

# STYLE & SUBSTANCE

## 2010'S TOP 20 OPENINGS

*If you thought the great global financial meltdown might cramp your luxury travel style, think again. 2010 will see a bumper crop of exciting hotel launches all over the world, says Juliet Kinsman*

### 1 Las Alcobas, Mexico City

This newly reincarnated Fifties apartment block in the Polanco district has been styled by Yabu Pushelberg, the designer behind contemporary classics like the St Regis in San Francisco and The Hazelton in Toronto. Super sleek and elegant to the gills, added bite comes in a gourmet seafood restaurant from renowned chef Michael Mina. *Rooms from \$435; lasalcobas.com*

### 2 The Setai, Uruguay

Just like its über-slick sister in Miami, you can expect the condos, club and spa at this new upmarket retreat in Punta del Este, the St Tropez of Uruguay, to be as sexy as stays come. *setaijoseignacio.com*

### 3 Blythswood Square Hotel and Spa, Glasgow

Lavishing £26m on the ex-HQ to Royal Scottish Automobile Association has created a distinguished 100-room hotel that harks back to a Golden Age of hospitality. The hotel boasts the city's first luxury spa offering tempting treatments laced with local seaweed and Scotch Thistle. *Rooms from £180 including full Scottish breakfast; blythswoodsquare.com*

### 4 Edition Hawaii and Turkey

Ian Schrager's collaboration with Marriot comes to fruition in Waikiki Beach soon, then in Istanbul a little later in the summer. *editionhotels.com*



### 5 Andaz 5th Avenue New York

Hot on the heels of the launch of a Wall Street outpost of this hip new Hyatt brand comes this Tony Chi-designed 144-room property in Midtown. Opening late summer, it will be luxurious yet *laissez faire*: the idea being to soften corporate edges, and include references to its locale – in particular that it's opposite the New York library – in the décor and amenities.

*Rooms from \$435; andaz.com*

### 6 Fullerton Bay Hotel, Singapore

The first and only hotel on the waters of Marina Bay, the newest addition to the Fullerton Heritage scheme is ready to exhibit modern flair, floating spa treatment rooms and a rooftop bar. *fullertonhotel.com*



### 7 HOTELITO DESCONOCIDO, JALISCO, MEXICO

This May sees luxury ecotourism get a vibrant new year-round beach resort in Mexico. Organic food will be mostly homegrown at this upscale hideaway powered by renewable energy. The inspired interior design is decidedly indigenous while the thalassotherapy spa and wellness centre doffs its cap to Asian and Mediterranean influences. *From US\$ per bungalow per night and \$4,900 for the beach villas; hotelito.com*

### 8 KEMPINSKI NILE HOTEL, CAIRO

Fresh from transplanting its European-accented elegance to Bangkok, next up for the Kempinski camp is opening the first boutique-style hotel in Egypt's capital this month – with a whopping 191 rooms and suites. *Rooms start at €210 plus service charge and taxes; kempinski-cairo.com*

### 9 SAFFIRE, TASMANIA

Injecting a new level of luxury into the southernmost Australian island this autumn is this 20-suite sanctuary. An hour's flight from Melbourne, the Great Oyster Bay views and pristine beaches are reason enough to visit. *Suites from AUD \$1,250 a night; saffire-freycinet.com.au*





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**10 W HOTEL, LONDON**  
Where better for a West End outpost of Starwood Hotels & Resorts' young-at-heart lifestyle brand than Leicester Square? The 192 guest rooms will no doubt be as beloved by tourists as style-seeking corporate guests. *Rooms from £316; whotels.com*



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**11 COWORTH PARK, ASCOT**  
Windsor Great Park gets a new neighbour when the Dorchester opens a 70-room country-house sister in August. The 240 acres of Berkshire parkland are studded with an equestrian centre, two polo courses, archery and pitch and putt. Mary Fox Linton is behind the quintessentially British interior, while Michelin-starred John Campbell invites you to fine dine in the main house or go lower-key in the converted barn. *Rooms from £235 including breakfast; dorchestercollection.com*



**12 THE CORNWALL HOTEL SPA & ESTATE, CORNWALL**  
This just-opened woodland retreat a short drive from the Eden Project is set in 43 acres of Victorian park, close to sandy beaches. The luxury hotel and holiday cottages not only have two restaurants, but also houses an eco spa in 19th-century stables. *Rooms from £185; thecornwall.com*



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**13 Mandarin Oriental, Dells Cay Turks and Caicos**

With properties slated to open in Macau and Marrakech this year, 35 unspoiled acres of beach on Turks and Caicos' southwestern shore will host the group's inaugural Caribbean resort. The Piero Lissoni-designed retreat – with 25 suites, 17 private stand-alone villas and 78 multi-roomed apartments – will be high on wow factor thanks to skilled landscaping: expect infinity-edge swimming pools galore in glorious grounds. *mandarinoriental.com*

**14 Mondrian, New York**

This summer sees these designer digs land in SoHo with 270 jewel-box-inspired rooms designed by Benjamin Noriega Ortiz. Headline acts include an indoor and outdoor bar and a Sam Talbot restaurant serving his modern East Coast Seafood. *morganshotel.com*

**15 Playa Vik, Uruguay**

This white-hot new designer hotel, sister to Estancia Vik, opens soon in upscale Jose Ignacio. Native architect Carlos Ott has created a unique, organic and ultra-contemporary retreat. *Suites from \$300; vikhoteles.com*

**16 Armani hotel, Dubai**

The king of beige is now a purveyor of sharp suites as well as suits – this month witnesses Giorgio's much talked-about debut in the Burj Dubai tower. *armanihotels.com*

**17 Soho House, Berlin and Miami**

Poised to be the largest venue yet for this members' club, this rooftop-pooled, cinema-boasting property opens in the Mitte district in May. Occupying six floors, the German hub will also have a Cecconi's restaurant and a Cowshed spa. The private club is also coming to Mid-Beach later this summer on the former site of the Sovereign Hotel along with 44 bedrooms, a cabana-framed pool, a screening room and a Cecconi's and a Cowshed. *sobohouse.com*

**18 New brand from Swire Hotels, Cheltenham**

Opening this autumn in the spa town's Montpellier district comes this 60-room hotel – the first of a new affordable-luxury hotel brand from the creators of Beijing's Opposite House. British art, English furniture, and a restaurant and bar headed up by a famous chef (name to be announced), have us watching this space. *Rooms from £120 a night; swirehotels.co.uk*

**19 St John Hotel and Restaurant, London**

Trevor Gulliver and his cohort chef Fergus Henderson are transferring some of their Michelin-starred no-nonsense formula to a 15-room bolt hole at 1 Leicester Square in a spot once occupied by seafoodery Manzi's. *stjohnrestaurant.co.uk*

**20 Town Hall, London**

Grade II-listed Bethnal Green Town Hall has undergone a huge revamp to be transformed into a luxury hotel and apartments available from April. *Rooms from £174 plus tax; townhallhotel.com*

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