

THE HOTTEST HOTEL OPENINGS OF 2014

The world's network of luxury hotels is one that ebbs, flows and ever expands. Madeline Hoskin uncovers some of the best new releases.

ISLAND HIDEAWAY

Nihmatu, Indonesia
Reopened: March 2014

What do you get when a fashion billionaire (Chris Burch) sinks \$30 million into developing a resort on one of Indonesia's most picturesque and untouched havens (Sumba)? The answer is an idyllic island escape reminiscent of what Bali offered travellers 30 years ago - before the crowds caught on and tourism burgeoned to new heights. At Nihmatu you alight from your flight at Tambolaka Airport and find a world where nature, culture and luxury converge. While it may sit on 230 hectares, only 26 of them have been built upon, meaning wildlife and verdant foliage abounds. The resort comprises 21 villas that breathe with warm light and panoramic views, 2.5 kilometres of private beach that allow guests the chance to surf one of the world's best left-hand breaks, a seaside Beach Spa and communal beach clubs, restaurants and spaces to unwind, dine and soak up the scenery.

www.nihmatu.com



A PARISIAN LOVE AFFAIR

Peninsula Paris, France
Opened: August 2014

A classic façade rejuvenated by a high-end overhaul, this hotel studies Peninsula's iconic charm along with a generous dash of Parisian romanticism. Steps from the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs-Élysées, guests will experience the City of Light amid a hub of luxury and history dating back to 1908. The opulence encompasses the brand's signature pageboys, a fleet of Rolls-Royce vehicles, statuesque Chinese lions at the door and afternoon tea served in the majestic lobby. Unique to the Paris location, the lobby boasts a hand-blown Lasvit chandelier that sees crystal leaves cascading from the ceiling. Enveloped in one of the 200 rooms and 34 suites, guests will also uncover rooftop spaces and private terrace gardens that brag 360-degree city views, along with 58 tempting dining options that traverse tastes from the best French delicacies at L'oiseau Blanc all the way to Cantonese masterpieces at Lili.

www.peninsula.com/paris

YACHT CLUB DREAM

Regent Porto Montenegro Hotel and Residences
Opened: August 2014

With 51 rooms, 35 residences and a locale between an Adriatic marina and lush mountain greens, this terracotta-roofed Regent property welcomes guests to enjoy the nautical life as they venture out on lazy yacht explorations and seaside strolls. Italianesque ambience lingers all around, unsurprising given the region's 400 years spent under Venetian rule. However, here the crowds are thinner thanks to a less-developed tourist-mecca reputation (though it's probably best to get in sooner rather than later). You can anticipate rooms kitted out with the latest amenities - flat-screen TVs, Wi-Fi, deep-soaking tubs, walk-in showers and more - as well as four dining spaces, a fitness centre, indoor and outdoor pools, and a Regent Spa... all to be enjoyed at one's leisure, of course.

www.regenthotels.com/porto-montenegro

