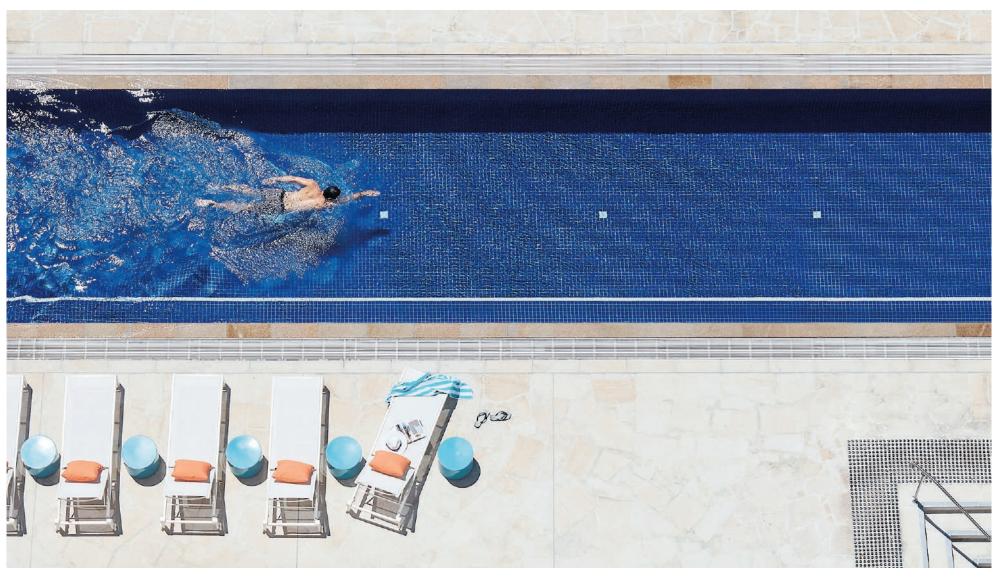
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Best Finds 2017



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BEST VIEW FROM A HOTEL ROOM

Explora Patagonia, Chile

Walk into your room at this awardwinning lodge and you could be forgiven for thinking it has a wallsized mural of the Torres del Paine, the trio of granite spires synonymous with Patagonia. For each of Explora Patagonia's 50 rooms has jaw-dropping views so spectacular you'll feel torn between lying in your king-sized bed all day and setting off on a dayhike or a horse ride to put yourself in the picture. See explora.com

BEST AFFORDABLE

LUXURY HOTEL STAY The Reverie Saigon, Vietnam

The design at the Reverie Saigon is seriously lavish - marble floors, chandeliers, mosaic-tiled walls, floor-to-ceiling windows - and yet the prices are surprisingly reasonable for a beautiful five-star property in central Ho Chi Minh City. For as little as \$300 a night guests can enjoy the true luxury experience, including buffet breakfast, plus access to the exclusive Reverie Lounge for high tea and sunset cocktails. See luxuryescapes.com

BEST ARISTOCRATIC RETREAT

Villa La Massa, Florence

Sitting right on the Arno River $outside\ Florence, this\ 16th-century$ villa and its flower-filled gardens belonged to the Medicis - though a sumptuous spa and outdoor swimming pool are more recent additions. Stay in the daffodilyellow main villa, which has an atmospheric, medieval hall surrounded by guest rooms graced with Renaissance-style four-poster

MY BEST FIND

LISA PAGOTTO, FOUNDER & DIRECTOR, **CROOKED COMPASS**

"Hunting with the nomadic Hadzabe tribe in Tanzania. Armed with only bows and arrows, we followed in silence as they cooeed to birds, stalked gazelle, threw their arms into mongoose holes and hunted mice out from under the ground before resting in a hollowed-out baobab tree." See crooked-compass.com



beds, and you'll feel as if you're back in the days of the grand tour. See lhw.com

BEST OUTBACK HOTEL Prairie Hotel, South Australia

It doesn't get much more quintessentially Aussie than South

Australia's Prairie Hotel. This sophisticated outback pub is set in a historic stone building in remote Parachilna (population seven), on the Ranges. Guest rooms are surprisingly chic, and from the front patio you can glass of their Fargher Lager in hand. An ideal base for day trips into the desert, to discover ancient fossils and fascinating wildlife. See prairiehotel.com.au

BEST APARTMENT RENTAL

Apartments Actually, Paris

Apartments Actually lets you take on Paris like a local, through their selection of elegantly styled apartments in the chic Marais neighbourhood, as well as sprawling houses in Provence. They'll arrange neighbourhood tours, private yoga and cookery classes, which means all you have to do is book your plane ticket.

See apartments actually.com

Check in and **BEST PRIVATE ISLAND** Dolphin Island, Fiji check it out: You hire a private Fijian island for (From above) The Michael Klim-designed

50-metre

Brisbane;

Explora

alfresco pool at

the Johnson,

Patagonia at

the Torres del

Paine National

Photo: Explora

Park in Chile.

Patagonia

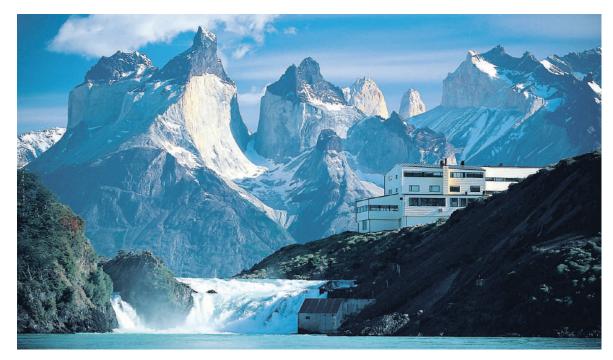
you and seven friends. Each couple has their own elegant, timberfloored bure. Maybe you paddleboard around the island, maybe you have a massage, maybe you laze under the palms by the infinity pool. Whichever way, when you start to get peckish your personal chef will pull seafood from the ocean and cook it up for you. Sound like a fantasy? Dolphin Island is the real deal. See dolphinislandfiji.com

BEST AUSTRALIAN RESORT MAKEOVER The Anchorage Port Stephens

The bay has had a fitting makeover to match its dreamy seaside surrounds, including luxe new spa, whisky bar, Hamptons-inspired rooms (almost every room has a balcony or terrace with water views) and infinity pool overlooking the marina. Nab a sun lounge by the pool with its dedicated Veuve Clicquot bar and revel in the nautical chic vibe. See ancnorageportstepnens.com.au

BEST HOTEL POOL The Johnson, Brisbane

The Michael Klim-designed 50-metre alfresco pool makes checking into this funky, artsinspired hotel in Brisbane's Spring Hill even more rewarding. The fabulous lap pool overlooks the inner-city suburb's jacarandalined streets dotted with restored Queenslanders and miners' cottages. Surrounded by cabanas, sun lounges, a sundeck and gym with north-facing views, it's the perfect place for a cold ale, and some much-needed pool time. Oversized inflatable swan optional. See artserieshotels.com.au/johnson



plains just west of the Flinders catch spectacular sunsets with a