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Hot Hotels '26



No photo in sight: in a 740-hectare stretch of wilderness on Portugal's Atlantic Coast, Credit: Ian Cumming

The year ahead looks exciting with more hotel openings than ever for every kind of traveler. Sarah Miller was on the inside track at ILTM 2025, the industry's leading travel fair.

For those looking for a last-minute ski break in Europe, the following have just opened: Artfarm (the team behind The Five Arms in Braemar) launched Chesa Marchetta, a 13-bedroom hotel and 46-cover restaurant in Switzerland's Engadine, Sils Maria. In Gstaad, Ultima Collection welcomed guests to its luxury chalets' eight bedrooms, wrap-around terrace, private spa with hammam and sauna, snow room and lap pool. In France, Rosewood Courchevel Le Jardin Alpin became the brand's first alpine resort with 51 rooms and suites. And in Italy, ready for Cortina's Winter Olympic Games, came The Carlton, Milan, from Rocco Forte Hotels, on Via Della Spiga—ideal for mixing culture with sports.

Winter

The expansion of major brands into Europe continues with the opening of the Corinthia Rome in February. This 60-key hotel is housed in the restored former seat of Italy's Central Bank, a neoclassical palazzo dating back to 1914. Highlights include an Italian restaurant by renowned chef Carlo Cracco. The opening of Hyatt Regency Rome Central marks the brand's first hotel in Italy. Situated in central Esquiline, a vibrant historic district, it has 238 rooms, including 20 suites, spread across six floors.



RAH GILI MALDIVES

It also has Rome's largest rooftop with 360° wrap-around city views and a 20-meter swimming pool. For those looking to linger longer in the Eternal City, Casa J.K. Place Roma will open with 13 one- to three-bedroom branded residences in a 17th-century palazzo on Via dei Prefetti.

In February, The Newman opens in Fitzrovia, London, with 81 rooms and suites paying homage to the locale's artists, writers and poets of the past. And the first six Senses in the UK finally opens as Six Senses London, with the first Six Senses Place—a private members' concept.

Away from the hustle and bustle, The Set Collection will welcome Shinta Mani Wild and Shinta Mani Angkor at the end of February. New hospitality group SIX & SIX PRIVATE ISLANDS launches two properties in Maldives—the first, RAH GILI MALDIVES, opens in February with 74 private, pool villas, next to an exclusive dolphin sanctuary. The second, DON MAAGA, opening at the end of 2026, will be a more extravagant expression of luxury. Moving to the lush hills of Keral, tulāñ Clinical Wellness is a sanctuary of healing and transformation that opens in February with 65 suites and 14 treatment rooms immersed in rewilded forests, medicinal gardens and regenerative waters. In Rwanda, The Pinnacle Kigali opens in January and South Africa's fashion designer, Thebe Magugu, makes his debut in hospitality on January 31 with the Thebe Magugu Suite at Mount Nelson. A Belmond Hotel, Cape Town, Capella Kyoto, designed by architect Kengo Kuma, opens on Yamatoji-dori, in the historic Miyagawa-chō district, with 89 rooms—including 29 suites, six of which have private Onsen. Closer to home in February, Alila Mayakoba opens on Mexico's Mayan Riviera. The retreat spans 60 acres of mangroves and freshwater canals, with 182 guestrooms, suites and villas.

Vestige Binidu, Spain
Credit: Andi Lui Photography, Vestige Collection

Resort's Gran Hotel Claridge Granada, housed in the historical Plaza de Villamena, brings the Spanish city's rich heritage to life in April with 70 rooms, steps away from the Granada Cathedral and Alhambra. In the Balearics, Mandarin Oriental Punta Negra opens in Mallorca with 131 rooms all within easy reach of Palma de Mallorca and marks the brand's 150th anniversary. On Menorca, Vestige Binidu launches on May 26 with 11 suites, and is the second property to open on the shared 800-hectare estate. On the same day, in Portugal, Na Pria, a 113-key hotel, opens just beyond Comporta. Further north, Kimpton Quinta da Marinha Cascas opens with 198 rooms, of which 10 will be suites, and a spa

One of Valetta's first luxury boutique hotels, Romegas, opens in Malta's capital, situated in a restored 500-year-old palazzo. Its 23 rooms and suites afford sepiia city views.

In Italy, Villa San Michele, a Belmond Hotel, with the most iconic view of Florence, reopens on April 28 with 39 rooms and suites following an 18-month renovation. Also opening in April is Orient Express Venezia at Palazzo Donà Giovannelli in Italy. Originally built in 1436, it has 47 guestrooms, suites and apartments and is situated in Cannaregio. Prestigious French hotel collection Airelles (whose St Tropez property is the next White Lotus location) opens Airelles Palladio, Venezia on April 1. In May, Cavallino Bianco Caorle-Venezia opens on the Adriatic as a five-star resort with 101 luxury suites, and a private beach. In May, Villa Timeo in Taormina, Sicily, opens as an exclusive 21-room residence steps from the legendary Grand Hotel Timeo. A Belmond Hotel, Villa Timeo offers views of the sea, Taormina and its ancient Greek amphitheater. In Greece, the 39-key all-suite oceanfront Luura Cliff opens in Paros in May under the Ennismore portfolio. The big news in London is the opening of Waldorf Astoria London Admiralty Arch—with chefs Clare Smyth and Daniel Boulud as partners.

In France, Château La Commarque opens in March as a five-star hotel in Pommard village, 2.5 miles from Burgundy's wine capital, Beaune. The 37-room property sits within the vineyards on an estate spanning nine acres. On April 24, COMO Le Beauvallon reopens a Belle Époque grand dame near St Tropez, which has hosted luminaries from Winston Churchill to Audrey Hepburn. On May 1, Zannier Hélène de Bendor opens on the private seven-hectare French island of Ile de Bendor. First brought to life in 1950 by anise apéritif pioneer, Paul Ricard, its Provençal-style hotel will reopen as an elegant 93-key boutique hotel, across three locations on the island.

In the Middle East, Rosewood AMAALA, in Triple Bay, will set a new standard for sustainably led hospitality with 110 keys plus 26 branded residences. Tivoli La Vie Muscat opens in Oman

with 79 rooms, 100 serviced residences and rises above the 18-hole LA VIE Club Golf Course. In Africa, Anantara Kafue River Tented Camp opens in Zambia with 12 spacious tents, including a 600-square-meter Presidential Villa.

Kimpton Suntaibali Ubud, Indonesia, opens late spring on the Wos River near Ubud Palace (Puri Saren Agung). Kimpton Tres Rios Riviera Maya, opens amid a nature park along Mexico's Caribbean coast. Amanvari, Aman Resorts' first property in Mexico, opens on the East Cape of Baja California, in the 1,500-acre Costa Palmas Estate, with 18 double-storey casitas. Australia's most remote luxury lodge, Berkeby River Lodge reopens May 1, offering an all-inclusive, five-night experience in the Kimberley wilderness.

Summer

On Crete, near Elounda, Rosewood Blue Palace will be the brand's first property in Greece. In the Baleares, Vestige opens Can Jordi, one of four properties on a shared estate, on Formentera, and the six-bedroom Vestige Son Verdi outside Valldemossa, Mallorca, in 100 hectares of sand dune, olive and almond trees.

Costa Irimio Retreat & Spa, Vignette Collection, opens within Sicily's Macchia Foresta Flume Irimio Nature Reserve, a secluded haven near Marini di Ragusa with 43 rooms and panoramic views of citrus groves and wild nature. Experimental Roma, opening in Rome's Via Veneto district, will offer 83 rooms and suites, a grand restaurant inspired by glamorous Cinecittà and rooftop pool with views of the Colosseum.

June sees the opening of La Réserve Firenze, a 15th-century palazzo on Via Santa Spirito, in Florence's Oltrarno district. In the north of Italy, The First Cortina by The Pavilions Hotels & Resorts opens in August in Cortina d'Ampezzo. Also opening is Borgo Pignano Florence, a restored 15th-century villa and sister property to the renowned Borgo Pignano in Tuscany. Borgo Pignano Florence has 11 historic buildings set in 12 acres—remarkable for a city location.

Shoe designer Christian Louboutin opens his second property in Portugal, Vermelha Lagoa, a transformation of an existing 32-room hotel into an intimate 10-suite property. Preferred Hotels & Resorts' Hotel California Paris, France, near the Champs-Élysées, reopens after a refurbishment of the original Hotel California Paris, built in 1925.

In the Loire Valley, Preferred Hotels & Resorts' Le Relais d'Amboise will be the only five-star hotel in Amboise, with 64 rooms and suites, and a spa in the old 'trogloodyte' caves. Nordelta Son Mar will bring understated luxury to the French Riviera. Set in the coastal town of Beaulieu-sur-Mer will be the Park Hyatt Phu Quoc, Vietnam, opens on the island's southwest tip. InterContinental Lifou Wada Bay, New Caledonia opens as a true frontier of exclusivity, blending Melanesian culture with natural beauty.

Further east, the opening of InterContinental Pokhara Begnas Lake marks the brand's debut in Nepal. Situated on a forested hill with lake views, it has 80 rooms and every detail tells a Himalayan story. KAIA's first resort will open on Koi Phangan, Thailand, with 31 ocean-facing tented suites and four two-bedroom pool villas.

On the coast of Rotterdam, the 231-room Kimpton Post Rotterdam opens in the 1921 POST building, in the heart of the city.

Also launching this summer, is the Reuben Brothers' development of an iconic building—the former In and Out Military club due to open as Cambridge House Auberge in Mayfair, London.

Dukes London completes its refurbishment while for those looking for retreats, The Gallivant Littlestone Beach opens in Kent, on an acre of sand dune, with 13 bedrooms and a Nordic spa. Wildhaye Eshott Hall is a 17th-century manor, near Amble, Northumberland, which also has 10 of Wildhaye's signature wild cabins in the grounds.

Opening in June, Kittrua Plains Lodge is a new star on Kenya's safari circuit. Set on a private concession bordering Amboseli National Park, this all-suite property affords views of Mount Kilimanjaro. Further south, The Claremont Collection launches Sandringham Private Game

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Inland, bookings are open for Abercrombie & Kent's 32-suite Nile Seray and launching in September, in the Peruvian Amazon, is the majestic 15-suite andBeyond Amazon Explorer. By 2030, eight new ships will be introduced to Europe's rivers by AmaWaterways, including Amazônia (Rhine/Danube, spring 2026).

By Rail

This year marks luxury rail travel's golden era. Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, A Belmond Train, journeys, as part of the Villéggiatura by Train 2026 series, for the first time between Paris and the Amalfi Coast. Returning this year is the Culinary Series on Eastern & Oriental Express, A Belmond Train, Chef André Chiang curates menus on board this Singapore-Malaysia journey. From May 10-16, the same luxury train is partnering with The Datal Langkawi, Raffles Singapore and Save Wild Tigers, to offer Tiger Express, a journey through Malaysia supporting vital tiger conservation. A Tastes of Scotland Culinary Series debuts on The Royal Scotsman, A Belmond Train, in May.

Venice Simplon-Orient-Express
Credit: Alice Mazzoni

Bookings are expected to open in Q1 2026 for Saudi Arabia's ultra-luxury train, Dream of the Desert, scheduled to launch this December.

By Car

Luxury automotive experiences this year include the inaugural "Anantara Concorso Roma," which debuts in April, uniting collector cars, Italian design and five-star Roman hospitality. Next up is The Peninsula London's Driving Experience in Scotland this September, starting at The Peninsula London before heading to the Scottish Highlands, with three nights at a 300-year-old Baronial castle at Loch Ness.

By Air

A&K Private Jet Journeys is seeing a 60% surge in bookings, while Bellavia Aviation Services has expanded its "remote access" portfolio with new itineraries in the Aegean and Ionian islands.

By Cressi Sowerbutts



Jean-Michel Cousteau's Riu Palace

and solo travelers alike. If a destination wedding or significant birthday is due, Villa Baulieu (part of the Airelles Private Mansions Collection) near Aix-en-Provence, France, offers an enchanting setting of lavender fields, vineyards and dining. Design lovers will marvel at Kokomo Private Jails, Fiji, with 21 sunrise villas and five hilltop Grand Residences primed for multi-generational travel. Traveling alone? Almanac Palais Vienna welcomes solo travelers with a Gua workshop and Belvedere Museum access, while in Florida, U.S. Amrit Ocean Resort & Residences, Singer Island, offers personalized wellness retreats focused on mindful movement. Solo travelers are in safe hands at Raffles Singapore, while enjoying meetings during limo transfers and Afternoon Tea. Raffles has future openings in Jeddah, Shanghai and Tokyo, expanding its network. Club Avandra should be on the radar of every female solo traveler, a new travel club offering community and bespoke trips for women.

by Cressi Sowerbutts and Florence Marling

Travel Trends 2026



Grand Resort Bad Ragaz, Switzerland

Purposeful Travel

Wellness continues to take center stage. In March, Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Kuda Huraa, in partnership with Emma Kunz Institute, will unveil URJA Naturopathy Island, a groundbreaking wellness site pairing naturopathic principles with modern scientific expertise. Bookings are now open for the new longevity program at Verdura Resort, a Rocco Forte Hotel, Italy, and Grand Resort Bad Ragaz's Tamina Health Center in Switzerland.

In Spain, the Arrigo Programme is hosting the next iteration of the Women's Wisdom retreats between June 19 to 25. Across the Atlantic, in the U.S., Waldorf Astoria New York debuted the world's largest Guelrain Wellness Spa, a 22,000-square-foot site, last October. This spring Faena New York is launching the 17,000-square-foot Tierra Santa Healing House. In the culinary scene, Switzerland's celebrated Badrutt's Palace is marking its 130th anniversary with two restaurant pop-ups, the second of which is led by Chilean chef Rodolfo Guzmán of Boragó in Santiago, (February 18 to March 1). Paying homage to local produce, Casa di Langa, Casa del Mulino and Villa Sangiovese in northern Italy are offering exclusive wine and truffle tasting experiences. In London, The Cadogan, A Belmond Hotel, will unveil a new British bistro and bar this spring.

At the intersection between art and travel

2026 is the year of live tourism, where significant cultural moments will determine where and how we travel—the experience will outshine the destination.

Robin Stangoorn, CEO, The Set Collection

is the fifth edition of AllUla Arts Festival, Saudi Arabia (until February 14), and Orient Express' 100 Years of Art Deco is showing in Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris (until April 26), while Sotheby's new HQ in NYC's historic Breuer Building is now open to the public. Bringing the arts to the forefront of the guest experience, Royal Mansour Casablanca is offering a three-hour urban tour, curated in partnership with local non-profit Alouane Bladi, alongside the brand's flagship Royal Mansour Marrakech's art therapy sessions. Others are offering more hands-on destination experiences, such as the expansion of Alila Hotels & Resorts' educational offering, from baking traditional pão à Alila Diwa Goa, India, to uncovering salt farming and weaving traditions at Alila Seminyak, Bali. And, ahead of the anticipated completion of Sagrada Família this June, Almanac Barcelona is transforming its top floor into The Art Floor, a living gallery and artist-in-residence program.

On the sports front, significant hotel renovations are taking place across Bermuda prior to the Apex Group Bermuda SailGP (May 9 to 10) and 54th biennial Newport Bermuda Race (June 19 to 28), while from June 3 to 8, EXPLORA I will be docked at Port Hercule, Monaco, for FORMULA 1® GRAND PRIX DE MONACO 2026. Bonjour Québec is also promoting Winterplay, encouraging visitors to discover the benefits of embracing winter activities.

The Road Less Traveled For adventurers avoiding over-touristic spots, 2026 offers refreshing off-grid alternatives. In Chile, Awasi Atacama's 12 suites come with a 4WDs for custom desert routes accompanied by a guide, while Andean presents six soulful properties across Lima and Peru's unexplored southern region. Fancy a walk on the wild side? Volcanoes Safaris in Uganda launches a seven-night Big Cat Photography Safari in Spring, while Shakti Himalaya is offering treks into India's mountainous realms. Meanwhile, here, Baa Atoll, Avani Alcudia, Chile, Credit: Daniel Matzen

is transforming its top floor into The Art Floor, a living gallery and artist-in-residence program.

Maldives, has opened a hyper-bespoke two-island retreat in a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve; the first island (Somewhere) launched December 2025, with the second (Nowhere) scheduled to open in Q1 of this year. Off-season travel revives favorite destinations without crowds. Canaves Collection, Santorini—specifically Canaves Epitome in Amoudi—delivers the same thoughtful service without skimping on quality, even in quieter, low-season months. In Italy, San Montano Resort & Spa reported a 44% rise in last September's bookings and Grand Hotel Fasano will stay open between March 27 to January 6, 2027, welcoming guests for the first time through the winter holiday season. Chatham Bars Inn, Cape Cod follows suit, reflecting a surging interest in off-season escapes.

Responsible Tourism Responsible tourism is now a central driver of travel decisions. In 2026, eco-conscious luxury is set to flourish. Groups such as Beyond Green, part of Preferred Travel Group, curate a portfolio of hotels aligned with the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals; its latest members include Borneo Eagle Resort, Malaysia, and The One Palacio da Anunciada, Portugal. Italy stands out for its climate leadership, from Il Borro's renewable energy initiatives to Locanda Le Piazze's water-conservation efforts. Borgo dei Conti Resort also launches a Bioenergetic Park, in which time among trees that generate positive electromagnetic fields, will enhance wellbeing.

Mantis Collection expands its eco-focused portfolio with projects in Saudi Arabia's Jeddah and South Africa's Addo Elephant Park, while Cheetah Plains in the Sabi Sand Nature Reserve delivers off-grid luxury via solar energy and EVs.

Different Types of Traveler

Families and multigenerational travel top Virtuoso's 2026 trends, as journeys evolve to span everything from solo escapes to cross-generational stays. Finca Cortesin's Green 10 Villas delivers sophisticated five-bedroom accommodation for families seeking space, while Grand Hotel Excelsior Vittoria, Italy, captures the dolce vita with Michelin-starred dining and signature wellness treatments across five acres of Mediterranean gardens, tailored for families.

Edited for ILTM by Sarah Miller, Founder and CEO of Sarah Miller and Partners

Special Advertising Feature

ILTM
INTERNATIONAL LUXURY TRAVEL MARKET

Reserve in Limpopo, South Africa, a rewilded conservation-led retreat. Accor's newest brand, Emblems Collection is putting its flag on Rimrock Banff, in the Canadian Rockies, after a transformative renovation.

Fall

Preferred Hotels & Resorts' Hotel Metropole