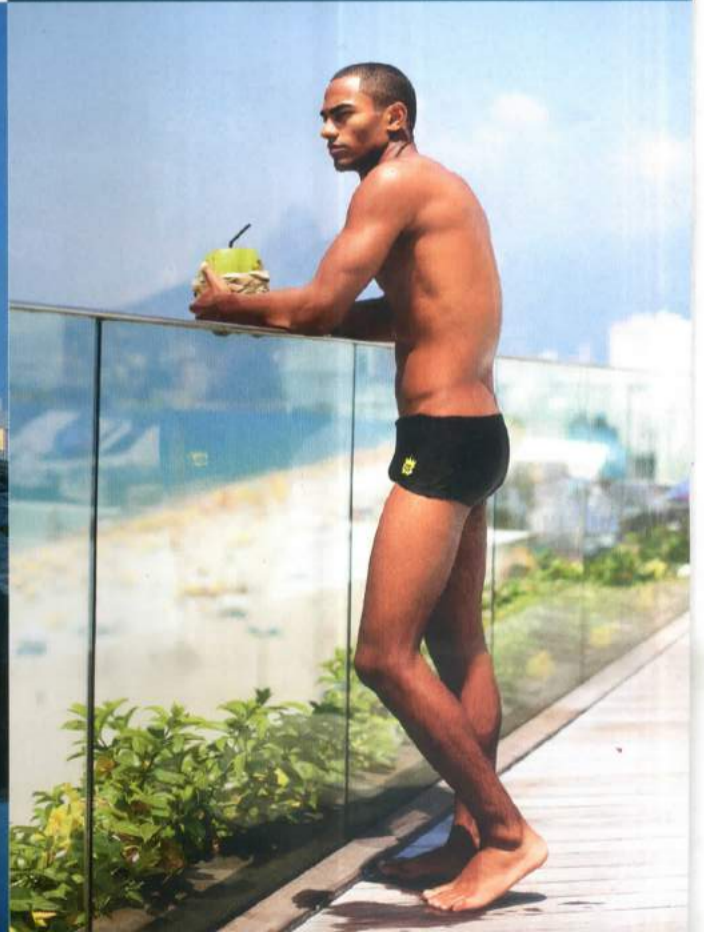
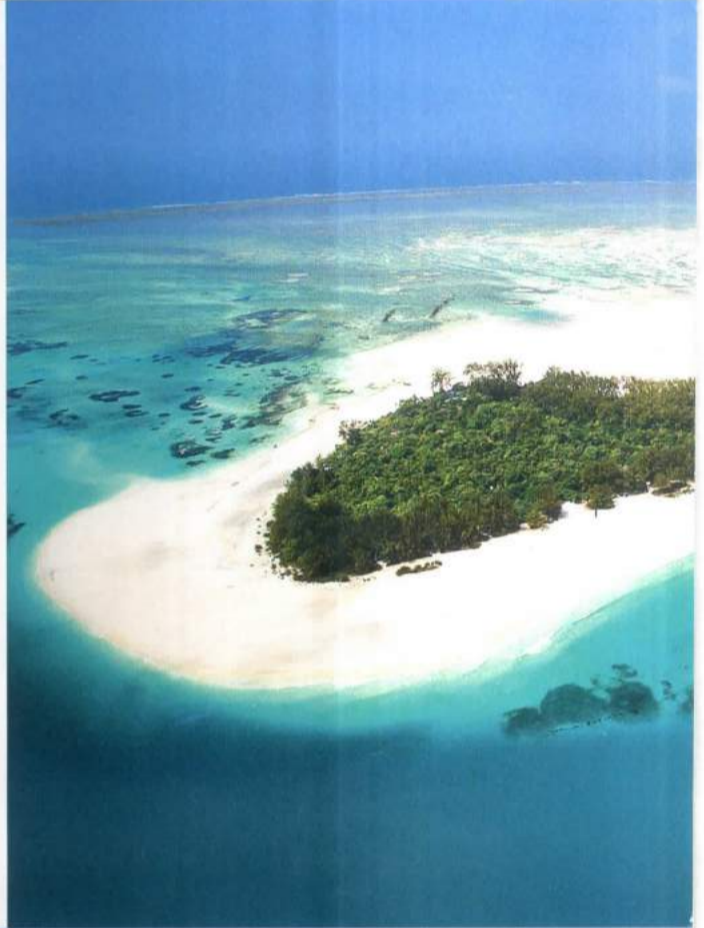




OUR GUIDE TO THE
50
GREATEST *HOTELS*
IN THE WORLD





BELLE MONT FARM

St Kitts - CARIBBEAN

SET A THOUSAND foot up in the rainforested hills of northern St Kitts, Belle Mont Farm opened just over a year ago and strives to be a game-changer in the world of sustainable luxury. Created by the charismatic Trinidadian entrepreneur Val Kempadoo, and built and staffed by islanders, it sits on a 400-acre organic farm, with uplifting views across to the neighbouring island of St Eustatius. The 84 wooden guesthouses designed by star architect Bill Bensley come in a grand, Caribbean-colonial style with a majestic four-poster bed, private plunge pool and outdoor bath. Activities include mountain hikes and

golf (on a pioneering organic course), but the most compelling reason to visit is the groundbreaking cuisine served in The Kitchen restaurant. Here, French chef Christophe Letard is not only rethinking ways to use local ingredients such as sorrel, christophene and guava, he's also teaching Kittitians how to follow his innovative style. The result is a banquet of farm-to-table treats, including a delightful tropical breakfast served in the nursery gardens and a Sunday brunch served with free-flowing Bollinger. *NT Doubles from £731; bellemontfarm.com*
Full review telegraph.co.uk/bellemontfarm

INKATERRA LA CASONA

Cuzco - PERU

CUZCO, imperial capital of the Inca, was adopted by the conquering Spanish as the ideal location for their grandest palaces, churches and mansions. La Casona, on a beautiful plaza in the San Blas district, is thought to be the oldest colonial building in the city and was briefly the home of liberator Simón Bolívar. Carefully restored before opening in 2008 – it became Peru's first Relais & Châteaux hotel a year later – it still feels like a conquistador's private residence. The Old World dark-wood furniture, faded frescoes and antiques harmonise well with the earthy hues of Andean throws and exposed stonework. Eleven sumptuous and spacious suites overlook the plaza or inner courtyards, and all have private dining spaces as well as stone fireplaces, heated wooden floors and marble bathrooms. Plaza Suite Two, the largest, was occupied by conquistador Diego de Almagro. The in-house restaurant serves quinoa pancakes and coca tea for breakfast and Peruvian fusion food (guinea pig confit, Andean trout in Brazil-nut tempura) for lunch and dinner. The small Yacu spa has an ecclesiastical calm. Staff are low-key, courteous to a fault, and speak impeccable English. On the doorstep is the Museum of Pre-Columbian Art and most major sights as well as many of Cuzco's best restaurants. *CM Doubles from £280; inkaterra.com*
Full review telegraph.co.uk/inkaterralacasona



MASHPI LODGE

Chocó - ECUADOR

WHEN THIS MODERN, minimalist, glass-walled jungle lodge opened in 2012, it changed the accommodation game in South America. Architect Alfredo Ribadeneira's "protective cocoon" would impress in a modern city; in the depths of the Andean cloudforest, it is wild, audacious and beautiful. Though only 70 miles from Quito, Mashpi Lodge sits in splendid isolation, perched on a cliff at the end of an unsealed road. Sensitive tucked into the canopy, you don't see it till you arrive. Inside, grey tiled floors, natural hues and exposed tubing mean nothing detracts from what guests are here to experience: the greenery that wraps around the hotel's huge walls of clear tempered glass. The 22 rooms maintain the clean design lines, featuring bamboo-and-glass décor, soft rugs and plush armchairs. Three Yaku suites are more spacious, and come with Philippe Starck baths. Days kick off with pre-breakfast birdwatching, before heading to the butterfly sanctuary, observation tower, aerial canopy ride and jungle trails. Biodiversity is breathtaking in the Chocó-Darién region, and the olinguito – the first carnivorous mammal discovered in 35 years – can be observed here. Adventures completed and species ticked, a Jacuzzi, cocktail and Peruvian fusion food await. *CM Doubles from £864; mashpilodge.com*
Full review telegraph.co.uk/mashpilodge



THE RANCH AT ROCK CREEK

Montana - USA

INVESTMENT BANKER James Manley saw 500 ranches before he found one that matched his wishlist. A valley to ensure privacy: check. A mountain he could ski on: check. "A cool Western town" nearby: check. He didn't want grizzlies, rattlesnakes or cougars (though there are elk, moose, deer, less dangerous bears and wolves). The altitude needed to be not so elevated as to cause mountain sickness. And he wanted a river teeming with trout. Eventually he settled on 6,800 acres of the Anaconda-Pintler wilderness, restored its 19th-century buildings and added a granite lodge, some long cabins (the loveliest are Bluebird and Eagle's Perch) and a row of riverfront tents. The real appeal, however, is the activities: all the riding, shooting, fishing, archery, mountain biking and, in winter, skiing, skating, snowmobiling, sledding and sleigh rides you have the energy for are included, as are three meals a day and drinks, even in its Silver Dollar Saloon, where you sit on swivelling saddles at a bar encrusted with real silver dollars. There's nowhere better to connect with your inner Jesse James. *CW Doubles from £1,290; theranchatrockcreek.com*
Full review telegraph.co.uk/ranchatrockcreek