

The 50 best hip hotels around the world

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listings

THE 50 BEST (AND HIPPEST)

The 50 Best

■ SPECTACULAR SETTINGS ■ WEEKEND SPOTS ■ ISLAND HIDEAWAYS
■ BEST-KEPT SECRETS ■ ROMANCE ■ GOURMET



11 DUNTON HOT SPRINGS, COLORADO

"Dunton Hot Springs is located in a valley in the Colorado Rockies. It's in the middle of nowhere, and it really is the most spectacular setting," says Herbert Ypma. "It's a truly amazing place, surrounded by beautiful trees and a waterfall, and it looks exactly how you would imagine a valley in the Rockies to look." The resort is 9,000 feet above sea level, and with accommodation for just 24 people it's run like a family home. Two new cabins are currently under construction.

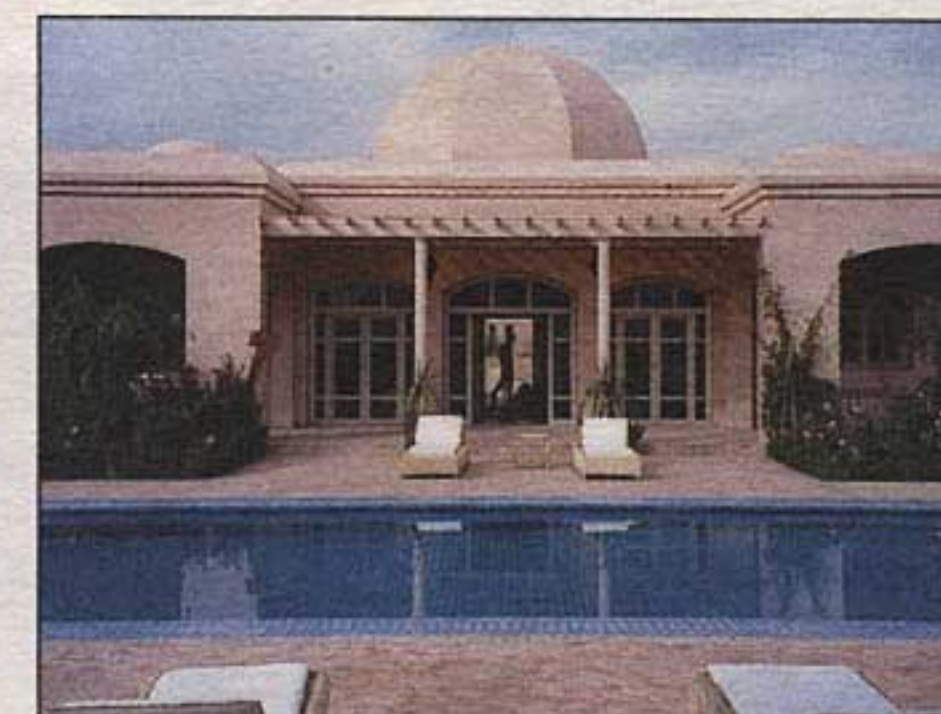
Where: Dolores, Colorado, USA (001 970 882 4800; fax 001 970 882 7474; www.duntonhotsprings.com).
What's special: You can get back to nature in style.
How much: Double rooms from £170.



12 HOTEL COSTES, PARIS

With its own resident DJ, interior design by Jacques Garcia, a bar and restaurant favoured by celebrities, and Belle Epoque ambience, Hotel Costes rates highly on both David Collins's and Herbert Ypma's lists. David likes its "authentic international feel and its close proximity to the Louvre and the Tuilleries Gallery," while Herbert says: "I've never met anyone who's not enjoyed themselves there. You could actually just arrive on a Friday and not leave the building till you go home on Sunday - you'd have a fantastic weekend."

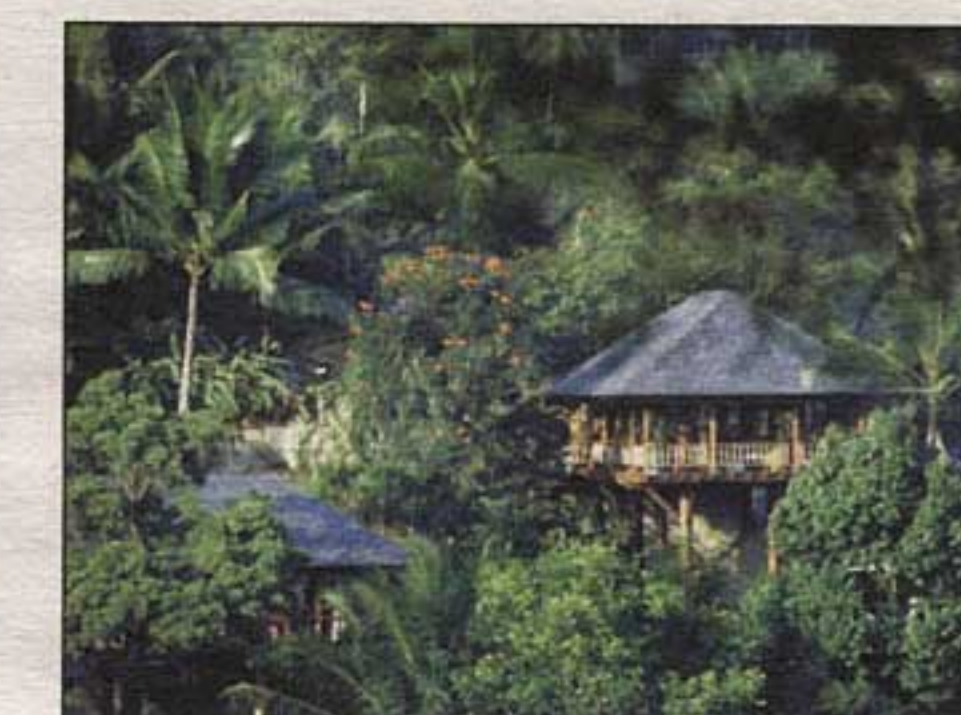
Where: 239 Rue Saint-Honoré, 75001 Paris (00 33 1 42 44 5000; fax 00 331 4244 5001).
What's special: An achingly cool place to stay.
How much: Double rooms from £289.



17 SUBLIME AILLEURS, MARRAKECH

"This is real North African hospitality," enthuses Claus Sendlinger. "Guests at Sublime Ailleurs discover spa culture, Moroccan-style." Set against Marrakech's Palmeraie district, with the distant Atlas mountains as a backdrop, Sublime Ailleurs is a luxurious compound of three villas, surrounded by private pools and gardens, and it has everything you'd expect from a top hotel, and more. "I shan't elaborate, or it won't stay a secret for long!"

Where: BP 2309 Poste, Principale de Gueliz 4000, Marrakech, Morocco. For reservations, call Abercrombie & Kent on 0845 070 0620.
What's special?: An impressive level of luxury in unique surroundings.
How much: From £1,699 for four people, with minimum three nights half-board (from 16 June).



18 BEGAWAN GIRI, BALI

Begawan Giri is an idyllic mountain hideaway perched 100 metres above the Ayung River, just outside Ubud on the island of Bali. The Wanakasa Suite, one of 22 here, is perched high up in the trees on stilt-like wooden columns. "It's very private," Claus says. "The pool hangs over the edge of the valley, so it's simply blissful to dive in and just gaze out across this amazing eco-system of the surrounding jungle."

Where: Ubud, Bali, Indonesia (00 62 361 978 888; UK reservations 020-7235 3245; email admin@begawan.com; www.begawan.com).
What's special?: Sleeping in a luxury treehouse.
How much: From £324 per night for a suite, £2,084 per night for a villa (includes breakfast & airport transfers).

Where do the beautiful people stay when they're on holiday - and can we follow in their footsteps? Travelling is so much more fun when your destination screams style. **Aoife O'Riordain** and her expert panel check in...

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THE PANEL

Nancy Novogrod is editor-in-chief of *Travel + Leisure America* magazine, and editorial director at American Express Publishing in New York.
Claus Sendlinger is president and co-founder of Design Hotels Inc, representing design-led hotels worldwide (www.planethotels.com). **Keith Hobbs** is a founder of United Designers design consultancy, which created interiors for The Metropolitan, Four Seasons Canary Wharf and Parrot Cay.
David Collins is an architect and interior designer whose clients include Madonna and Marco Pierre White. He also designed London's Berkeley Hotel in Knightsbridge. Architecture/interiors writer **Herbert Ypma** writes the *Hip Hotels* series of books, and launched *Interior Architecture* magazine in Australia. *Hip Hotels France* is due for publication in April (Thames & Hudson).

NB: Details were checked at the time of going to press, but prices are liable to change and are subject to currency fluctuations.

NEXT WEEK: THE 50 BEST ROMANTIC HOTSPOTS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY