

ROYAL HORIZON BEACH VILLA / THE
NAKA ISLAND, PHUKET THAILAND

ELITE RECOMMENDS

TOP 101 SUITES OF THE WORLD | 2012

Whether you're heading to the hidden corners of the earth, or treading more familiar territory in the year ahead, you'll be pleased to know that hoteliers—of properties both mammoth and boutique—have upped the ante to deliver immersive luxury experiences that perfect the balancing act between local flair and the comfort of home. Next-generation technology, seriously sumptuous bedding, museum-worthy art, toys ranging from pool tables to “team” Jacuzzis and anticipative service that extends both before and after your stay promise all the trimmings of a primary residence, while a sense of place, be it the untrammelled cloud forest of Ecuador, the Maldives' island hideaways or Paris of a gilded era, pervades in our 2012 roundup of the most impressive new and newly renovated suites on the planet. Of note are the crossovers from the worlds of fashion, film, jewelry and automotive, whose continued forays into hospitality prove that today's luxury lifestyle is always on the go, and the growing trend of offering not just one, but two or three—sometimes as many as 49—top suites in a single hotel.

WRITTEN BY TOVA SYROWICZ

COMPILED BY ELITE TRAVELER EDITORS

101 TOP SUITES ● ASIA PACIFIC



PALACE SUITE / PALACE HOTEL TOKYO



OCEAN SANCTUARY / JUMEIRAH DHEVANAFUSHI

Tokyo | Japan

PALACE HOTEL TOKYO

PALACE SUITE

Square Footage | 2,260

Why We Love It | A whopping \$1.2 billion rebuild transformed this Tokyo classic, which reopened in May just across the moat from the Imperial Palace gardens. Its richly appointed Palace Suite, inundated with natural light through massive windows, blooms with leafy motifs that echo the verdant gardens outdoors. A sizable terrace and window-side soaking tub maximize the vistas, and high-tech amenities abound.

Rate | About \$8,810

Contact | General Manager Masaru Watanabe, 81-3-3211-5211; matsumotoh@palacehotel.jp; www.palacehoteltokyo.com



VILLA LAALU / SHANGRI-LA'S VILLINGILI RESORT AND SPA



HIDEAWAY PALACE / ISLAND HIDEAWAY AT DHONAKULHI MALDIVES

Addu Atoll | Maldives

SHANGRI-LA'S VILLINGILI RESORT AND SPA

VILLA LAALU

Square Footage | 10,301

Why We Love It | An exotic art gallery vibe infuses this tropical beach retreat thanks to an exquisite array of wall pieces, artifacts, sculptures and urns adorning its interiors. Nestled amid lush foliage, a timber pool deck faces the turquoise lagoon; indoors, ceilings soar high, bathrooms feature two-person tubs and jetted showers, and a spa pavilion and personal gym offer total privacy.

Rate | \$9,900

Contact | General Manager Rene D. Egle, 960-689-7888; rene.egle@shangri-la.com; www.shangri-la.com/male/villingiliresort

Gaafu Alifu Atoll | Maldives

JUMEIRAH DHEVANAFUSHI OCEAN SANCTUARY

Square Footage | 2,024, plus 538 of outdoor space

Why We Love It | Unveiled last spring, Jumeirah's first Maldives retreat offers the nation's only over-ocean (versus over-lagoon) villas. Braving the open seas is a cinch in this two-bedroom oasis, where an Apple media center, 42-inch TVs and Wi-Fi keep you connected, while serious panoramic windows, an outdoor marble plunge bath and private infinity-edge pool show off exquisite surrounds.

Rate | From \$2,900

Contact | General Manager Chris Ely, 960-682-8800; jumeirahdhevanafushi@jumeirah.com; www.jumeirah.com/dhevanafushi

Haa Alifu Atoll | Maldives

ISLAND HIDEAWAY AT DHONAKULHI MALDIVES

HIDEAWAY PALACE

Square Footage | 6,148, plus 9,137 of outdoor space

Why We Love It | For the ultimate in secluded island rendezvous, five thatched villas gather around a central infinity pool just steps from pristine white shores. Three of these haute huts (think oversized tubs and outdoor showers) are bedrooms—two king-size and one with a massive, rotund bed—but a rooftop terrace tempts guests to sleep under the stars.

Rate | From \$2,790

Contact | COO Michael Wieser, 960-650-1515; michael.wieser@turquoise-experience.com; www.island-hideaway.com