

MAVERICKS OF SPORTS

Esquire

And
Then
God
Created
Fernando
Mendoza
A Quarterback
to Believe In

THE BEST
NEW HOTELS
IN THE WORLD

+

ARYNA
SABALENKA
MARCUS
FREEMAN
EILEEN GU
TOMMY
FLEETWOOD
SHAMS
CHARANIA

The Outlaws
Who Keep the Power
Grid Humming

THE

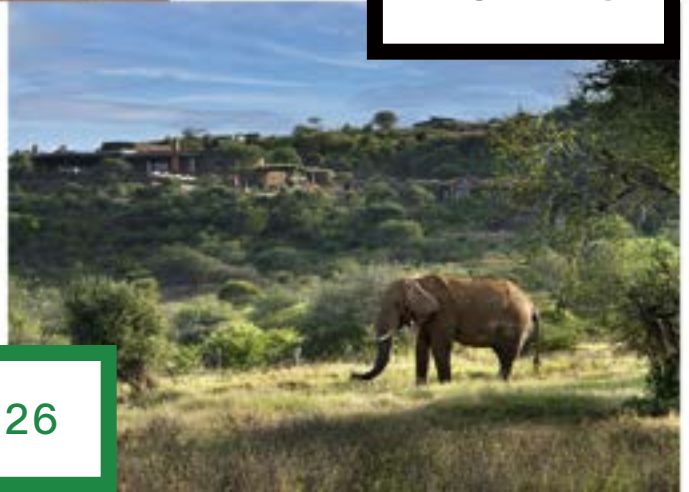
BEST

NEW

HOTELS

2026

Clockwise from top left: Miiro Templeton Garden, Regent Bali Canggu, the spa at Vista Ostuni, AndBeyond Suyian Lodge, and One&Only Moonlight Basin.



THERE'S A CONUNDRUM AT THE HEART OF MODERN HOSPITALITY. How do you make sure a person is taken care of at every moment of their day while still allowing them to be on a journey? Can comfort weigh down a person trying to achieve the promise of travel—ascending to an improved version of themselves? Hotels today pour millions of dollars into crafting authentic experiences to envelop guests from the moment they arrive to the moment they leave. But do you see the tension there, between *crafting* and *authentic*? It rhymes with what we all experience when we travel. We want to be on an adventure. We also want to be accommodated.

For the past year, our editors have been on a mission to visit as many new hotels and stunning renovations as they could to create this, Esquire's Best New Hotels 2026. We skied near Yellowstone and woke to fog in California's wine country and appraised a ten-figure remodel in New York City. We traipsed arrondissements in Paris and palazzos in Italy. We even

briefly got stranded in Puerto Rico by a certain U. S. military maneuver. Among the twenty properties here—and the more than twenty additional hotels we've included in the digital version on Esquire.com—a solution to this conundrum emerged. It's the small details. The considerations, just so, that ease the transition between the you who exists at home and the you who exists abroad, the way it's pleasing to lower into a pool heated to the exact right temperature. Like the piece of room decor so tasteful you want it in your living room, back in real life. The restaurant that zags from haute cuisine to lend a home-cooked feel to a place where you don't speak the language. The concierge who proffers advice as if to an old friend. The year's best new hotels assemble these details into a feeling of escape without a whiff of trying too hard. They usher you into luxury without a hint of velvet-rope energy. They all keep the same secret: Hospitality isn't about staying. It's about becoming.

JAMES McDONALD (TEMPLETON GARDEN), COURTESY HOTEL (REMAINING).

Vista Ostuni



VISTA OSTUNI

Ostuni, Apulia

We don't make this kind of declaration lightly: This is the coastal Italian getaway you've been waiting for. The colossal property has the works: spa, rooftop pool, world-class staff, breakfast with endless pastries, architectural feats in every room. Then there's the White City, a town that is so historic that Neanderthals lived there fifty thousand years ago. Lose yourself in all of it—mom-and-pop shops, sunny outdoor bars, tiny art museums, a sports dive if you look hard enough—but save room for dinner. You're eating at Vista Ostuni's Bianca Bistrot, whose southern-Italian menu is in beautiful lockstep with the local harvest. Then: a nightcap at Chioistro Bar. Then: sleep, wake up, and do it all again. Rooms from \$1,180. —*B. L.*

Italian

+lamour

HOTEL CALIMALA

Milan

When you're on a Eurotrip with little time in lots of places, you need a reliable hotel that's squarely in the middle of the action. That's Hotel Calimala. It's about a thirty-minute walk from Piazza del Duomo, but even closer is the handmade pasta of your dreams (PLIN Pastificio con Cucina), a pizza window that will blow your mind (Crosta Lab), and a cocktail joint that will destroy what's left of it (Nottingham Forest). And when you tuck inside for the night, Hotel Calimala's breathtaking rooftop is right upstairs, just waiting for you. Rooms from \$305. —*Brady Langmann*

THE HOXTON

Florence

Just outside the Piazza della Libertà, nestled away on the cobblestone streets of northern Florence, the Hoxton strikes a seamless balance between modern and historic. In the corner of the lobby, the café serves Scandinavian pastries most days; the Alassio restaurant, under a fresco from 1611, offers traditional Florentine cuisine. Naturally, there's also a wine bar, Enoteca Violetta. The place gets lively at night, but come down from the pastels of your postmodern suite at 9:00 A.M. and the private Renaissance-inspired courtyard, lush with greenery, is all yours. Rooms from \$205. —*Bryn Gelbart*

TERRE DI SACRA

Capalbio, Tuscany

The wild coast of Maremma is best known for its Maremmana cattle and Il Pellicano, the famously elegant hotel captured by Slim Aarons. In Terre di Sacra, a twenty-five-hundred-acre nature preserve with seven miles of private wild beach and the first World Wildlife Federation refuge in Italy, there's now a more Thoreauvian retreat, a place where one might see flamingos resting their wings on their journey from North Africa as the setting sun turns a medieval tower orange. Scattered across the property are twenty-nine private homes and forty glamping tents, but for me the twenty-four eco-lodges—think Amagansett, not East Hampton—are the perfect mix of rustic and luxe. Rooms from \$230. —*Joshua David Stein*

Wellness Oasis

Cascada Thermal

Spring + Spa

Portland, Oregon

There are spas, then there is Cascada's vast underground chamber that offers steaming, schvitzing, shivering, and soaking in hot rooms, whirling thermal pools, and the de rigueur cold plunge. It's the Willy Wonka chocolate factory of flushing out toxins. Rooms from \$450. —*Jeff Gordinier*



Beach Getaway

Four Seasons Resort and

Residences Puerto Rico

Río Grande, Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico, in a nutshell: In one direction, the beach; in the other, El Yunque, the only tropical rain forest in the U.S. Choose your own adventure. Think it over in the lobby, with live salsa and a meal made with produce from local farmers. Rooms from \$1,625. —*Alfonso Fernández Navas*

Wine Country Inn

Le Petit Pali

St. Helena, California

Curious, in this Age of Amenities: no spa and no dinner service. It's as if the hotel is telling you that in a setting such as this, there's no need to overdo it. Observe the simple miracle of opening a door in the morning in Napa Valley and watching fog lift from a landscape of hills and vineyards. The hotel is right. Rooms from \$525. —*J. G.*