

BAZAAR

Harper's

ESCAPE

Take FLIGHT

Slip away from the tourist throng, and into one of our selection of chic boutique hotels that will allow you to really get away from it all



Room with a view
at the Amanzoe,
Greece

BEST FOR: BAREFOOT LUXURY BORNEO

Tread lightly in this unspoilt paradise. Until now the only option for intrepid travelers was to set up camp on Pulau Gaya, a verdant island off the north west of Borneo. Now, a contemporary resort with 121 villas has been sustainably built in Malohom Bay. Each residence is in homage to its environment, emerging out of the jungle in dark wood and warm natural shades, with veranda vistas of sea, mountain or forest. Opens July 1.

MUST: Commune with nature. Unspoilt coral gardens in the crystal waters surrounding the island make for spectacular snorkeling. On terra firma, you can explore the miles of ancient forest trails with the resident naturalist, and play spot the indigenous species, or stop for a spot of yoga under the canopy of an ancient tree.

DIVERSION: Entertainment comes in the form of gourmet options from west to east, a swimming pool, classes for cookery, craft and art and a spa village hidden among the lush mangroves, for a host of restorative treatments.

GET THERE: Fly Royal Brunei to Kota Kinabalu for a 15 minute boat transfer to Pulau Gaya. Villas from Dhs805 per night. gayaishoresort.com

The Spa Village at the Gaya Island Resort



Gaya Island Resort Villa view



BEST FOR: GENTLEMAN CHIC MILAN

With just 21 rooms, a bolthole bar and bijou eaterie, you'll feel as though you've been ushered into an elite Milan members club. Designed by Guido Ciompi, renowned for his work with Gucci, the fashionably luxurious atmosphere vibrates from every

detail, from the black paneling, dark crocodile skin and masculine coffee and cream shades that place this hotel distinctly in the design category.

MUST: Book top class rooms. Two of The Gray's suites have a built-in mini-gym with the latest cardio machines and weights for a spontaneous workout.

DIVERSION: Located in the heart of Milan,

between the Duomo, and shopping in Galleria, La Scala and the fabulous boutiques of via Monte Napoleone, you can opt for micro-trips to soak up the culture and style.

In between, you'll find the hotel's stylish Le Noir restaurant a great place to catch the city's slickest residents.

GET THERE: Fly Emirates to Milan. Rooms from Dhs2228 per night, hoteltthegray.com



The lobby

The suite's washroom



The L'Iglesia hotel



BEST FOR: ARABIAN MOROCCO

The mysteries of Morocco have long since seduced travelers to this ethnic North African enclave. The sun shines all year and you can have a dose of Arabian architecture in the traditional medinas or with riad stays. Even

better, if you venture out of Marrakech or Casablanca, there is destination that is now hot on the map. El Jadida on the shores of the Atlantic hides a new jewel, the L'Iglesia Hotel, converted from a 16th century building that was formerly the home of the US consulate.

MUST: Get romantic. It's hard not to in surroundings this inspiring of l'amour. The heady mix of Arabian architecture, heavy chandeliers hanging from vaulted ceilings and the cool contemporary furniture juxtaposing the original features of the building, set the mood beautifully. And up on the rooftop bar, you can sink sundowners under a stellar Moroccan sky.

DIVERSION: L'Iglesia is set in a UNESCO World Heritage Site, once a Portuguese fortified city that is so well preserved that you can wander through and explore its rich history. If ancient cities aren't your thing, we hear that surfing the crashing waves on this particular part of the coast, is pretty thrilling.

GET THERE: Etihad flies direct from Abu Dhabi to Marrakech, with road transfers to the hotel. Superior Suites from Dhs710, liglesia.com. Open from July 1st.



The L'Iglesia's lounge

BEST FOR: A CULTURE FIX AMSTERDAM

Steeped in rich culture, the Nine Streets area of Amsterdam maybe be busy during the summer months, but at the famous Canal House hotel, all is tranquil. Built from three 17th century merchant homes and completely refitted in 2010, it is a glamorous execution of modern, inspired by traditional Dutch painting. The buildings' history is recalled in the original timber beams, ornate



The Great Room at the Canal House hotel



BEST FOR: ROOMY LUXE SCOTLAND

Book a stay at The Atholl in Edinburgh's New Town, and you'll be rooming in digs that outsize the basic British home. With four capacious suites, you can spread yourself out at in the largest, 3145sqf of absolute opulence, or cramp up in the smallest, 1000sqm suite. Effectively, these are beautiful bespoke apartments more than simply hotel rooms, and you will feel right at home with every detail from the floral arrangements to the artwork.

MUST: Stay in. With amenities this fabulous, you'll not want to venture out into the crisp Scottish air. Each suite extends to elegantly tailored living and dining areas, some with their own tasting rooms, perfect for enjoying some in-room dining, created by the famous Albert Roux of Le Gavroche.

DIVERSIONS: Designed for entertaining, you can whip up some tasty treats in your Bulthaup kitchen, followed by a coffee from your Nespresso machine before you relax in front of your Bose television for a late movie.

GET THERE: Fly British Airways to Edinburgh. Suites from Dhs6929 per night. theatholl.com ▶

ceilings and fireplaces, with pictures that illustrate moments of its past. And with just 23 luxurious rooms, it feels more like a home than a hotel.

MUST: Make friends. The hotel's beautiful private garden, occasionally open to the public, is the perfect place to enjoy a few sunny hours for an impromptu picnic. Its Garden House and the Summer House for private dining; Bar and Great Room give you plenty of options for eating, drinking, relaxing and celebrating.

DIVERSION: You are moments from Amsterdam's famous flower market, Anne Frank's house and a clutch of galleries and historic buildings that will keep you busy between bouts of relaxation.

GET THERE: Fly KLM direct to Schipol. Rooms from Dhs1114 per night, canalhouse.nl

The Better Room



Space is in abundant supply at The Atholl



Living large in Scotland

BEST FOR: SUMMER SAADIYAT

While many of us may be jetting off for a month or two to a European capital, New York, Beirut or back to our homes for the summer, we all need a quick go-to for that weekend refresh.

An hour's drive from Dubai and you'll find yourself in the kind of island hideaway that usually comes with a four hour flight to Male. Renowned for its natural beauty, Saadiyat has got all its eco-credentials intact. You won't find any crisp packets floating along the beach, or any dubious detritus bobbing in the sea. Instead, you'll have the kind of soft white sand and clean turquoise water that may have once greeted the first visitors to the emirates over a century ago.

The Park Hyatt, the first hotel to have opened its doors on Saadiyat, is a low rise, contemporary building that echoes the sandy tones of the desert and sprawls towards the coastline, its long wooden boardwalks curving over the protected grassy dunes that are the habitat of the nesting hawksbill turtle. It's paradise of a kind that seems too good to be on your doorstep.

Inside the cavernous lobby, with its inverted industrial dunescape and still shallow pools pierced with delicate metal sculptures of the desert rose, is a vast viewing window that grants you immediate access to the enormous plunge pool, daytime cabanas and the beach beyond, peppered with palms.

Throughout the hotel, an abstract Arabic geometric symbol that echoes the Fleurs de Lys, is repeated in the black matt embossed walls, etched into steel elevator doors, subliminally appearing to create a consistent flow in the design. Inside, the rooms are bright, white and cool with touches of oak and black American walnut from Finland, sculptural pieces dress surfaces, but the minimalist feel maintains the Park Hyatt's very particular sense of tranquil.

If you value your space, then we recommend taking a suite. The large living area is perfect for relaxing between bouts of sunbathing, and with an adjoining covered balcony you can lounge on the day bed with views of the pool or sea. Better still, the hotel boasts a number of private villas that open out directly onto the beach, and are surrounded by landscaped gardens with a large terrace and plunge pool, outdoor massage beds and rain shower, some with additional rooms and butler service.

Truth be told, you may spend precious little time indoors. With four swimming pools and such fabulous scenery, you'll be hammock-bound, submerged in cool waters or dozing under the shade of your cabana with a bucket of chilled Pellegrino by your side for much of the day.

MUST: Fine dine. While the restaurants may be closed during the day for the holy month, make sure you book a table for dinner; all the outlets are small and exceptionally popular, even with out of towners and daytrippers.



The Park terrace and suite lounge

Spread out over two floors, The Park Bar & Grill, takes a much-loved concept and gives it an oriental twist. Enjoy oysters with an asian vinaigrette and steamed sea bass with soy and chili, or a tuna tartare followed by a whopping wagyu, seared and sauced. Finish sweet, or with our recommendation, the cheese plate accompanied with freshly made date and walnut bread. Our particular favourite however, was The Beach House. Cleverly designed with modular areas so you can perch at the bar, lounge at a table, share with friends or have an intimate tête à tête with views of the sea, all the furniture is wooden; smooth, raw or distressed, with coloured glass pendant lamps hanging like jewels from the ceiling, transporting you instantly to the Californian coast. The cuisine is tapas style, from freshly fried whitebait to lemon crispy chicken wings and quinoa salad. Pick your choice and add to please. But remember not to fill up on their

homemade sea salt and rosemary bread with pepper dip, it's some of the best we've tasted.

DIVERSION: A massage a day keeps the stress fairies away. Not that you'll be feeling particularly tight of muscle after a few days here. The Atarmia Spa, with its Moroccan gold tiled Jacuzzi and private pool is the perfect daily retreat, whether just for a steam or one of their expert treatments. Try a deep cleansing facial on the day you arrive to detox your skin and follow up with a body scrub and signature massage. The spa's philosophy is drawn from age old Arabian aromatherapy that uses the essential oils from local flowers and plants to heal and revive.

GET THERE: FlyDubai has routes to Dubai from across the Middle East, Etihad will fly direct to Abu Dhabi, with airport transfers to the hotel from both airports. Executive Suites from Dhs1750 per night. abudhabi.park.hyatt.com ▶



The Beach House does laidback dining

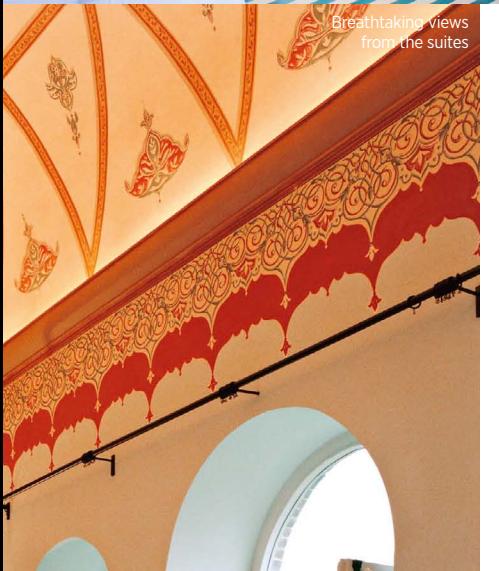
BEST FOR: HOLLYWOOD GLAMOUR ITALY

Famed director Francis Ford Coppola's latest hotel project is the beautiful Palazzo Margherita in the southern Italian town of Bernalda in Basilicata. The historic villa, built in 1892, was lovingly restored by Jacques Grange, bringing back to life the handpainted frescoes that decorate the ceilings. Embracing the best of rural Italian life, a central courtyard leads to a tropical garden punctuated by an enormous fountain and swimming pool.

MUST: Make it a family occasion. If you needed no other reason for a family get together, then make the Palazzo Margherita your excuse. With just nine grand bedrooms and suites, the villa is more homely than stately, designed by Coppola specifically to be enjoyed by family and friends. Our favourite is the Tunisian-inspired suite 9.

DIVERSION: Enjoy movie nights, as the salon is transformed every evening into a private screening room. You can also enjoy the best of the region's cuisine at the hands of the in-villa chef.

GET THERE: Fly Emirates to Rome, and take an air transfer to Palese or a train transfer to Bernalda. Suites are from Dhs4919 for a minimum of two nights.
coppolaresorts.com



BEST FOR: ORIGINALITY LONDON

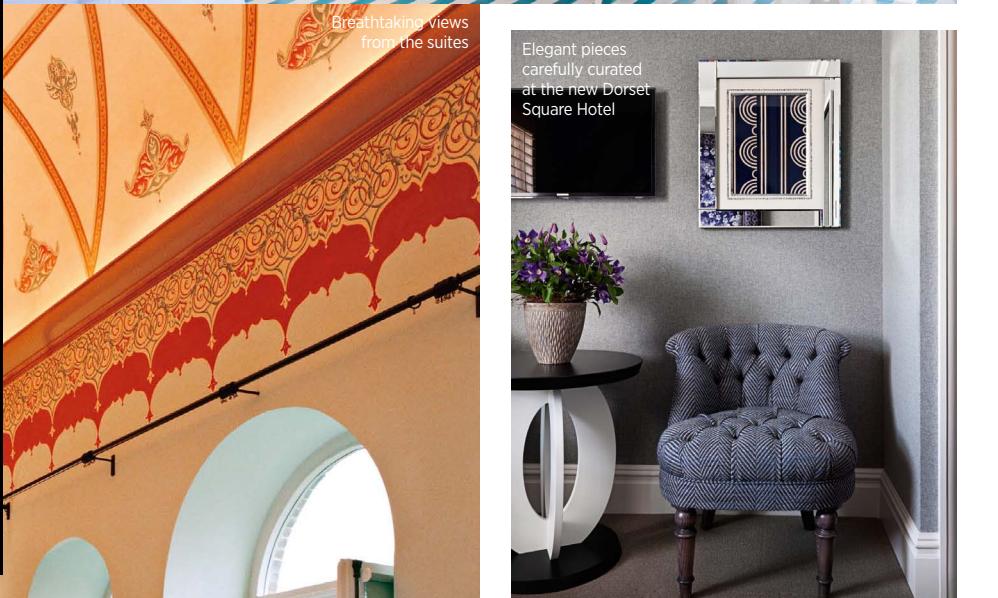
Kit Kemp never fails to impress, and now with the Dorset Square Hotel to add to Firmdale's roster, you will have yet another London pied à terre that's far from the madding crowds. The elegant townhouse has been fully refurbished and given the Kemp treatment with a strong palette, fearless fabrics, sculptural furniture and objets d'art, bringing the interiors alive. There are 38 different bedrooms, each destined to be distinctive in their own right and filled with treasure trawled by Kit herself, evidence of love invested in the details.

MUST: Take time to notice the small things. Clashing fabrics from Kit's collection with Christopher Farr, hand-woven Argentinian carpet under your feet and the specially commissioned wallpaper in the elegantly hip Potting Shed bar.

DIVERSION: We recommend you take a long hot soak in your oak and marble bathroom and a gentle stroll in the private gardens of Dorset Square.

GET THERE: Fly Virgin to London Heathrow. Deluxe Rooms from Dhs1590 per night.
firmdalehotels.com

Tunisian influences in the Palazzo Margherita



BEST FOR: HIP DESIGN NEW YORK

You won't miss this West Chelsea hotel. During the day it's covered by a shimmering metal curtain, and at night it's illuminated like an enormous wall of amber light. Hotel Americano is designed by Mexican Architect Enrique Norten, the first recipient of the Mies van der Rohe Award for Latin American Architecture, with the designer of the Colette store in Paris responsible for the interior décor. It's a feat, because this hipster-filled hideaway ticks every cool box, from the rooftop pool surrounded by cabanas to the Jazz Brunch. It's safe to say, we're in love...

MUST: Turn Japanese. There are three different room types, all designed around the theme of an urban ryokan with wooden platform beds,

GET THERE: Etihad flies non stop to New York. Uptown Queen Suite from Dhs1267 per night.
hotel-americano.com



Breathe free and easy in an Amanzoe guest pavilion

BEST FOR: RURAL IDYLL GREECE

It's no secret to regular readers that *Bazaar Interiors* is a little partial to an Aman resort, and the new Amanzoe is no exception. Its name means peaceful life, and that's exactly what you can expect of this hilltop retreat near the small,

buzzy town of Porto Heli in the Peloponnese. Designed by renowned architect Ed Tuttle, you will be given a 360 degree window on the surrounding olive groves and the Aegean Sea, best enjoyed from the enormous reflection pool.

MUST: Enjoy the moment. Stay in one of 38 exquisitely designed pavilions, arranged on different levels to ensure privacy and the most spectacular views. Walk through a marble alcove and into your open plan living and bathing area and out on your large shaded terrace and private pool.

DIVERSION: Walk or cycle through the dense pine forest, down to the hotel's Beach Club on the lip of the sandy bay.

Complete your trip with a unique spa treatment that combines Asian techniques with Greek beauty rituals.

GET THERE: Fly Emirates to Athens, for a 2.5 hour road or 30 minute helicopter transfer. Pool pavilions from Dhs3829, amanresorts.com



BEST FOR: HIP DESIGN NEW YORK

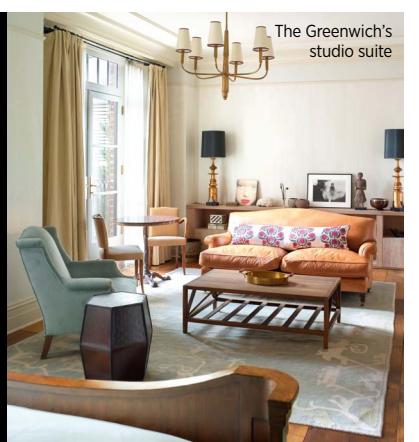
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MUST: Turn Japanese. There are three different room types, all designed around the theme of an urban ryokan with wooden platform beds,

warm lighting and sensuous natural materials. We recommend opting for the studio with its marble soaking tub and hanging fireplace.

DIVERSION: You can literally spend hours enjoying the in-room amenities; every cult product is present, including lux alpaca throws for those chilly NY nights. The round the clock bento box delivery service can be activated from your personal iPad, and there are gorgeous dining options courtesy of a French-Latin restaurant with an outdoor patio and rooftop grill. Oh, and remember, you're in Chelsea, this is diversion central - surrounded by galleries, boutiques and stylish people, you'll be spoilt for choice.

GET THERE: Etihad flies non stop to New York. Uptown Queen Suite from Dhs1267 per night.
hotel-americano.com



The Greenwich's studio suite

BEST FOR: DECOR INSPIRATION NEW YORK

Robert de Niro's brainchild, the Greenwich Hotel in New York, has 88 unique rooms and suites. Oozing eclecticism, the hotel is a collision of cultural styles – exquisite Moroccan tiling, intricate Tibetan rugs, and immaculate Italian terracotta floors. Furniture is sumptuous and handmade, sourced from antiques fairs and flea markets around the world.

When design lover Isabel Rutland, honeymooned at the Greenwich, she was so enamoured with her surroundings that she began to wonder how she could find these beautiful things for her own home. Thus her concept Discover & Deliver was born, a company that sources stunning interiors products from high-end hotels around the globe and delivers them to your door.

"I adored the feeling of languishing in spaciousness at the Greenwich," Isabel tells *Bazaar Interiors*. "This is perhaps why every carefully considered detail and handpicked piece is so striking. The commitment to quality, craftsmanship and artisanal detail is extraordinary. The building has been designed and furnished as though it were a private home, as if someone has taken great care to bring back gorgeous pieces from their travels to deliberately place in different spaces. The homely feel is complimented by the delicate Grayling-designed lighting and the use of leaded mirrors, creating an ambient, welcoming glow. I particularly fell in love with the wooden drums used throughout the hotel as occasional tables and the gold money box. The bathrooms were the cherry on the cake. The white carrera marble is just divine, and the use of brass fittings was so refreshing as most hotels, even high-end, use nickel or chrome. I defy anyone not to covet after a stay here!"

MUST: Takeaway style. Discover exactly which pieces you can source for your home from the Greenwich, visit discover-deliver.com

GET THERE: Fly Qatar Airways to New York. Courtyard Rooms start from Dhs1818 per night, thegreenwichhotel.com