch of French coastline.

‘Wallis blue’, the Duchess’s favourite colour, adds a feminine touch to the Windsor Suite at Ritz Paris



RITZ PARIS

Paris, France

Marc Raffray, who joined from the Hôtel de Crillon in 2019, is keen to add more glitz to the Ritz, while keeping its individuality. At the back of the hotel, on Rue Cambon, a glamorous new lobby becomes a cocktail bar at night, when a central lantern rises to cast the signs of the zodiac across the ceiling. The spa, pool menu and restaurant (reopening this year) are also in his sights. Meanwhile, the subterranean pool, with separate sauna and steam rooms for men and women, is a marvel: celadon mosaic tiles, columns and a ceiling painted like the sky. In the bedrooms, figs, champagne, chocolates and peach-coloured roses await – as do marble fireplaces, embroidered floral fabrics and golden swan-head taps. From the balconies, there are glorious views of the fountain in the leafy garden, lit up at night. ‘This hotel is a woman, very feminine,’ says Marc. *Doubles from £1,020 (ritzparis.com).* □



Marc Raffray