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FROM WSJ

Hot Hotels '25



The year ahead looks exciting with more hotel openings than ever for every kind of traveler. **Sarah Miller** was on the inside track at ILTM, the industry's leading travel fair.

The end of 2024 and the beginning of the New Year saw a stream of innovative openings from major brands as well as independents. In December Jumeirah announced two new openings marking its entry into Africa: Jumeirah Thanda Island in Tanzania, and Jumeirah Thanda Safari in South Africa, situated in one of the most exclusive Big Five private game reserves in South Africa. Alongside conservation and community, small is beautiful is another key mantra for the year ahead and, in Italy, the Bianca Relais, a 10-room boutique gem reopens on February 12th under R Collection management, overlooking Lake Annone. City hotels continue to thrive with Casa Brera, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Milan, Marriott's 101-room hotel, opening in the buzziest quarter of Milan. In France, the Cour des Loges re-opened in Lyon attracting all manner of foodies to its Michelin-starred restaurant. In London, The Welbeck Hotel opens in February in the heart of the vibrant urban district of Marylebone. The Park Lane Copenhagen is the city's luxury destination, after undergoing a stunning transformation. In February 2025, The Langham in Pasadena, Los Angeles will undergo an extensive renovation designed to enrich its historic grandeur with an infusion of contemporary elements.



Cour des Loges, Lyon



The Vineta Hotel, Palm Beach

For travelers seeking exotic destinations, the JW Marriott Kaafu Atoll Island Resort in Maldives and The St. Regis Aruba Resort in the Caribbean open in January while February sees Salterra, a Marriott Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, Turks & Caicos open, offering unspoiled nature and a rich cultural heritage.

Wit and quirky concepts are also at the fore and early 2025 sees the opening of The Goethe Hotel in Rome which pays homage to writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and his 'Italian Journey'. In Frankfurt, Kennedy 89 blends high-end design with local charm.

The brilliant Oetker Collection is taking its European hospitality to the U.S. for the first time, with The Vineta Hotel in Palm Beach, while, over on a quiet stretch north of Miami Beach, The Sunny opens in Sunny Isles, providing a laid-back option for those seeking Florida sun. Not to be outdone, Andaz Miami Beach brings its distinctive style to Miami Beach in March.

Over in Asia, Aman continues its city openings with the eagerly awaited 52-suite Aman Nai Lert in Bangkok, featuring an Aman Wellness center and 39 private residences within lush Nai Lert Park

and Raffles Sentosa Singapore is set to expand on the illustrious legacy of Raffles Singapore with a 62-villa resort. Regent Bali Canggu will offer 150 luxurious suites and villas overlooking the Indian Ocean.

Closer to home in Europe, the Fairmont La Hacienda Costa del Sol, a 311-room resort opens in a yet-undiscovered corner of southern Spain. And in lesser-trodden destinations, but no less worth exploring, the Kimpton Main Frankfurt debuts in the financial district. Des Plesman will open in The Hague, Netherlands in the former headquarters of iconic Dutch aviation brand KLM. Corinthia Bucharest opens in the restored 19th-century Grand Hotel du Boulevard. In Amsterdam, Rosewood Hotel & Resorts launches the brand's first property in the Netherlands. The Marriott opens The Palace, a Luxury Collection Hotel in Madrid.

For winter sun seekers, Nekajui, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, is set to open in Peninsula Papagayo on Costa Rica's Pacific Coast, and the delightful Spier Wine Farm will welcome guests to its new hotel from March. If you are a skier don't miss the new Ultima Promenade which opens for the season in Gstaad, Switzerland.

The boom in hospitality continues in the Middle East with Jumeirah Marsa Al Arab in Dubai designed to evoke a futuristic superyacht and Raffles Jeddah opens next year with uninterrupted views of the Red Sea.

~ Spring ~

For the adventurous, the exclusive Mbamba will open in Botswana's Northern Okavango Delta with 12 vintage-inspired tents offering premium game-viewing. For families, and in time for Easter, The Standard, Pattaya opens its doors in Thailand on Na Jomtien Beach. If people-watching is more your style, the stylish Pensione America opens in Forte dei Marmi, Italy, renovating a historic villa into an ultra-luxurious property by the sea. While the Eden Roc Ascona, Switzerland is great for spring mountain air.



Son Moli, Mallorca

In May when thoughts turn to the gentle breezes of the Mediterranean, the Laguna Coast Resort opens on the Greek island of Naxos while Patmos Aktis, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, opens overlooking the blue waters of the Dodecanese. JW Marriott Crete Resort & Spa opens on Crete while Amoh, a Luxury Collection Resort, opens on Rhodes.

In Mallorca, the Son Moli is the second opening from the team behind the award-winning Can Bordoy, the five-star boutique hotel in Palma's historic La Lonja Quarter. Mandarin Oriental Punta Negra opens its first luxury resort in Spain on a beautiful peninsula in the southwest of Mallorca. In Malta, one of Valletta's first true luxury boutique hotels, Romégas opens in the heart of the capital. Not to be missed is the reopening of the Splendido, A Belmond Hotel, in Portofino which reveals a new major phase in its multi-year renovation.

In nearby Rome, Orient Express La Minerva, situated in the historic Piazza della Minerva opens in spring as the first hotel under the Orient Express brand. Further north, Marriott opens W Florence in the Tuscan capital and Marriott opens The Lake Como EDITION. Over on the Atlantic, Andaz opens Lisbon as a retreat across five interconnected buildings.

In April, The Oetker Collection's Le Bristol Paris celebrates its 100-year anniversary. Across the channel in London, The Newman, a Preferred Resorts Hotel, opens in summer on its namesake Newman Street, and is the first hotel from Kinsfolk & Co.

Travel Trends 2025



Treville Positano, Italy

Micro-Hotels, Residences and Buyouts —

The demand for micro-hotels, residences and buyouts is steadily growing as travelers seek privacy without sacrificing hotel-standard services. Marriott is rebranding its exclusive homes as exceptional homes, with approximately 30 openings in 2025, including Madrid residences near the Museo Nacional Prado.

Opening early 2025 is German designer Philip Plein's 13-room The Plein Hotel in Milan and Barriere Grave's Maison Barrière Vendôme, a micro-hotel housed in Lacoste's former Paris HQ. Treville Positano has also announced several developments including the opening of Villa Maura in 2025, a five-suite private home, and Le Collectionist's 2025 summer villas are now available to book, plus new properties launching throughout the year.

Due to launch in northeastern Ibiza this April is the latest addition to Almac's Aurea Ibiza Residences. This indoor-meets-outdoor six-bedroom property, close to Santa Eularia harbor village, is set amongst 10 hectares of lush private gardens with spectacular coastal views. Also recently opened on the island is Fincadelica's nine-room villa, Xarraca, available as a buy-out.

Another Mediterranean escape is Villa La Guittièrè, Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc's nine-bedroom villa opening early 2025, and the 19-room expansion of Kalesma Mykonos, Greece. Opening this spring, Casina Cinquepozzi is an exclusive-use 18th century Manor House set on a 40-acre estate in Putignano, Puglia, and in the Tuscan region of the Maremma is Villa La Vedetta, part of Castello di Vicarello.

At the end of last year, Ultima Quai Wilson Geneva opened its five private full-floor residences in central Geneva, and the 18-room Pushine Jinfoshan Resort opened in the forests of China's Golden Buddha Mountain. Nestled in the Norwegian fjords is Amot, a seven-bed property for 14 guests, while Dromoland Lodge, Ireland, offers a beautiful five-bedroom private residence on a 500-acre estate. In Italy's fashion capital, Rocco Forte House Milan opened in September 2024 with eleven exclusive apartments, while away from the crowds in a secluded valley is the nine-villa ESPACIO The Hakone Geihinkan Rin-Poh, Japan.

Members' Clubs —

According to Marriott Luxury Group, luxury travel is set to spearhead the industry with an anticipated \$80 trillion in wealth expected to transfer globally over the next two decades. Opening this spring, Casa J.K. Place Roma will offer 15 private apartments within a 17th-century building on Via dei Prefetti, while Bali InterContinental's new Club InterContinental features VIP services, private pools and access to two elite lounges. The Preferred Club at Dreams Sapphire Resort & Spa has also launched in Mexico, offering 70 exclusive beachfront suites and 10 villas. Another exciting 2025 launch is Discover Collection, a global members' community offering luxury retreats to off-the-beaten-track locations, such as Kenya and Oman.

Two London openings are also scheduled for 2025: Six Senses London at The Whiteley, the brand's first-ever UK property, featuring

~ Fall ~

Two of the most exciting launches this year are the Cheval Blanc Seychelles, the sixth Maison within the collection which opens this December and Amanvari in Mexico, a private oasis at the edge of the Sea of Cortés with eco-friendly designs and direct access to beach and desert landscapes. Or stay in the Mayan jungle on the Mexican Caribbean at La Casa de la Playa which joins Leading Hotels of the World this year.

For the even more adventurous, opening in Puerto Williams, Chile, is the world's most southernmost hotel, transforming the Silversea Antarctica cruise expedition experience by facilitating the journey from the sub-Antarctic zone of Patagonian Chile to the White Continent. Not quite as starkly remote, the brand behind NIHI Sumba, sees the much-anticipated opening of NIHI Rote on West Timor, Indonesia. And A&K launches its flagship lodge Kitirua Plains Lodge, in Amboseli National Park, from where you can witness the majesty of Mount Kilimanjaro and immerse yourself in the heart of Kenya's wildlife-rich savanna—all coinciding with the 40th anniversary of the film Out of Africa.



Kitirua Plains Lodge, Kenya

Back in the cradle of civilization a gem opens this quarter in Rome: Palazzo Shedir, a four-suite micro-hotel in the heart of the city, housed in a Baroque private mansion, once home to the Borghese family. If it's fully booked, check out Palazzo Portinari Salviati, a 15th century Renaissance palazzo that was once home to the Medici and to Dante's muse, which joins Leading Hotels of the World this month.

More contemporary, in a renovation by Jean-Michel Gathy, the Aman Rosa Alpina opens in time for the ski season in the UNESCO-listed Dolomites. For those who love northern climes, Hobo Oslo opens in Norway, followed by Copenhagen, continuing the expansion of the Hobo Hotel concept in the Nordic region. In Eastern Europe, the Fairmont Golden Prague opens in the Czech capital's Old Town at the gate of the prestigious Pařížská Boulevard. Elsewhere in Europe, Nobu Hotel, in Madrid's city center, is set to open this quarter as is Kimpton Hotel Taormina with panoramic views of the Sicilian coastline. The hottest hotel opening in London is The Chancery Rosewood in Grosvenor Square which opens at the end of this year in the former US Embassy Building.

North Africa and the Middle East come into their own at this time of year and in Casablanca LXR Hotels & Resorts-Casablanca will open the 'Triangle d'Or'. The Middle East sees openings of the Regent Jeddah Corniche, InterContinental The Red Sea, Jumeirah Red Sea and Miraval The Red Sea in Saudi Arabia. Over in UAE, LUX Al Jabal, a modern beachfront resort, and LUX Al Bridi, a tented desert retreat open in Sharjah.

Still booming in terms of development, Asia sees SALT of Anji, opening in the Zhejiang province of China, known for its lush bamboo forests and prized white tea.

In the ever-popular destination of Japan, JW Marriott Hotel Tokyo is another addition to the capital while InterContinental Sapporo will open in the second half of the year, offering sweeping views of Nakajima Park. Perfect for cherry blossom season, Capella Kyoto, designed by Kengo Kuma, is one of 4 properties opening in 2025 including Taipei, Macau and Patina. Fairmont Hanoi also opens in Hanoi in the Old Quarter while elsewhere in Vietnam, the InterContinental Halong Bay Resort & Residences opens in Vietnam's UNESCO-listed Halong Bay.

However, if you are planning on simply staying in the good old USA then The Cooper opens this season in Charleston, South Carolina and Thompson Miami Beach launches reimagined luxury in this winter sun destination.

Edited for ILTM by Sarah Miller, Founder and CEO of Sarah Miller and Partners

Stay to See the Sport

International Sporting Fixtures

If you want to make London your base between January and March for the Rugby Six Nations Championships, The Beaumont Mayfair in London reopened its doors in 2024 following a renovation, which also coincides with the hotel's 10th anniversary. In Perth, rugby fans can stay in one of Pan Pacific Perth's selection of newly refurbished rooms and facilities for the Bledisloe Cup championship in October at Optus Stadium.

From September 2025, AIUla's The Chedi Hegra, a Saudi Arabian desert retreat, offers exclusive access to events like the Richard Mille AIUla Desert Polo. Regent Seven Seas Cruises has announced the launch of its 'Spotlight Voyage on Golf' experience, offering exclusive access to top golf courses across the British Isles with golfing legend Annika Sorenstam.

For skiing fans, Badrutt's Palace Hotel in St Moritz, Switzerland, reopens with a new 'Serlas Wing' and 25 guest rooms and suites and The First Hotel Cortina in Italy's Dolomites opens late 2025, just in time for the 2026 Milan Cortina Olympic Games.



Badrutt's Palace Hotel, Switzerland

Bespoke Sports Offerings

Also in Italy, Anantara Palazzo Naiadi Rome Hotel is offering exclusive packages for the inaugural Anantara Concorso Roma from April 24 - 27, which will involve a three-day celebration of vintage cars. While on UNESCO-recognized Hawar Island, Hawar Resort by Mantis has launched a Bear Grylls Survival Academy. At Hotel Foroyar in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands, runners can explore a series of nature-filled running trails alongside a fully equipped fitness centre, while Bluewater Yachts' Flying Fox features a cryosauna, mixed martial arts, a heli-deck sports court and more.

In Thailand, Capella Bangkok has combined sports and leisure with its new immersive bike tour, 'One Road, Two Wheels'. Alternatively, given people watching is a great sport in hotels, Four Seasons Resort Koh Samui and the Tourism Authority of Thailand have partnered with HBO to support the filming and promotion of the highly anticipated third season of 'The White Lotus', set to air in 2025 and shot in locations across Thailand.



Hawar Resort, Mantis

Brand Partnerships

The newest ship of Explora Journeys, EXPLORA II, will be docked in the heart of the famous Port Hercule throughout Formula 1 Grand Prix de Monaco 2025 in May, and marking the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on December 7, the Nofa Riyadh, A Radisson Collection Resort, is offering guests a new safari-inspired guest experience. Regent Seven Seas Cruises has also collaborated with Aston Martin Aramco Formula One® for an exclusive 10-night cruise with former driver Pedro de La Rosa aboard the Seven Seas Splendor®.

Coinciding with the U.S. Tennis Open in New York between August and September is Aman New York's 'Strength and Recovery' programme, curated by Aman's Global Wellness Ambassador and former world No. 1 tennis player, Maria Sharapova. Another great place to stay is Corinthia's first North American property, The Surrey, which recently opened in October 2024.

By Cressi Sowerbutts and Sebastian Clifton



Laguna Coast Resort, Greece

New destinations such as Tbilisi sees Telegraph Tbilisi Georgia open in Spring and H15 Palace, Krakow opens in Poland as part of Marriott's Luxury Collection. Closer to home, The Lake Estate on Winnisquam is due to open in New Hampshire's Lakes Region in late spring and The Waldorf Astoria New York is finally opening following a large-scale restoration.

If Mexico is on the menu, Park Hyatt Los Cabos at Cabo del Sol opens along the picturesque coast of Baja California Sur. Further south, Waldorf Astoria Costa Rica Punta Cacique opens on Guanacaste's secluded Playa Penca. In April the St Regis Cap Cana, followed by W Punta Cana, both open in the Dominican Republic.

Further afield, focussing on conservation, Mantis Al Baha, in Saudi Arabia, is a secluded eco-conscious lodge offering immersive natural experiences. And if you are heading to Japan for the World expo this April, check into the Patina for an elevated city experience.



OKU Andalusia, Spain

splendor of Lecce. Also coastal, Villa Beatrice, Portofino will launch in July 2025 as one of the most scenic retreats on the Italian Riviera. Another Riviera welcomes Nordelaila Beaulieu and if you enjoy Mediterranean island life, Four Seasons Resort Mykonos opens in the Aegean. The latest hotels from the Vestige Collection, Son Ermita and Binidufá, open in July. Four Seasons Mallorca at Formentor also opens this summer, and, on the mainland, OKU Andalusia opens as the ultimate beachside retreat.

Luxury brands all have major openings this summer with Rocco Forte Hotels opening the Carlton Milan, the family company's second property in Milan. Corinthia Rome opens in Italy's former Central Bank and Conrad Hamburg will open in the historic Levantehaus building on one of Germany's most popular shopping streets. Four Seasons Hotel and Residences Cartagena is a must-visit in Colombia as is The Red Sea EDITION, Egypt.

Fairmont Tokyo is the first Fairmont in Japan and overlooks Tokyo Bay. Other Fairmont openings include Fairmont Udaipur, India, and Fairmont New Orleans, part of the historic redevelopment of the former Bank of New Orleans building. Don't miss the views - day and night - from One & Only Moonlight Basin, in Big Sky, Montana. For somewhere even more remote stay in Kenya's northern Laikipia region at andBeyond Suyian Lodge, opening July.

Over in the wellness world, The Botanic Sanctuary Antwerp has announced a selection of IV therapies in addition to the launch of its sixth Michelin-starred restaurant this year, while Euphoria Retreat is a holistic wellness destination surrounded by private forests just below Greece's UNESCO World Heritage-listed Mystras. SHA Spain is also improving its product offering this year with a new dermatology/trichology unit.

Experiences that highlight local history and heritage drive purposeful travel, such as La Réserve Paris's Clos Montmartre vineyard tours or Sun Gardens Dubrovnik's new Arts & Crafts Series. As part of Desert X in the Coachella Valley, The Parker Palm Springs is offering guests the opportunity to visit outdoor art installations exploring indigenous sovereignty and postcolonial history, while private tours and access to renowned artists' studios are now available at Almanac Barcelona as part of the hotel's collaboration with Matiz Gallery.

For a more slow-paced adventure, Lefay Resort & SPA Lago di Garda is expanding this summer with five exclusive Sky Pool Villas and a Wellness Program on "The Art of Letting Go", while SCP Corcovado Wilderness Lodge in Costa Rica's Corcovado National Park offers an idyllic barefoot luxury retreat.

Exclusive Experiences and Adventure Travel

Travelers are increasingly seeking adventures that provide an escape from the everyday. In Svalbard, a Norwegian Archipelago north of the Arctic Circle, 62°NORD is launching a brand-new

Signature Adventure in 2025, where guests can explore the area via dogsleds and skidoos. Over at Eleven Deplar Farm in Iceland, there's a new 'Ski-to-Sea' adventure, combining heli-skiing with fly-fishing. For those seeking warmer adventures, Fairmont's 'Discover the Undiscovered', involves a road trip across northern Morocco, through the Sahara Desert to the Atlas Mountains and Atlantic Coast. Ponant's Le Jacques Cartier is also introducing new Polynesian expeditions this year, providing a deep dive into Pacific cultures.

Taking adventure travel to the skies in a private jet experience is AMAN's 'The Grandest Tour: Tokyo to Greece' (April 19 - May 9), while traveling to new heights with accessible space exploration is Zephalo's Celeste, a low-carbon capsule designed by architect Joseph Dirand. Passengers will be whisked off on an 80,000-foot adventure into the stratosphere before returning back to Earth, six hours later, to a different destination.

Slow Travel

Travel this year is all about taking things slowly and the best way to do this is aboard a train or boat. L'Observatoire, a rail carriage designed by artist JR, will debut on LVMH and Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, A Belmond Train in March, while Accor's La Dolce Vita Orient Express will be the first luxury train in Italy followed by The Britannic Explorer, A Belmond train in July. This three-night adventure will traverse the landscapes of Cornwall, Wales and the Lake District.

For those looking to take to the water, this year also marks the launch of three additions to the Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection - Evrima, Ilma and



Amot, Norway

Lumina - while Accor has announced the launch of 'Orient Express Corinthian', a 54-suite yacht that will navigate the Mediterranean, Adriatic and Caribbean. Equally exciting is Aman-at-Sea; a 183-meter yacht featuring 50 suites, dining facilities, a spa and two helipads (open for bookings this year prior to its 2027 launch).

If understated voyages are more to your taste, A&K is launching an eco-conscious riverboat experience, 'Pure Amazon', and Capasea Yacht has also announced new luxury sailing experiences. Anantara is also bringing a luxury river cruise to the heart of Laos alongside the recently launched 'The Vietaque by Anantara' train line, connecting the beach towns of Quy Nhon and Na Thrang, Vietnam.

By Cressi Sowerbutts

~ Summer ~



Chateau de la Commaraine, France

Wine lovers can stay at Château de la Commaraine, sister hotel to Royal Champagne Hotel & Spa. If whisky is your tippie, Ardbeg House was recently purchased by LVMH near the distillery where Ardbeg has been creating its untamed smoky whisky for more than 200 years on the remote Scottish Island of Islay.

Over in Italy, the charming Vista Ostuni opens this summer in Puglia near the Baroque



Aurea Ibiza Residences, Ibiza

the brand's first wellness-focused members' club, Six Senses Place, and The Other House Covent Garden, offering 146 guest rooms and 'Club Flats' plus two penthouses and exclusive facilities, all available on a long or short stay basis.

Travel with Purpose

Travelers are seeking meaningful experiences that contribute to personal growth, sustainability and cultural enrichment. Anguilla has introduced a new 'Volun-Tourism' initiative, promoting travel experiences that actively contribute to local communities, while Small Luxury Hotels of the World continues to expand its Considerate Collection, a community of sustainable boutique hotels. In Singapore, Pan Pacific Orchard offers an eco-friendly stay in the heart of the city, with open-air terraces and re-wilding initiatives.