



ABOVE: CRYSTAL PALACE, VENICE. BELOW: VIEWS AT THE HUNTLEY. CENTRE AND BOTTOM: HEAD START IN RAPA NUI

From remote luxury to beach chic, Léa Teuscher checks into the hottest new openings around the world

newcomers



BEACH LIFE

USA
THE HUNTLEY
SANTA MONICA

Located in a tree-lined street only one block back from the beach, The Huntley is now Santa Monica's most glamorous address. A recent refurbishment has transformed the old Sixties building. Oval armchairs sit on thick carpets; creams and greens are splashed on the walls, and there are schools of white fish sculptures. Each bedroom has a spacious work area and window benches, from which you can take in the stunning Pacific views. The entire top floor is dedicated to the Penthouse Restaurant and Ultra Lounge. Sit in one of the six oversized, white lacquered cabanas lit by Murano chandeliers and skylights, and sample the fusion menu. Chef Michael Reidt draws inspiration from Brazil, Asia and beyond, sourcing seasonal ingredients from the local farmers' markets. Munch on sugar cane skewered scallops, tuck into a delicious caramel-balsamic ice-cream and admire the 360-degree views over the ocean, the Malibu mountains and the LA skyline. Double room from £157, breakfast in bed and overnight valet parking included (00 1 310 394 5454; thehuntleyhotel.com). **Come here for:** a taste of Californian sun and glamour.

CAPITAL ELEGANCE

UK
THE LEVIN
LONDON

Hidden away between Harrods and Harvey Nichols, The Levin will not stay a secret of the fashionistas for long. Knightsbridge's famous stores, the renowned boutiques of Beauchamp Place and the chic shops of Sloane Square are just a designer bag's throw from this charming boutique hotel. The décor is both sophisticated and comfortable, and the stylish 12 rooms come with chestnut and nickel furniture, silk paper wall coverings, giant chandeliers and Italian marble; some suites have kept their original fireplaces. In the Thirties-inspired reception area with turquoise walls and beige curtains, dark green loveseats take centre stage. In the bedrooms, the tones are warmer, with red and ochre stripes and bold patterns. The Metro restaurant is great for a spot of afternoon tea; wash down tasty home-made scones and delicate sandwiches with a fresh cup of tea. And if you're tired of shopping, no problem – head to Hyde Park for a relaxing stroll, or to the South Kensington museums for a bit of culture. Double room from £195, breakfast included (020 7589 6286; thelevinhotel.co.uk). **Come here for:** classic rooms in shopping paradise.



ABOVE, RIGHT AND BELOW RIGHT: HIGH PISTE OF LUXURY IN CHAMONIX. CENTRE AND BOTTOM: SHOP, THEN DROP AT THE LEVIN



SKI CHIC

FRANCE LES GRANGES D'EN HAUT CHAMONIX

What better way to spend a cold winter weekend than to snuggle up by the fire in a cosy chalet facing Mont Blanc? The little Alpine hamlet of Les Granges d'en Haut makes for a perfect ski retreat. Gathered around a Baroque chapel, the 14 luxury wooden chalets sit on the slopes next to old mountain barns, snowy fields and ancient pine forests. Each chalet sleeps eight and comes with full hotel services, a private sauna, and a lovely, light living room that opens on a huge terrace and the white peaks of the Chamonix Valley beyond. In the bedrooms and lounge, the faded pastel colours and rustic furniture give the rooms a wonderfully welcoming feel; in the bathrooms and kitchen, dark granite and grey oak complete the swish décor. Explore the excellent pistes on your doorstep, then for the ultimate après-ski, try the Silver Spa. The tranquil treatment rooms overlook the forest, while the indoor swimming pool faces Mont Blanc. Four-bedroom chalet from £1,160 per night, including room and concierge service and private ski transfer (00 33 4 5091 4870; grangesdenhaut.com).

Come here for: fresh snow, a luxury chalet and Mont Blanc.

WATER PALACE

ITALY HOTEL PALAZZO BARBARIGO VENICE

Visit Venice for the carnival and you'll have the chance to enter into the spirit with a stay in a 16th-century Venetian palazzo, decked out with ultra-modern furniture and inspired by the elegance of the city's Golden Twenties. The pink palazzo overlooks the Grand Canal, and most of its rooms are perfectly positioned to observe the elegant gondolas and crowded vaporettos. You can even pull up in your own motorboat and enter the hotel via its private landing stage. Inside, the plush Art Deco bar has inspired the architects to transform the 12 rooms and six suites with a dramatic scheme of lush gold and black wallpaper and fantastic pieces of dark furniture. Everything here glitters and sparkles, just like carnival masks in the cold February night. The cool bar is the place to sip a Bellini before heading to nearby La Fenice for a spot of opera. The Palazzo Grassi and the Guggenheim are only a few bridges away, and so is the romantic Rialto with its charming Pescheria or fish market, and lovely restaurants. Double room from £185 (00 800 3746 8357; designhotels.com).

Come here for: views on the Grand Canal and the carnival.

VOLCANIC RETREAT

CHILE POSADA DE MIKE RAPU EASTER ISLAND

A dot in the blue vastness of the Pacific Ocean, Rapa Nui (or Easter Island) is famous for its giant stone heads and fascinating culture. Thanks to Explora, specialist in remote but well-appointed hotels in South America, you can now stay in the first luxury retreat on the mysterious island. Posada de Mike Rapu is an eco-friendly sanctuary combining fresh, clean lines with local natural materials. The building, perched out of the rock to mirror the topography of the island; floors and ceilings vary in height to reflect the volcanic landscapes. Local yellow-grey stone has been used throughout, while the bespoke furniture is made of reddish Rauli wood. Join the expert local guides for hikes by the crater lakes and picnics in hidden caves, sample sweet-and-sour Polynesian chicken in the glass-walled kitchen, or hit the town to celebrate Tapati Rapa Nui, a local festival taking place every February. Double room from £1,737, three nights minimum, full board, including transfers and daily explorations with bilingual guides (00 56 2206 6060; explora.com).

Come here for: a remote sanctuary in the Pacific Ocean. □