

An aerial photograph of a pristine beach. The sand is bright white and smooth. Several dark-colored lounge chairs are arranged on the beach, each accompanied by a large, light-colored beach umbrella. The umbrellas are partially open, casting long, dark shadows on the sand. The beach is bordered by a white concrete or stone edge that curves along the water's edge. The water is a clear, vibrant turquoise color. The overall scene is bright and serene, suggesting a high-end resort environment.

THE HOT LIST 2015

OUR PICK OF THE BEST NEW HOTELS IN THE WORLD

PHOTOGRAPH: AMILLA FUSHI

Amilla Fushi, Maldives

MONTENEGRO

REGENT HOTEL, PORTO MONTENEGRO

The new Regent hovers over the glittering marina, with its intricate choreography of yachts coming and going, like a latter-day Venetian palazzo. Designer Tino Zervudachi (who counts Mick Jagger and Marie-Chantal of Greece among his clients) has created nautically themed interiors: stripes dominate the dining room; bedrooms are highlighted in crisp blue-and-white, with teak panelling, rope detailing and just a hint of semaphore in the artworks. Only the library bar looks as though it might have been transplanted from Pall Mall, all clubby leather and antiquarian books, so you can broaden the mind while simultaneously numbing it with a choice of 25 Champagnes. The hotel is well placed for exploring the sprawling Bay of Kotor area with its medieval fortified towns and 16th-century Venetian architecture, island churches and mountain monasteries. Then come back and relax beneath an ancient olive tree in the sunken Italian garden; or dine on the terrace, where the seasonal menu might include wild turbot with saffron-infused almond mousseline and vanilla velouté, as well as a heavenly Valrhona Chocolate pudding. **FLASH POINT** Guests have access to the restaurants and 80-metre pool with views of the Adriatic at Porto Montenegro Lido Club. +382 32 660 660; www.regentportomontenegro.com. Doubles from £180



USA

METROPOLITAN BY COMO, MIAMI BEACH

With every venue in town trying to out-beautify the next, this is an exceptionally well run and quietly elegant escape, a big sigh of relief amid all the razzamatazz. A fashionable, grown-up crowd has made the Met home already, sipping rosemary-and-thyme-infused gin and tonics on the terrace. And beyond a hedge-lined walkway is the pool, with four-poster sun loungers and bar, a few steps away from the beach and ocean. A brilliant makeover by Italian designer Paola Navone has restored the Art Deco glamour of the original 1939 hotel. The bedrooms share a simple aesthetic with a pale pistachio and grey scheme; vintage-style furnishings are mixed up with Navone's own contemporary pieces for Gervasoni. In the restaurant, scalloped architectural details are scaled-down for the tableware, on which the fish-focused food is served (ask if they have any of the delicious, one-in-2,000 ivory salmon). An intimate urban spa and a rooftop hydrotherapy pool top off this capsule of serenity. **FLASH POINT** It's just a 100-minute flight from here to Parròt Cay by COMO in the Turks and Caicos. Now that's a dual-destination break to take on board. +1 305 695 3600; www.comohotels.com. Doubles from £205

CARIBBEAN

BELLE MONT FARM, ST KITTS & NEVIS

Smart-thinking hoteliers nabbed the best beaches in the Caribbean long ago (Sandy Lane, Cap Juluca, Little Dix Bay) so now all the exciting things happen in the hills. The 42-room Belle Mont Farm opened last December almost 1,000ft up the rain-forested flanks of northern St Kitts. Tremendous views to neighbouring St Eustatius are the first point of wow, closely followed by the refined one-bedroom guesthouses created by star designer Bill Bensley. Well versed in fashioning foliage-rich megahotels in Asia (Four Seasons Langkawi, Oberoi Mauritius), here he has added Caribbean keynotes such as wood-shingle roofs and tropical paintings by artist Kate Spencer. Some may balk at the outdoor bathrooms, but there's no issue with the infinity plunge pools and whirl-down projection screens that replace the customary TVs. The let's-start-afresh food is by Christophe Letard, whose New Caribbean menu includes cinnamon-braised goat and loin, and lemongrass-poached lobster with dasheen risotto. Isabelle Legeron oversees a cellar strong on natural wines. This hotel is the first to open on Kittitian Hill, where owner Val Kempadoo hopes to create a community that will raise the bar in the world of sustainable luxury. **FLASH POINT** Set on a 400-acre organic hillside farm, this is a blast of fresh air for the region. +1 869 465 7388; www.bellemontfarm.com. Doubles from £500

