

# THE HOT LIST

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World's Top New  
**134 HOTELS**  
Including 42 under \$250

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MAY 2010

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THE 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

# HOT LIST

2010

## THE YEAR'S 134 TOP NEW HOTELS (INCLUDING 42 UNDER \$250 A NIGHT)

**SHOWING AMAZING RESILIENCE**, the art of hotel innovation is flourishing. Across the globe, hotels are still opening in strong numbers. We combed through the thousands that debuted in the last year, then bedded down anonymously at the most compelling candidates. A robust 134 properties spread across a record 55 countries won a place on our list with their blend of strong style, skillful service, state-of-the-art technology, and transporting aura. They're a diverse group, ranging in size from a three-suite gem in Lisbon to an eco-forward 4,004-room showstopper on the Vegas Strip, and in cost from \$130 a night at a boldly designed Mexico City tower to \$3,600 for a slice of the good life on a South Pacific isle once the private retreat of Malcolm Forbes. As more hotels strive to soar above the competition, the bar for excellence, too, climbs—although price tags don't. Nearly a third of this year's list offer rooms for less than \$250 a night, so there's no time like the present to ride the wave of good fortune.

# HOT LIST 2010

## ARGENTINA

Loi Suites, Puerto Iguazú

## AUSTRALIA

The Cullen, Melbourne  
Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa, New South Wales

## BELGIUM

Maison DeLaneau, Antwerp

## BELIZE

Machaca Hill Rainforest Canopy Lodge, Punta Gorda

## BRAZIL

Hotel das Cataratas, Iguazú Falls  
Tivoli São Paulo-Mofarrej, São Paulo  
Uxua Casa Hotel, Trancoso

## CANADA

The Keefer, Vancouver

## CARIBBEAN AND ATLANTIC

The Viceroy, Anguilla  
Tucker's Point Hotel and Spa, Bermuda  
Baoase, Curaçao  
Gansevoort Turks & Caicos, Turks and Caicos

## CHILE

The Aubrey, Santiago  
W Santiago, Santiago

## CHINA

The Fairmont, Beijing  
Amanfayun, Hangzhou  
Upper House, Hong Kong  
Jing's Residence, Pingyao  
The Peninsula, Shanghai  
The PuLi Hotel and Spa, Shanghai

## COLOMBIA

Tcherassi Hotel & Spa, Cartagena de Indias

## COSTA RICA

Monte Azul, Chirripó National Park  
Oxygen Jungle Villas, Uvita

## CROATIA

Lešić Dimitri Palace, Korčula

## CZECH REPUBLIC

The Augustine, Prague

## EGYPT

Villa Belle Epoque, Cairo

## ENGLAND

The Scarlet, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall  
Bermondsey Square Hotel, London  
The Boundary, London  
Dean Street Townhouse, London  
Lime Wood, New Forest

## FIJI

Laucala, Laucala Island  
InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa, Viti Levu

## FRANCE

Alpaga, Megève  
Banke Hotel, Paris  
Radisson Blu Le Metropolitan Eiffel, Paris  
La Réserve Ramatuelle, Ramatuelle

## GERMANY

Louis Hotel, Munich

## INDIA

Alila Diwa, Goa  
The Serai, Jaisalmer  
Raas, Jodhpur  
Banjaar Tola, Kanha National Park  
Mihirgarh, Rohet  
Leela Palace Kempinski, Udaipur

## INDONESIA

Alila Villas Uluwatu, Bali  
Banyan Tree Ungasan, Bali  
Hotel Indonesia Kempinski, Jakarta

## ISRAEL

Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

## ITALY

Il Salviatino, Fiesole  
Verdura Golf and Spa Resort, Sicily  
Castel Monastero, Tuscany  
Centurion Palace, Venice  
Palazzina Grassi, Venice

## JAPAN

Hoshinoya, Kyoto

## JORDAN

Kempinski Aqaba, Aqaba  
Evason Ma'In Hot Springs & Six Senses Spa, Madaba

## KENYA

Tribe—The Village Market Hotel, Nairobi

## LAOS

Amantaka, Luang Prabang

## LEBANON

Le Gray, Beirut

## MALAYSIA

Clove Hall, Georgetown, Penang

## MALDIVES

Shangri-La's Villingili Resort and Spa, Addu Atoll  
Alila Villas Hadahaa, Gaafu Alifu Atoll

## MEXICO

Rancho Pescadero, El Pescadero, Baja  
Capella Pedregal, Los Cabos  
Distrito Capital, Mexico City

## St. Regis, Mexico City

La Amada, Playa Mujeres  
Banyan Tree Mayakoba, Riviera Maya

## MOROCCO

La Mamounia, Marrakech

## NEW ZEALAND

Hotel DeBrett, Auckland

## NICARAGUA

Jicaró Island Ecodge, Granada Isletas

## PERU

Casa Cartagena, Cusco  
Hotel Paracas, Paracas  
Aranwa Resort & Spa, Sacred Valley

## PHILIPPINES

Shangri-La's Boracay Resort & Spa, Boracay Island

## POLAND

Andel's Hotel, Lodz  
Hotel Monopol, Wrocław

## PORTUGAL

Hotel Altis Belém, Lisbon  
Palacete Chafariz d'el Rei, Lisbon  
Pousada do Porto, Palácio do Freixo, Porto

## SCOTLAND

Hotel Missoni, Edinburgh

## SINGAPORE

Capella Singapore, Singapore  
Klappers, Singapore

## SLOVAKIA

Grand Hotel Kempinski High Tatras, Strbske Pleso

## SOUTH AFRICA

One&Only, Cape Town  
Taj Cape Town, Cape Town  
Oyster Box Hotel, Durban

## SPAIN

Mandarin Oriental, Barcelona  
Selenza Hotel, Madrid

## SRI LANKA

Villa Bentota, Bentota

## SWEDEN

Hotel Skeppsholmen, Stockholm

## SWITZERLAND

Hotel Helvetia, Zurich

## TANZANIA

Selous Project, Selous Game Reserve  
Sayari Camp, Serengeti National Park  
Sanctuary Swala, Tarangire National Park  
Kilindi, Zanzibar

## THAILAND

JW Marriott Resort, Khao Lak  
Soneva Kiri, Koh Kood



Blue lagoon: The Endheri Pool at Shangri-La's Villingili Resort and Spa, in the Maldives.

Langham Place, Koh Samui

Phulay Bay, A Ritz-Carlton Reserve, Krabi  
Andara Resort & Villas, Phuket

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Qasr Al Sarab, Abu Dhabi  
Yas Hotel, Abu Dhabi

## UNITED STATES

Ritz-Carlton Dove Mountain, Marana, Arizona

Ritz-Carlton Highlands, Lake Tahoe, California  
Terranea, Rancho Palos Verdes, California

Viceroy Snowmass, Snowmass Village, Colorado

Seagate Hotel, Delray Beach, Florida  
The Betsy, Miami Beach, Florida

W South Beach, Miami Beach, Florida

St. Regis, Atlanta, Georgia

Ko'a Kea, Kauai, Hawaii

Elysian, Chicago, Illinois  
The Wit, Chicago, Illinois

Ames Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts

Aria Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

Mandarin Oriental, Las Vegas, Nevada

Reform Club, Amangansett, New York

Ace Hotel, New York, New York

Crosby Street Hotel, New York, New York

The Mark, New York, New York

The Surrey, New York, New York

Allison Inn and Spa, Newberg, Oregon

Hotel Palomar, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Hutton Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee

St. Regis Deer Crest, Deer Valley, Utah

Amangiri, Canyon Point, Utah

The Jefferson, Washington, D.C.

W Washington, D.C., Washington, D.C.

## URUGUAY

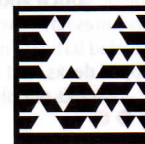
Le Bibló, Montevideo

## VANUATU

Ratua Private Island, Ratua

## VIETNAM

Sofitel Legend Metropole, Hanoi  
InterContinental Asiana Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City



SNAP IT



## BEING THERE

Snap this tag with your smartphone to watch a video sneak-peak, captured by our correspondents, of each of the **five highlighted Hot List hotels**. (For instructions on downloading the free app, see page 24.)

## KEY TO SYMBOLS

☉ = Bar/Lounge ☉ = Beach ☉ = Free Wi-Fi ☉ = Gym ☉ = Pool ☉ = Spa  
☉ = Hot Spa 2010 ☉ = 24-Hour Room Service

🔥 = Hot

🔥🔥 = Hotter

🔥🔥🔥 = Hottest

For the full reviews of hotels designated 🔥, go to [cntraveler.com/hotlist](http://cntraveler.com/hotlist).



Grace notes: The David Tang Suite at The Boundary, in London.

### Bermondsey Square Hotel, London

**UNDER \$250** 44-870-111-2525; doubles, \$223-\$247.

### The Boundary, London

Seasoned restaurateur and design store proprietor Terence Conran's first foray into hotels is an art-filled 17-room converted Victorian brick warehouse complex comprising bars, a café, a restaurant, and a food store in East London's edgy Shoreditch. Each bedroom is inspired by a different design star or movement, from Shaker to Mies van der Rohe. The Bauhaus bedroom feels—perhaps not surprisingly—a touch austere, with the requisite black leather Wassily lounge chair, a splashy painted headboard, a black desk, and a red, yellow, and blue cabinet; others, including the British room, with eccentric patchwork furnishings, are warmer. Large warehouse-style windows look onto the area's higgledy-piggledy brick buildings, while minimalist bathrooms have intriguing toilets with heated seats and other bells and whistles. Breakfast is taken in the attractive Albion eatery downstairs, where the menu includes specials like kidneys on toast and porridge with prunes; the glam basement bar and cavern-like dining room of exposed brick, velvet-covered chairs, and mirrors recall Conran's high-rolling early-nineties restaurants (Quaglino's, Mezzo) but with a cozier feel. Another draw is the roof deck, where there's a grill restaurant and bar and—an essential in this city—a fireplace, plus 360-degree views of London's skyscrapers. **WHICH ROOM TO BOOK:** The Modern Dickensian duplex suite, with a black leather

Chesterfield sofa and graphic black-and-white-tiled bathroom (44-207-729-1051; doubles, \$273-\$300).

### Dean Street Townhouse, London

**UNDER \$250** Run by the team behind Soho House, a group of members' clubs in London and New York popular with media types, this 39-room hotel filling two stucco-fronted Georgian town houses mixes English cottage-style decor with all the moderns, and offers extraordinarily reasonable room rates for buzzy, central Soho. Room categories range from "Broom Cupboard" to "Bigger," with claw-foot baths in the bedrooms. In the room-enough-to-swing-a-cat "Small" category, expect homey touches including painted wood paneling and patterned wallpaper, a dressing table, and soft, sea grass-like carpeting. Diminutive but sleek bathrooms have powerful walk-in showers and are stocked with everything required for an impromptu night away—toothbrush, hair straightener, and Cowshed spa products—which, considering the hotel charges about the same as a taxi fare from here to the suburbs, is probably the whole point. Public space is limited to a cozy room off reception, but the friendly staff do their best to gain you access into Soho House down the road, with its surfeit of sofas. A tasty British breakfast (kippers, beans on toast, boiled eggs that come in knitted hats) is served at the sceney restaurant next door. It also does room service and afternoon tea, and heaves with television personalities and hot young things by night. **WHICH ROOM TO BOOK:** On a budget? Ask for the 160-square-foot Broom Cupboard and spend the money you save in Topshop, a few blocks away on Oxford Circus. Otherwise, you'll still save in a Small (44-207-434-1775; doubles, \$220-\$450).

### Lime Wood, New Forest

Georgian manor houses invariably lie at the end of a long gravel drive, past formal gardens and elegant outbuildings. Lime Wood, true to form, presents a perfect picture of eighteenth-century gentrification. Wood fires crackle in gorgeously furnished sitting rooms beyond the foyer, while checkerboard floors of cream and black stone gleam under chandeliers and sconces of metal oak leaves. A glass-ceilinged conservatory accommodates tea takers and spirit drinkers alike. Meals are

served in the adjoining rustic "Scully," and when weather permits, guests can also dine on a terrace overlooking clipped yew hedges, vine trellises, and reflecting pools stocked with speckled trout. Bedrooms in white, beige, and silvery blue-gray soothe the soul even as the body is cosseted by the plumpiest pillows. Also pampering is the immense bathroom with its claw-foot tub, capacious walk-in shower, and delectably scented Bamford botanical products. For sport you can borrow Wellies from the mudroom, pick up a walking map at reception, and set off on a hearty forest walk—staff will gladly point the way. Alternatively, Winchester is a 25-minute drive and Jane Austen's family home not much farther. **WHICH ROOM TO BOOK:** The stand-alone two-bedroom Beech Suite is the costliest but popular for a striking design that includes a black ceiling. The suites in the coach house have working fireplaces and private terraces and offer direct access to the forest (44-23-8028-7177; doubles, \$362-\$604).

### FIJI

#### Laucala, Laucala Island

For the review, see page 199.

#### InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa, Viti Levu

Sitting on what many consider to be the finest beach on Fiji's main island of Viti Levu, this 271-room resort has the palm-fringed sands and clear water that many seek on Fiji's tiny offshore islands. But its expansive grounds also allow it to provide a choice of restaurants, room to swing a golf club, and a spa that's more than a table under an awning. Even the standard rooms are sizable, and all include an outdoor living area that extends the usable space while still granting privacy. The 40-minute drive from the airport might be a drawback for guests on their way to an offshore resort, but the hotel offers so much to do—from a ride on the sugarcane train that runs through the property to a visit to the local fish market—that they might happily decide to go no farther. **WHICH ROOM TO BOOK:** You're on a gorgeous stretch of sand—opt for a beachfront suite (888-424-6835; doubles, \$260-\$552).

### FRANCE

#### Alpaga, Megève

33-4-50-54-65-63; doubles, \$299-\$510.

### Banke Hotel, Paris

33-1-55-33-22-22; doubles, \$252-\$395.

### Radisson Blu Le Metropolitan Eiffel, Paris

Overlooking the quiet Place de Mexico in the silk-stocking sixteenth arrondissement, this handsome triangular limestone Haussmannian building is a smart, stylish 48-room property that completely belies its chain hotel roots. The main entrance leads to a low-lit, low-key lobby with an ethanol-burning fireplace, sleek black leather armchairs and sofas, caramel-stained wood, and a color scheme of black and ivory. The young reception staff are welcoming—there's not a whiff of Gallic hauteur at this property—and things get even better upstairs, where the well-designed Classic doubles (the least expensive room category) offer a lot of comfort for a reasonable price. Sure they're snug, but the waxed teak flooring, wall-mounted plasma-screen TVs, and ebony-stained four-posters with high-quality sheets give the rooms a cozy rather than small feel. Bathrooms have spacious black-stone stall showers and shallow limestone sinks, and the lighting is soft and studied throughout. A raft of great details, including iPod docks, complimentary Wi-Fi, and Anne Sémonin toiletries, means that the Radisson Blu performs well above its weight and is a pleasant contender for anyone who doesn't mind the slightly off-the-beaten track location. The hotel also has a small indoor pool and a steam room. **WHICH ROOM TO BOOK:** Nos. 411, 511, or 611 for a full-on view of the Eiffel Tower (33-1-56-90-40-04; doubles, \$339-\$583).

### La Réserve Ramatuelle, Ramatuelle

Despite its proximity to the rocking scene in St-Tropez, six miles away, this discreet little oasis feels a world away from the high-octane glitz. Its 23 spacious rooms and suites, all with terraces or private gardens, have spectacular sea views and are nestled into a ridge

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For the full reviews of hotels designated ☪ go to [cntraveler.com/hotlist](http://cntraveler.com/hotlist)



HOT LIST 2010  
**HOT**  
Hotels

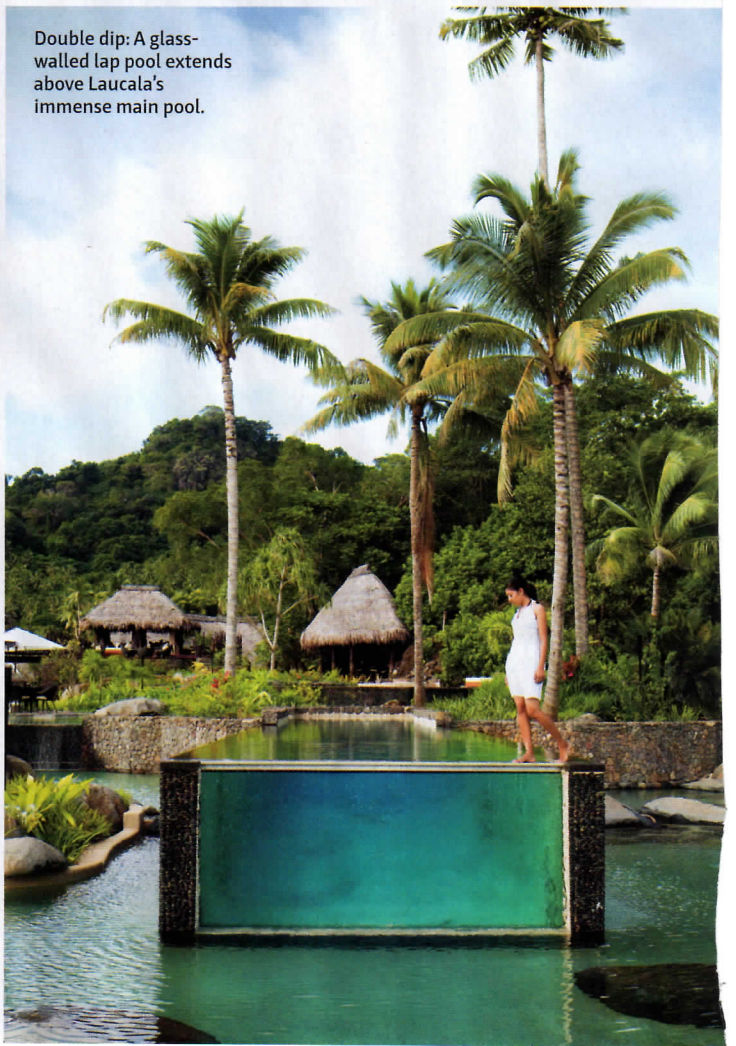
Inner light: An oversize lamp installation at the Hotel Skeppsholmen.



Natural by design: A Cliff Villa bedroom at Soneva Kiri on Koh Kood.



Point of view: Le Gray's Indigo on the Roof restaurant looks out at Beirut's Al Amin Mosque.



Double dip: A glass-walled lap pool extends above Laucala's immense main pool.

SWEDEN

**Hotel Skeppsholmen,**

Stockholm

Transforming a military barracks into a luxury hotel isn't an easy task, particularly when the building, dating from 1699, is so historic that structural changes are forbidden. Fortunately, the design firm of Claesson Koivisto Rune overcame the obstacles, producing a triumph of Swedish style—a modest, minimalist, yet supremely comfortable property housed in two low, long buildings. The sense of antiquity is preserved (stone staircases worn smooth by the centuries, wooden shutters in the bedrooms), but there's no shortage of modern amenities, from the amazing Duxiana beds to bathrooms with rain showers. The hotel takes its name from the island it sits on: Skeppsholmen is an easy walk to the National Museum, NK department store, and high-end shopping in Östermalm. It's an even easier ferry ride from the Old Town, visible across the water. By day, lots of people cross the bridge to visit the hotel's neighbor, the Moderna Museet, but at night the island is virtually soundless. As a result the hotel is perfect for those who want quick access to the best of the city followed by undisturbed sleep. **WHICH ROOM TO BOOK:** To take full advantage of its location near the waterfront, get a seaweave room (46-8-407-23-00; doubles, \$257-\$280). 🍷 🍴 🛏 🚿 🌿



Building sight: Deluxe Boulevard rooms at the Mandarin Oriental face Barcelona's Passeig de Gràcia.

SPAIN

**Mandarin Oriental,**

Barcelona

Located on the posh Passeig de Gràcia in the heart of Gaudí country (the neighborhood is dense with trippy buildings by the Catalan architect), the 98-room Mandarin Oriental is the city's first major luxury hotel since the 1992 Arts Hotel. To be sure, small stylish accommodations continue to open in Barcelona in droves, but this place is different—a grown-up, spit-and-polish beauty with intriguing decor by Spanish designer Patricia Urquiola, who nods at the Moorish legacy of light and shadow and screen partitions, but pokes these protocols with a straight-lined dose of twenty-first-century Zen. Arriving, you walk up a dramatic ramp that leads to an airy atrium cage of white-painted stamped steel, and this heady look continues in guest rooms, which are done up in a pale decor of sleek leather armchairs, oak parquet floors, and modern light fixtures. The standard doubles, though snug, are well-designed spaces that sling a lot of comfort. With one of the sexiest rooftop pools in the city, an excellent spa, and Moments, a superb Catalan comfort-food restaurant, this elegant mini grand hotel offers a lot of good reasons to skip Barcelona's rapidly dating nineties vintage waterfront.

**WHICH ROOM TO BOOK:** Ask for an upper-floor, Passeig de Gràcia-facing room with a view of anything by Gaudí (34-93-151-8888; doubles, \$688-\$824).

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THAILAND

**Soneva Kiri,** Koh Kood

On Koh Kood, which is still pristine (though perhaps not for long—it is rumored that an airport will open on the island in 2012), Soneva Kiri is among the most exciting resorts in Southeast Asia. Guests land on a private airstrip on neighboring speck Koh Mai Si and then arrive via motor launch to a jetty jutting into a pretty cove. The resort sprawls over the island's northern tip, and guests navigate the manicured grounds by electric golf cart. Virtuously constructed from sustainable eucalyptus logs, native bamboo, and treated pine, the 29 villas—some fronting a gorgeous private beach, others up on the hillside, and one Eco Villa implementing cutting-edge environmental design—are actually multi-structured complexes spacious enough for an entire family and appointed with a dressing room, a separate dining room, indoor and outdoor showers, and a grotto-like pool. Resort dining—including inside a treetop "dining pod"—matches dishes with a serious wine list, makes use of organic produce from on-site gardens, and the Catalan chef will gladly cook to order. A pleasant surprise here is the

resort library: Soneva Kiri hired a London curator to assemble an inspired mix of recent titles and classics, all housed in a magical little hut. **WHICH ROOM TO BOOK:** Every villa is huge and has panoramic water views, but only the beach villas have their own stretch of sand (66-3961-9800; villas, \$1,192-\$1,518). 🍷 🍴 🛏 🚿 🌿

FIJI

**Laucala,** Laucala Island

In 1972, Malcolm Forbes bought this luscious green morsel as his private refuge; now its new owner, Red Bull magnate Dietrich Mateschitz, has spared no expense to create a spectacular tropical hideaway. The high price tag gets you over-the-top luxury and total privacy in one of 25 unique villas—all glamorous versions of traditional Fijian dwellings. Each opens onto its own secluded beachfront and private pool. Inside, you'll find the expected mod cons (Bose sound systems, giant plasma TVs, a personal bar stocked with champagne), and exuberant decor—sofas evoke sea shells, light shades are crafted from hundreds of butterfly cocoons, bathtubs are carved from single

slabs of granite. It's hard to leave—*amuse-bouches* materialize throughout the day, and any conceivable meal will be arranged instantly—but Laucala also offers five restaurants, a spa, a stable, and an 18-hole golf course. Go on a mountain bike to explore the seven-mile-long island and Laucala almost feels like an independent nation, with an organic farm, armies of friendly staff, a working jetty, a hangar with mechanics to service private jets, and a James Bond-worthy dive boat for trips to fertile reefs.

**WHICH ROOM TO BOOK:** Each villa has its own appeal, but the two-bedroom Overwater Residence juts out above the lapping waves—for \$6,400 a night (679-888-0077; villas, \$3,800). 🍷 🍴 🛏 🚿 🌿

LEBANON

**Le Gray,** Beirut

Hotelier Gordon Campbell Gray's faith in Beirut has paid off: Le Gray is attracting stylish travelers eager to explore the capital's resurrected nightlife, ancient history, and seaside joie de vivre. The hotel is perfectly positioned on the edge of the restored downtown's galleries, boutiques, and restaurants, and the

ebullient staff share tips on places to imbibe (or buy cases) of Lebanese vintages. The 87 rooms, which ring a seven-story curved atrium decorated with contemporary European and Mideast art, are modern without being severe; all contain the latest gadgets, including a flat-screen TV opposite the bathtub; camera, computer, and iPod docks; and bean-grinding Jura espresso machines. Gordon's Café, serving local seafood and decadent pastries, is one of downtown's most popular daytime eateries. At night the glass-walled penthouse piano bar attracts couples; others chill on the sixth-floor terrace, which has a Mediterranean fusion restaurant, a cigar bar and library, and a small infinity pool whose underwater lights and transparent purple glass walls dare you to skinny-dip even as church bells ring and Islamic calls to prayer drift across this multicultural city. **WHICH ROOM TO BOOK:** Corner one-bedroom suites ending in 10 have curved windows with views of Martyr's Square. The quietest rooms face the Al Amin Mosque and Roman Cardo Maximus but also a small army barracks (961-1-962-828; doubles, \$294-\$395).

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Opposite, top right: Photograph by Lisa Liner. Bottom left: Photograph by Andrew Rowat