

Condé Nast Traveller

MAY 2019

THE HOT LIST 2019

THE WORLD'S BEST
NEW HOTELS

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GUESTHOUSES



THE HOT LIST 2019

**OUR PICK OF THE BEST
NEW HOTELS IN THE WORLD**

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PHOTOGRAPH: JAMES ANTHONY LYNCH

THE KIMPTON LA PEER IN WEST HOLLYWOOD

FOR THE FULL HOT LIST, VISIT [TRAVELLER.UK/HOTLIST](https://traveller.uk/hotlist)

USA

SANDS HOTEL, CALIFORNIA

For a long time after its Fifties and Sixties heyday, Palm Springs was in a mid-century-design time warp, frozen in a world of extremes – Bacchic pool parties and staid games of golf. Over the past few years, though, a different energy has emerged, with young Angelenos choosing the town as a driveable weekend destination. A different type of traveller has followed – one seeking sun but also wanting to hike in Joshua Tree, catch live music at Pappy & Harriet's and get inspired at the Palm Springs Art Museum. Sands, a reimagined Fifties motel, has this more worldly visitor in mind, like Rossi and The Rowan did the year before. Interior designer Martyn Lawrence Bullard, sought after for his ability to colour with wild abandon, applied his flair here: bubble-gum-pink walls, Warhol banana-yellow against black and white. He channelled another desert 6,000 miles away with Moroccan *zellige* and ceramic tiles, kitting out the 46 adults-only rooms with Beni Ourain rugs, ikat upholstery and zebra-striped furniture, and shading the chaises longues at the pool with Bedouin-tent-style cabanas. But not forgetting Sands is in the Sonoran not the Saharan desert, there are just enough Hollywood nods to bring you back: mirror-backed liquor cabinets in the rooms; an obvious homage to the Beverly Hills Hotel in the leaf-print wallpaper of the Pink Cabana restaurant; and photographs of stars including Farrah Fawcett. This is next-level Americana escapism, with a global influence. **FLASH POINT** Next door at The Nest, a swinging Rat Pack-era haunt, dancers of all ages still sweat it out till the wee hours. +1 760 321 3771; sandshotelandspa.com. Doubles from about £190



MEXICO

HOTEL AMPARO, SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

This incredibly pretty *pueblo* is Mexico's artistic epicentre. But UNESCO-protected San Miguel, two-and-a-half hours north of the capital, had been resting on its crayola-coloured colonial laurels, overlooking the trends of its creative counterparts around the globe. Enter first-time hoteliers Mariana Barran de Goodall and Taylor Goodall. After getting married here five years ago, they bought a 300-year-old former mayor's residence in the cobble-stoned centre and transformed it into a guesthouse with cheerful touches to appeal to cool-hunting travellers. A lovely courtyard filled with bougainvillea, towering palms and a cobalt-tiled fireplace opens up to a salon with a mezcal bar and a café. Four stately ground-floor guestrooms have bronze four-poster beds decorated with Oaxacan textiles, paintings from the couple's private art collection and vintage furniture sourced from Europe, with further elegance injected with Belgian wood panelling and crystal chandeliers. Upstairs is the fifth room, with a mural by local artist Lucas Rise, steps from the rooftop Bar Margaret restaurant which serves Latin-Southern small plates such as shrimp and grits topped with *pico de gallo* and a curated wine list heavy on labels from nearby natural wineries. Hotel Amparo knows exactly how to honour the history and artistry that have been the calling cards of San Miguel for decades, while making it feel decidedly modern. **FLASH POINT** Locanda restaurant is set to open in a parlour off the entrance by midsummer, with a rotating menu of handmade Italian pasta and Sicilian wines. +52 1 415 152 0819; hotelamparo.com. Doubles from about £150

