



TATLER'S BEST HOTELS 2012

Brilliant boltholes to blow your mind

BEST NEW HOTEL

LE ROYAL MONCEAU, FRANCE

A wild and trippy hit. It has corridors encircled in stripes, staircases groaning under swarms of chandeliers and bathrooms of a million mirrors. It's utterly original and yet all so smooth and stately. A hotel that beautifully breaks all the rules (page 56).

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

BABYLONSTOREN, SOUTH AFRICA

This working farm is a fresh, chic whitewashed retreat with kitchen gardens to dazzle and happy chefs to fill your tummy. The most delicious opening of the year (page 6).

BEST NEW FAMILY HOTEL

BORGO EGNAZIA, ITALY

Gosh, it's pretty, this villa metropolis, a family-run endeavour that has aimed high and gets stronger daily. The kids' club is vast and wham-bam fantastic. Happy, happy day (page 23).

MOST IMMACULATE SERVICE

HOTEL DU CAP-EDEN-ROC, FRANCE

The receptionist, the concierge, the masseur, the driver who's worked here for 40 years – everyone is winningly fantastic. Didn't the driver ever feel like working somewhere else? 'Why would I?' he'll chuckle. 'This is the best hotel in the world!' (page 36).

ENDURING EXCELLENCE

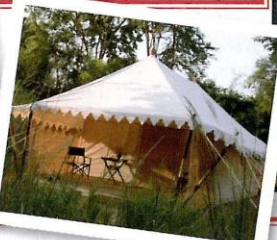
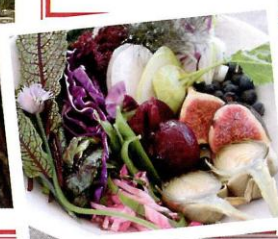
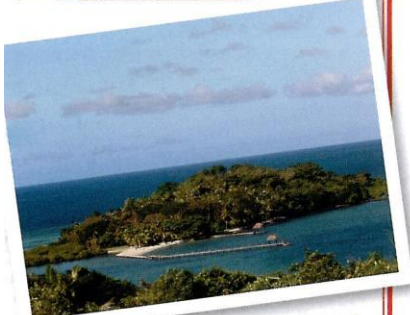
MANDARIN ORIENTAL HONG KONG, CHINA

The essential address in this city, the old-school man with a plan. Utterly reliable and still spectacular – there's even an in-house chocolatier. A serious hub that's also supremely fresh (page 15).

BEST NEW SENSATION

DEVI RATN, INDIA

A maharaja's super-palace for the 22nd century, a blast of a future that sparkles, with marble herringbone floors and rooms a riot of red. There can be no more outrageous or defiant creature out there. Mad as a box of frogs but quite, quite brilliant (page 47).



FINDERS KEEPERS

Secrets not for sharing

TATLER
AWARD WINNER
FOOD
GLORIOUS
FOOD



CASA TURQUESA

PARATY, BRAZIL

You'll want to kidnap the chef, receptionist and bellboy! What a joyous, cosy place. The owner, Tete Etrusco, is a workaholic with delicious taste – 300-threadcount Egyptian linen, statement art and a library stuffed with fashion books. Set apart by a unique brand of non-bling that you wish you could bottle, this lovely spot is a mass of cobbled streets, crumbling churches, beaches and bobbing boats. There are only nine rooms (lots of wood and windows, whizzy bath jets) and food is a big plus, despite the fact they only serve breakfast – but what gorgeous warm linseed and oat bread, freshly baked ginger cake and watermelon juice. They're so on it that the charming waiter Raoul will wait for you to walk in and sit down before blitzing the blender.

Website casaturquesa.com.br **Book it** *Debouche* (0871 284 7770) offers five nights from £1,800, including British Airways flights, transfers and breakfast.

BABYLONSTOREN

CAPE WINELANDS, SOUTH AFRICA

Nowhere else in the Cape Winelands do the worlds of contemporary and historical South Africa collide with such style. Until a decade ago, this 17th-century estate was run as a fruit farm. Then former magazine editor Karen Roos got her hands on it and it was soon the freshest, chicest guesthouse in the country. Babylonstoren still operates as a farm, but now the whitewashed, thatched workers' cottages are guestrooms, with panoramic views of soaring mountains. The garden's the star, full of pretty parterres, lavender-hedged paths, olive groves housing beehives, walls hanging with multicoloured pumpkins, miles of dreamy roses and a sea of red (beets, cabbage, rhubarb and peppers). There are more than 200 acres of vineyards, orchards and a spring-water reservoir to swim in, a simple, deliciously natural spa and a minimalist former cowshed with a look as inventive as the food within – multicoloured salads, yummy passion-fruit cakes and melon, ginger and lemongrass juices straight from the garden. Groups are occasionally permitted to rent the grand 1777 Cape Dutch farmhouse, featured regularly in interiors magazines. It's a kitchen-garden wonderland, the air thick with butterflies and the whiff of rosemary. **Website** babylonstoren.com **Book it** *Africa Travel* (020 7843 3580) offers five nights from £1,695, including British Airways flights, hire car and breakfast.

