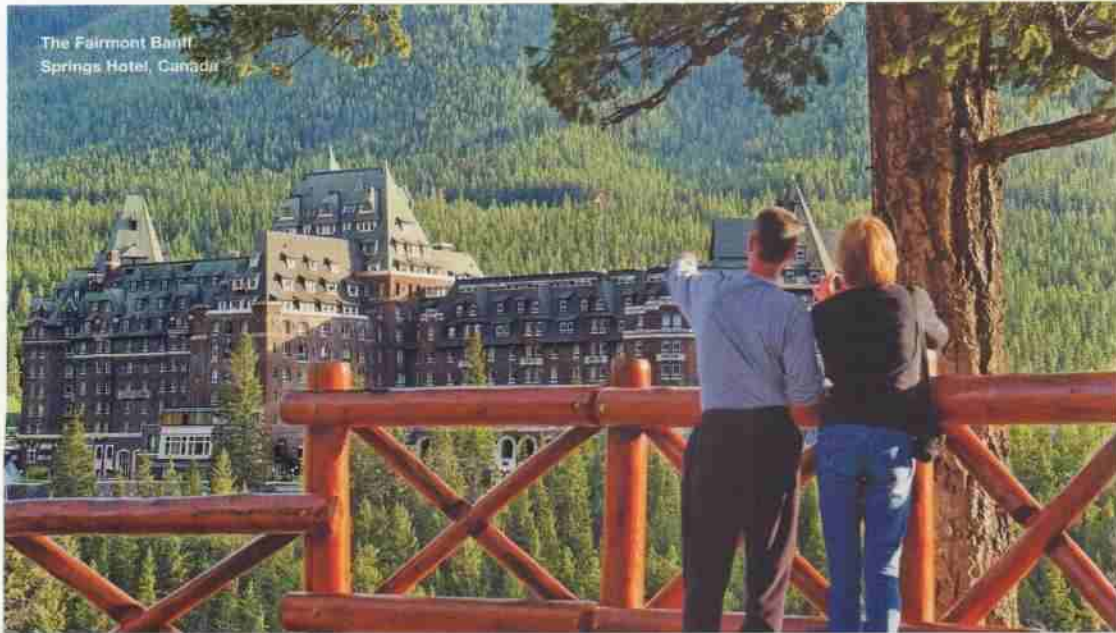


» MORE TOP PLACES

MOUNTAIN RETREATS, REFUGES & GETAWAYS



Fairmont Banff Springs, Canada

One of the great Canadian railway hotels built in Scottish Baronial style, this castle in the Rockies rises within the conifer forests of Banff National Park in British Columbia. Up above, turrets and dormers reach into the sky, while crackling fireplaces and a grandiose lobby keep things warm and cozy.

Kimamaya, Japan

This luminous barnlike hotel is located in the ski region of Niseko-Hirafu on Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido. Its stone-and-oak *onsen* (thermal bath inn) is the ideal après-ski spot to soak and relax after a day swooshing down the powdery slopes.

Grand Hotel Tremezzo, Italy

This century-old charmer on the hydrangea-lined banks of Lake Como remains one of the best examples of Italian Liberty-style architecture, and a new spa and floating pool have added some contemporary luxury to this grand old hotel.

Oberoi Wildflower Hall, India

Nestled high above Shimla in the Indian Himalaya amid virgin cedar and pine forests, this former palace of Lord Kitchener has been transformed into a grand English colonial resort, with horseback riding and rafting over the heaving Sutlej River.

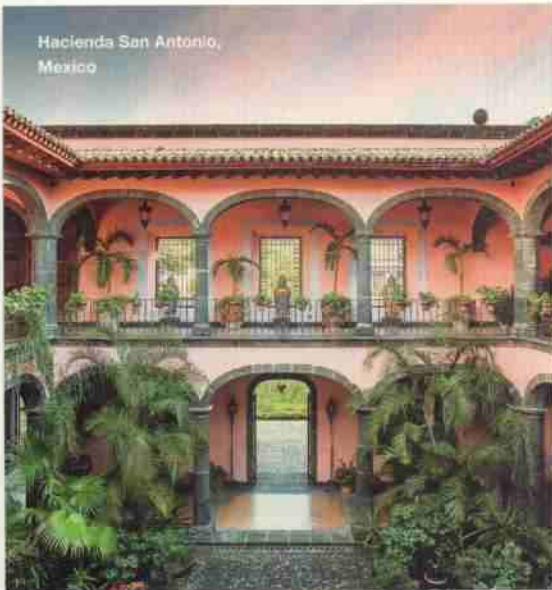
Juvet Landscape Hotel, Norway

The mountain chalet gets an übermod update in these seven carefully designed rectangular modules, each fronted with a glass wall overlooking a mountainous Nordic landscape of birch, moss, and the tinkling turquoise water of the Valdøla River. Visitors are urged to disconnect (digitally) during their stay.

Berggasthaus Aescher-Wildkirchli, Switzerland

This rustic mountain lodge, built directly into a cliff face in the Appenzell Alps, is reached only via footpath through caves where bears and hermits lived 500 years ago. Shared rooms are rugged, but the view bathed in the golden morning light is memorable.





Hacienda San Antonio,
Mexico

Hacienda San Antonio, Mexico

Deep in the central Mexican mountains, this remote 19th-century coffee plantation turned hotel awaits guests. The pink *casa grande* is made of volcanic stone from nearby (and active) Mount Colima, set among fountains and shaded trails.

Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, Peru

Throw back a Pisco Sour (Peru's classic drink, starring the namesake brandy) while gazing at the lush cloud forest from one of 85 private casitas at this luxurious eco-resort, complete with on-property musicians and nightly nature shows.

Hotel Salto Chico, Chile

This contemporary hotel sits within yards of Patagonia's Salto Chico waterfall in southern Chile, while the peaks of the Paine massif loom behind it like a gigantic spectral ghost. But the majesty of nearby Lago Pehoe and Torres del Paine National Park are the real stars.

Gstaad Palace, Switzerland

A Gilded Age hotel that lords over the tiny alpine village of Gstaad like a giant chess rook, this is Switzerland's definitive party palace, home to the infamous GreenGo Club, a swank disco with its own sprawling indoor pool. Oversize terraces abound.



Switzerland's Gstaad Palace,
a glowing beacon in its small
namesake town