

TRAVEL + LEISURE

THE HOTELS ISSUE

Where the World Checks In Next





Hand-selected by our editors, these new—and reborn—hotels and cruise ships set a bold standard for design, service, and sense of place.

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It LIST



ABOVE A Vista Ostuni guest room; the pool with village views.

PUGLIA, ITALY

Vista Ostuni

The opening of Vista Ostuni, which was a tobacco-sorting factory in its past life, marks a turning point for hospitality in Puglia. It's one of the first hotels in the area that's not crammed into an old city center or a farmhouse-style *masseria*. Instead, this 28-room resort, in the whitewashed village of Ostuni, sprawls across five stories with soaring cross-vault ceilings, cane furniture, and a retro seaside palette of persimmon, ultramarine, and sage. The colonnaded, cloister-like lobby leads out to the Adriatic Sea. Puglian bites shine at Bianca Bistrot, and three pools, plus a violet-tiled spa, round out the experience. And yet, my preferred indulgence was an *aperitivo*-hour gin and tonic infused with local *friggiteli* peppers, served at the Rooftop Bar. *Doubles from \$1,180.* —NICOLE TRILIVAS



NEW YORK CITY

Waldorf Astoria New York

Manhattan has its fair share of historic hotels where, in decades past, society wore black tie to swish galas. That old-school magic still exists at the Waldorf Astoria New York, which shines anew on Park Avenue after an eight-year closure and \$2-billion glow-up. The 1931 Art Deco monolith welcomes guests with sculptor Nina Sæmundsson's *Spirit of Achievement* statue crowning the main entrance and an attentive staff kitted out in blue velvet blazers and sequined dresses. The generously sized rooms—with

LEFT Cole Porter's piano at Peacock Alley in the Waldorf Astoria New York.

marble bathrooms and Frette linens—feel sequestered from the public spaces, if a bit corporate. Expect to see New Yorkers and travelers sipping cocktails at the Peacock Alley lounge, touring the elaborate Grand Ballroom, and snapping photos of the hotel's famed golden clock, commissioned by Queen Victoria for the 1893 World's Fair. When I visited for *Travel + Leisure's* shoot with fashion designer Anine Bing, we lingered at longtime resident Cole Porter's piano, nicknamed High Society. A pianist comes to play it regularly, serenading newcomers and old fans alike. *Doubles from \$1,500.*

—JACQUELINE GIFFORD