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Gadling's favorite hotels for  
2011



## Gadling's favorite hotels for 2011

by [Alex Robertson Textor](#) (RSS feed) on Dec 8th 2010 at 10:30AM



Where do your loyal well-traveled Gadling contributors especially love to spend the night? We polled Gadling writers on their favorite hotels in 2010. Think of Gadling's favorite hotels for 2011 as our version of a hotel tip sheet.

**Laurel Miller.** The [Kirketon](#) in Sydney for its quirkiness, cool bar, small size, helpful staff and retro-mod style, blissfully free of big-city attitude. [Southern Ocean Lodge](#) on Kangaroo Island, South Australia as a once-in-a-lifetime indulgence in a staggeringly beautiful, intimate setting hovering over a private beach covered with wallaby tracks. For high-end luxury, Ecuador's [Hacienda Zuleta](#). It's historic, in the foothills of Andes in northern Ecuador, a working dairy/horse farm/creamery/condor preserve. It offers an intensely Ecuadorean experience, from the local indigenous culture to hospitality, geography, and food that is worth the trek. And lastly [theWit](#) in Chicago with its ideal location on the Loop, across the street from the river.

**Mike Barish.** The [Wort Hotel](#) in Jackson, Wyoming. Located right in the heart of Jackson, a historic hotel steeped in cowboy tradition. Grab a drink at the hotel's Silver Dollar Bar after a day exploring Grand Teton National Park.

**Grant Martin.** Favorite hotel of the year was the [Elysian](#), right in downtown Chicago. Beautiful, huge rooms, clean, elegant and sharp appointments, razor-sharp staff and a perfect location make this the best spot to spend a long weekend in the Loop.

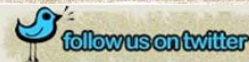
**Annie Scott.** The [Capella Hotel](#) in Singapore remains a favorite, as does the [Hotel Imperial](#) in Vienna. I'm a sucker for luxury. I also loved staying at [Sanctuary Sussi & Chuma](#), a treehouse hotel in Zambia, despite a harrowing adventure with a giant bug which I eventually captured with a teacup and saucer.

**McLean Robbins.** [CastaDiva Resort, Lake Como](#). Opened in June, this is the first five-star resort to open on the lake in about 100 years. It's stunning and unique. Used to be a private home to the muse of Bellini, sat empty for decades before being gutted and re-done. Top-notch service, food and spa.

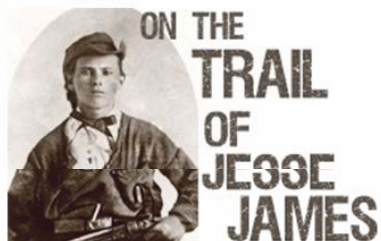
**Don George.** This year's hotel highlights were the following trio in Peru. All combined great style and comfort with a deep sense of immersion in the local place, through their architecture, cuisine, artful decorations, and programs that featured local people to promote local sights and attractions. In Urubamba: [Sol & Luna](#). In Aguas Calientes: [Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel](#). In Cusco: [Inkaterra La Casona](#).

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Tom Johansmeyer: My favorite hotel will always be [On the Ave](#), on W 77th Street, between Amsterdam Ave and Broadway in Manhattan. I once lived there for [a few months](#), and while doing so, I fell in love with the Upper West Side, ultimately moving into the neighborhood. Since my stay in 2004 the rooms have been renovated, but the sixteenth-floor terrace remains. On your next trip to the city, skip the big names, and head up to my neighborhood: it's worth it to stay a bit out of the way.

Melanie Nayer. Sticking with the Shanghai theme (see yesterday's [favorite destinations post](#)) my favorite hotel this year is the [Ritz-Carlton Shanghai, Pudong](#).

Karen Walrond. I'm a big fan of the boutique hotel. Recently I stayed at [Hotel Lucia](#) in Portland and was blown away by the customer service, and it's not too expensive. In my homeland of Trinidad, I love the [Coblentz Inn](#), an upscale little boutique place. I also love [Acajou](#), an upscale-yet-very-rustic eco lodge in Grand Riviere, Trinidad. Lovely.

David Farley. The [Royal Park Hotel](#) in Tokyo. If you can, get upgraded. Upgrades mean an early-evening cocktail hour with complimentary drinks and snacks every evening.

Kraig Becker. The [Chico Hot Spring Resort](#) located in Montana, just north of Yellowstone National Park in the beautiful Absaroka Mountains. Rooms start as low as \$49/night and range up to \$300/night for luxurious cabins with some of the most spectacular views around. After a gourmet meal in the Chico dining room, guests can soak in the pool, which is drained and refilled each night with water from the local hot springs.

Catherine Bodry. [Songtsam hotels in China](#)

Alex Robertson Textor. [Buenos Aires cE Hotel de Diseño](#). I loved the hotel's location and thorough minimalism (concrete walls and floors) as well as the ample room size and delicious breakfast. The rate, which I found through [Tablet Hotels](#), was also very reasonable, at \$109 including taxes.

[Image: Flickr | [doug\\_wertman](#)]

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