

# TATLER<sup>®</sup>

## *Travel Guide 2022*

*The 101 best hotels in the world*







Jasper Conran's mix of antiques and rich colours creates joyful interiors at L'Hôtel Marrakech. Left, the courtyard offers private oases

## L'HÔTEL MARRAKECH

Marrakech, Morocco

A deep sense of peace envelops you from the moment you step through the heavy wooden gates and into the picturesque courtyard of Jasper Conran's haven. With exquisite taste, the designer has lovingly restored this building – an old riad at the heart of the manic bustle of the Medina. No detail is too small or unimportant to have escaped Conran's trained eye, from the tumblers of sweet-scented garden roses casually dotted around the property to the sumptuous lunch served wherever you want to eat. The warren of secluded terraces and light-filled rooms leading off the central courtyard ensures that, while other guests are resident – they must be, because it's so hard to get a booking – one never crosses paths with them, and you feel that you have it all to yourself. *Doubles from £340, including breakfast (l-hotelmarrakech.com).*

Personality meets panache in these distinctive hotels, infused with the unique vision of their owners



# One of a kind



Continental glamour returns to the Poseidonion in the A-list playground of Spetses

## POSEIDONION GRAND HOTEL

Spetses, Greece

Once the It girl of the Saronic Gulf, the Poseidonion languished for many years on Spetses like a distressed gentlewoman while holidaymakers flocked to the newly popular islands of Mykonos, Santorini and Paros. The hotel was built in 1914 by Sotirios Anargyros, a Spetsiot tobacco millionaire who spared no expense on the elegant French-inspired architecture. But as other islands developed in the latter half of the century, Spetses rested on its laurels. The birthplace of the 1821 Greek Revolution – interesting fact – became rather a sleepy place. Enter entrepreneurial hotelier Antonis Vordonis, who in 2009 reopened the establishment's doors after a five-year overhaul, with luxury rooms and haute cuisine to tempt back the cosmopolitan set. With his wife Beatrice, Vordonis opened the Bostani, an organic restaurant in the island's piney hills, where fresh fruit and vegetables are plucked directly from the earth and ferried to an open-air kitchen and thence to one's table. Luckily, his tenure coincided with a general renaissance of the island and visitors from near and far rediscovered its soft simplicity – and the joy of a Greek island without the constant sound of aircraft overhead; without an airport, in fact. There to welcome them back to Spetses was the Poseidonion. And hadn't she scrubbed up well? *Doubles from £170, including breakfast (poseidonion.com).*



Travel back in time in the sublimely restored Bethlen Estate guesthouses



## BETHLEN ESTATES

*Transylvania, Romania*

The ultimate destination for the thinking traveller, Transylvania offers an unspoilt landscape of oak forests harbouring brown bears, and Saxon villages, where water is still drawn from wells. A simple life is played out to the sound of bells from fortified churches ringing through the valleys. In the midst of this glimpse of times past, there is now a place that offers 21st-century luxury within ancient walls. Bethlen Estates – a collection of restored residences – is the passion project of Gladys Bethlen, whose late husband Count Miklós grew up in Bethlen Castle, one of the finest Renaissance examples in the region. The four-bedroomed Caretaker's House has soft linens in rooms warmed by tiled stoves; shutters that open onto dewy pastures; and hefty books and glinting bottles surrounding the drawing room's log fire. Depner House, pretty in blue limewash, has old beams on low ceilings; two bedrooms and bathrooms; and a library with a Nespresso machine and cocktail ingredients ready to mix. Kitchen Barn is the latest addition, where chef Robert Tordai delivers pitch-perfect wild river crab dumplings and beef tartare with dry-aged heart of venison. In the wings are Corner Barn, School House, the Manor and the Granary – triumphs of historic authenticity in the making. *Doubles from £250, including breakfast (bethlenestates.com).*



## LA POSTA VECCHIA

*Ladispoli, Italy*

On the outskirts of Rome, this amber-washed beachside villa – more of a palazzo, really – boasts some of the most atmospheric bedrooms of any hotel in the world: no surprise, as it was once owned by J Paul Getty and is now immaculately maintained by hotelier Marie-Louise Sciò. Every room is a revelation, from the Medici Suite – living up to its name in imperious grandeur, with a pink marble bath and spectacular sea views – to the hotel's star, the Getty Suite, adorned with Gobelin tapestries. Equally fantastic is the food: tagliolini with white truffle for dinner and sinful chocolate cake for breakfast, beautifully served on Ginori 1735's Oriente Italiano china. In the basement is a museum – where you can admire the ruins of a villa built for the Emperor Tiberius, and other artefacts – and above it, the fabulous indoor pool and heavenly Santa Maria Novella spa for rosewater facials and candlewax massages. *Doubles from £280, including breakfast (postavecchiahotel.com).*



The gardens at La Posta Vecchia are a tranquil place to relax