



## Virtuoso® Best Of The Best: A Look At The Hottest Hotel Trends Awaiting Luxury Travelers This Year

HTFO | Jan 14, 2017 | Comments 0

NEW YORK — Virtuoso, the global network of luxury travel agencies, has released the 2017 *Best of the Best* directory, featuring its exclusive collection of hotels and new experiential itineraries. The largest collection to date, with a record-setting 656 pages, includes 75 new properties, bringing the total portfolio to more than 1,150 hotels in 100 countries. Here are the top trends and insights seen among recent additions to the Virtuoso Hotels & Resorts collection.



**Luxury Hotel Boom in Emerging Destinations:** According to the 2017 Virtuoso Luxe Report, South Africa, Portugal and Colombia are among the hottest up-and-coming destinations this year. As a result, a new crop of luxury hotels and resorts are opening, such as South Africa's Tswalu Kalahari and Six Senses Douro Valley in Portugal, giving travelers more options in these emerging regions.

**Hotel Lobbies that Really "Work":** Hotels are continuing to reinvent the functionality of lobby spaces by creating ultra-cool lounges as places to meet, network and conduct business. The Palace Hotel in San Francisco offers a stunning historic court, with people on laptops gathering in a bar equipped with Wi-Fi and outlets. The new *Four Seasons* in downtown Manhattan offers lobby-specific amenities, such as laptops and interpreters for business meetings.

**Hotels Bring the Destination to Life:** To accommodate travelers' growing desire for authentic and adventurous experiences, hotels are increasing on- and off-property activities. Virtuoso has also responded to this demand by expanding *Best of the Best* to feature 76 pages of cultural itineraries, including sushi making with one of Tokyo's top chefs, camel rides along Erg Chebbi – the largest dunes in the Sahara – and nighttime safaris in Laos. Hotels immersed in the region's terrain also play an important role in attracting travelers. Those include Amanera Resort, recently opened in the heart of Dominican Republic's jungle, and the new Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba, based in Peru's Sacred Valley of the Incas.

**Boutique Reigns King:** The desire for personalized travel experiences and Instagram-worthy design continues to drive the popularity of boutique hotels. Of the 40 properties accepted into Virtuoso since June 2016, 60 percent have fewer than 100 rooms. New additions include Ted Turner's one-room Ladder Ranch in New Mexico, where guests will have outstanding wildlife-spotting opportunities on the 156,000-acre property, and at his 18-room Sierra Grande Lodge & Spa, also in New Mexico, guests can enjoy outdoor hot springs, which were first established by the region's Native Americans as a healing tradition.

**Wellness 3.0:** The rapidly growing travel niche is expected to hit \$680 billion this year. It is expanding 50 percent faster than the overall tourism industry and hotels are responding accordingly. Mii amo, a destination spa in Sedona, goes beyond traditional treatments by offering restorative therapies such as Reiki, a Japanese technique for stress reduction, and Clinique La Prairie in Switzerland is a pioneering medical retreat that combines cell therapy and holistic wellness.

*Best of the Best* is currently being distributed to the homes of 150,000 of Virtuoso's best clients, as selected by their advisor. To view the directory online, click [here](#).

Now celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Virtuoso Hotels & Resorts is the longest running and most prestigious program available to travelers. Virtuoso provides guests with exclusive benefits worth up to \$450 per stay with value-added amenities such as spa treatments and rounds of golf when a visit is booked through a Virtuoso advisor.

Subscribe Articles Tags Popular

RSS Feed | Comments Feed



Get the latest updates via email.



Privacy guaranteed. We will not share your information.

### Latest News

- [Virtuoso® Best Of The Best: A Look At The Hottest Hotel Trends Awaiting Luxury Travelers This Year](#)
- [Pan Pacific Hotels Group announces departure of CEO](#)
- [The Future Ski Resorts – Will they Survive?](#)
- [Airbnb's CEO Took to Twitter to Ask His Users for Product Feedback:](#)
- [Cruise Lines International Association \(CLIA\) Releases 2017 State of the Cruise Industry Outlook and Cruise Travel Trends Forecast](#)
- [Customer Loyalty Through Neurocost – By Osvaldo Torres Cruz](#)
- [11 tips to keep staff happy over the holidays](#)

### Latest Tweets

➤ Tourism minister calls for rebranding of culture and festivals

<https://t.co/WsfmEiLYaf>

7 days ago



➤ Up the Creek 2017 - Date: 26-29 January 2017 Venue: Swellendam, South Africa Up The Creek Music Festival brings...

<https://t.co/w4YybGhw4j>

7 days ago



➤ Rainbow Serpent Festival 2017 - Date: 27-30 January 2017 Venue: Lexton, Victoria, Australia Rainbow Serpent Fes...

<https://t.co/iHUCQENj922>

7 days ago

