

Condé Nast Traveller

MAY 2009

10TH ANNIVERSARY HOT LIST SPECIAL

Real

THE HOT LIST 2009

Our choice of the world's best new hotels



in association with Virgin Atlantic: '25 years and still red hot'



The main living room
in Molori Lodge

THE HOT LIST 2009

AFRICA, INDIAN OCEAN
& MIDDLE EAST

10 ONES TO WATCH

Our choice of this year's most hotly anticipated hotel openings

6. SHANGRI-LA'S VILLINGILI RESORT & SPA MALDIVES

www.shangri-la.com



Shangri-La's new Maldives property, which should be finished by June, promises to be first-class. We are looking forward to the treehouse villas (there will be five different types), the CHI spa, and enjoying the local Maldivian way of life on nearby islands

MOLORI LODGE

South Africa

Before the South African tycoon Ivor Ichikowitz and his schoolfriend Kirk Lazarus opened Molori Lodge to the public in October 2008, it was their own private hideaway in the 75,000-hectare, malaria-free Madikwe Game Reserve. Since they drafted in starry South African designer Stephen Falcke, it has become the swishest camp in Africa. Of the five suites, the two new presidentials (one sleeping two, the other four) are the most breathtaking. Stone and thatched exteriors enclose 600sq m of slick modern living space dotted with fabulous pieces: a Philippe Starck bathtub that overlooks the bush; a polished steel Philipp Plein swingbed on the wooden deck; a white-leather Fendi daybed by the bedroom's folding glass-pane doors. The food is sensationally inventive (chef Willie Malherbe previously worked for the Rothschilds); the bush spa has an angel-handed therapist, as well as a sauna, steam room and Technogym; and the barman makes the meanest mojito outside Cuba. The Milky Way can be examined up close from the planetarium's enormous telescope, but the biggest stars are the managers, Greg and Riana Lederle, who combine professional guiding and relaxed hosting without letting a detail slip. This year will see the launch of the second and third Molori Private Retreats: Mirage in Port Douglas and Molori in Sydney; set to open in 2010 is Molori Clifton in Cape Town.

WHEN TO GO August–November, when game visibility is good, but it's not too hot.

ROOM TO BOOK The two-bedroom Molelo presidential suite.

020 7887 1371; 00 27 82 613 5723; www.molori.com. Doubles from R19,000 (about £1,320)

