

# Condé Nast Traveller

THE WORLD MADE LOCAL

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

## THE 2025 GOLD LIST

OUR EDITORS' ALL-TIME FAVOURITE HOTELS

*Plus*

CUBA'S ENDURING BEAUTY  
DARWIN TO BROOME BY SEA

THE CHARM OF COMO OFF-SEASON  
IN PRAISE OF NORTH WALES

## WORD OF MOUTH



## NEXT-GEN DUBAI DESIGN

For a glimpse of the next Gulf aesthetic, the creekside Al Seef neighbourhood is a good place to start. It's home to the Afaneen Collective, a group of whip-smart fashion and homeware shops and cafés run by young locals reimagining modern Emirati culture. There's streetwear store One8, selling trucker hats emblazoned with Arabic phrases; Tebra, which offers retro motif socks and finjan coffee cups; and Tamashee, known for its teal, mustard and ochre sandals – a fresh take on classic Arabian Gulf footwear.

### SET-JETTING HOTSPOTS

#### JERSEY

For the reboot of *Bergerac*, which coincides with the opening of the Jersey Opera House.

#### THAI ISLANDS

The setting for both *Jurassic World: Rebirth* and series three of

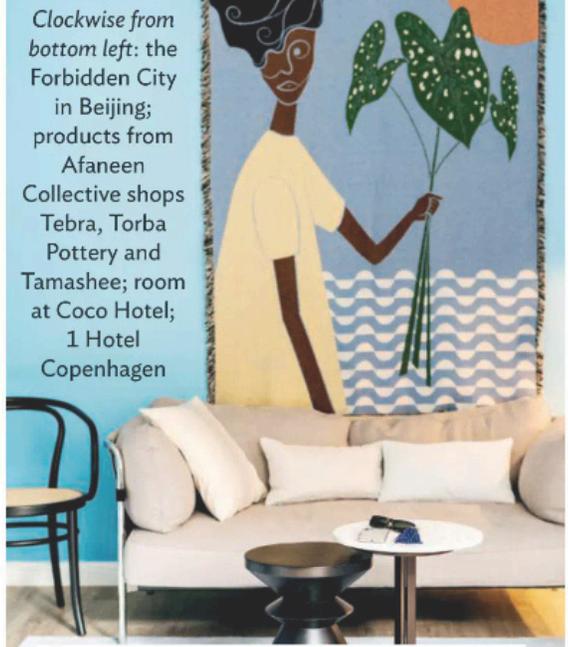
*The White Lotus*, filmed mostly at the Four Seasons Resort Koh Samui.

#### CHICAGO

A fourth season of *The Bear* requires a Chicago eating odyssey, starting at Mr Beef, the no-frills Italian that inspired Carmy's joint.

## UNFORBIDDEN CITY

Beijing's Imperial centre – fanning out symmetrically from the Forbidden City – has always been evocative, from the narrow hutong laneways around Houhai Lake to the summit pavilion of Jingshan Park. But this central district has been curiously shy of heritage-driven hotels, which is why the new Mandarin Oriental Qianmen, Beijing is so exciting: 42 gorgeous courtyard spaces built in a 2,000-year-old architectural style, with a restaurant by Cantonese Michelin magnet Chef Fei and a plum location within touching distance of the iconic Drum and Bell Towers east of the lake.



Clockwise from bottom left: the Forbidden City in Beijing; products from Afaneen Collective shops Tebra, Torba Pottery and Tamashee; room at Coco Hotel; 1 Hotel Copenhagen

## GREEN COPENHAGEN 3.0

More than two decades since the back-to-basics New Nordic Food manifesto and the subsequent rise of all things Danish, it's easy to forget that Copenhagen remains a pioneer in everything from renewable energy to safe harbour swimming and "five-minute city" planning. The green credo informs the hotel scene, which includes boutiques such as Coco, owned by the Copenhagen Food Collective and fed by the group's solar farm (which also powers its 16 restaurants).

This year eco-forward 1 Hotels is set to open in the Latin Quarter. The group's first mainland European property will feature an abundance of plants, recycled materials and low-energy, low-waste solutions.

