

THE  TIMES

# MAGAZINE

**CHILL!** TRAVEL SPECIAL  
WHAT'S ON THE EXPERTS' BUCKET LIST

02.02.19



## WE'RE ALL ZUCKED!

Mark Zuckerberg and the  
Facebook scandal  
*By the tech guru who  
knows him best*

### INSIDE TRUMP'S RETREAT

Behind the scenes  
at Mar-a-Lago

### HELP! I AM A FASHION VICTIM

Melanie Reid and  
her killer coat

### GILES COREN GOES VEGAN

(For one night only)



**TRAVEL SPECIAL**

# THE HIPPEST HOTELS IN THE WORLD



*By Gemma Bowes*

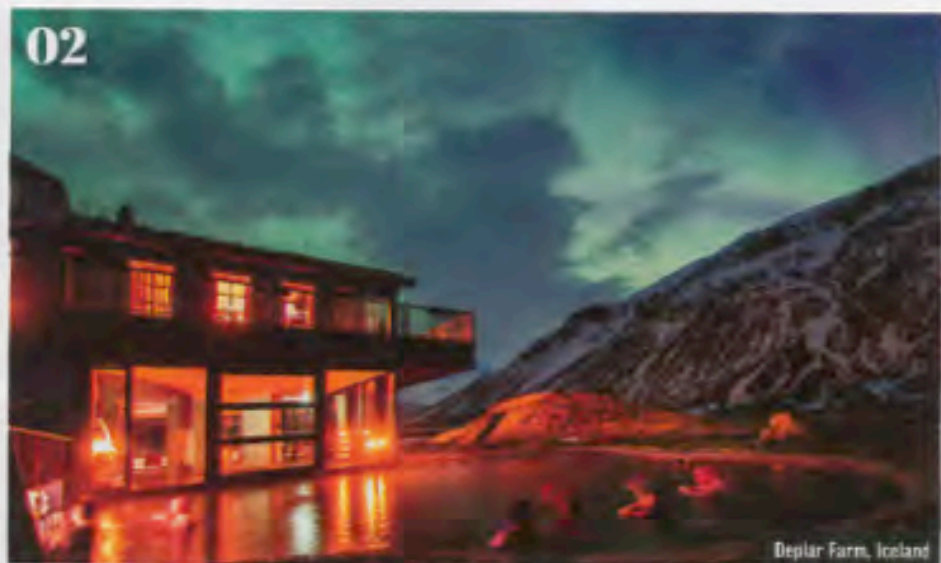




01

Soho House, Spain

02



Deplar Farm, Iceland

### 01 Soho House Barcelona

There's no denying that the Soho House stable does the job on sassy interior design coupled with a buzzing party atmosphere. Soho House Barcelona nudges slightly above the rest with its sleek rooftop pool with striped daybed canopy, on-the-money patterned fabrics and the city's capacity for off-duty shenanigans. Doubles from £228 room only (sohohousebarcelona.com)

### 02 Deplar Farm, Iceland

A growing trend for super-high-end ski lodges has seen the recent opening of Deplar Farm, a converted sheep farm on Iceland's Troll Peninsula. Delivering an adrenaline-packed menu of heli-skiing (from its own helipads), cat-skiing, sea kayaking, fat-biking and whale-watching by day, it turns quite the party pad at night, with instruments sufficient for a full band jamming session and the chance of spotting nature's special effects in the sky above. Relaxation comes with flotation tanks and a geothermal indoor/outdoor pool, where a mixologist delivers drinks via a remote-controlled boat. Games of laser tag on skis can be arranged.

Doubles from £1,842, including meals, activities and transfers (elevenexperience.com)

### 03 Trunk Hotel, Tokyo

The kudos lent by *Lost in Translation* to Tokyo's high-rise hotels and the novelty factor of its original sleeping pods has begun to wear thin. Now the cool kids are looking for something new. Enter Trunk Hotel, a low-slung, woody build in glass and dark timber, a dwarfish four storeys high, located in the subcultural area of Shibuya. Post-manga store, pre-karaoke bar fashion-forward Tokyoites stop by for meat skewers in the Trunk Kushi restaurant or grilled fish with Edo vegetables

in Trunk Kitchen, possibly getting distracted by the lounge parties.

Doubles from £190 B&B (trunk-hotel.com)

### 04 Verse Collective, Sri Lanka

Slick, supermodern resorts are spreading fast across Sri Lanka, an antithesis to the boutique guesthouses that went before. But there's a new scene developing, too, a streetwise, millennial-pleasing hospitality in parallel with the surfing boom around the island's south coast. Verse Collective, a seafront hotel in its infancy near Hiriketiya, boasts an outdoor co-working hub for digital nomads and sunset skateboarding sessions soundtrack by DJs. Sri Lankan fusion food is served in the Dalston-esque café.

Doubles from £50 (facebook.com/versecollective)

### 05 La Granja, Ibiza

Rustic and low-key, with a pastoral, inland setting, La Granja is an 18th-century finca, with five fashionably monastic dark grey bedrooms. As the pine trees turn black against the night sky, guests slink out to the bar built around the trunk of a carob tree to hear DJs playing mellow African beats. There might be a meditation class. All this wholesomeness masks the fact Granja was created by slick operator Claus Sendlinger, founder of Design Hotels. Then again, he was an early instigator of the rave scene and this is the kind of place that generation has grown up to desire.

Doubles from £290 B&B (lagranjaibiza.com)

### 06 Calistoga Motor Lodge and Spa, California

Motels across the States are being restored into hipster hideaways, with the Forties Calistoga Motor Lodge and Spa ahead of the pack. It's a playful and nostalgic space, with 50 rooms inspired by retro camper vans.





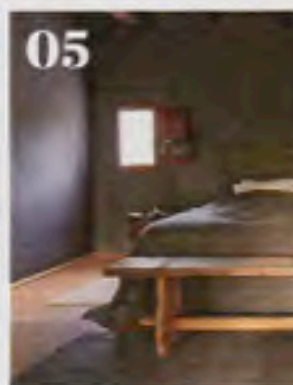
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Frank Hotel, Japan



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Verso Collective, Sri Lanka

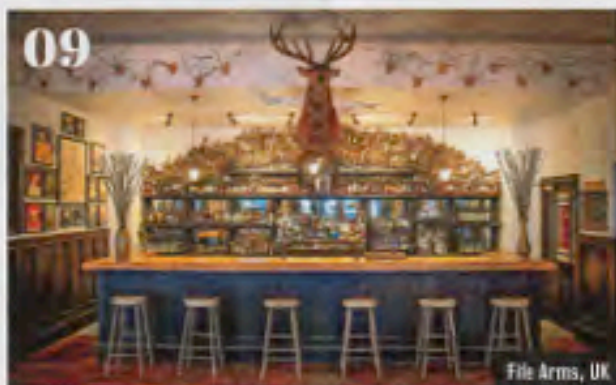


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Pumphouse Point, Australia



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Fife Arms, UK



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Shinta Mani Wild, Cambodia



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Fogo Island Inn, Canada



15

and a bathhouse spa with individual claw-foot baths separated by white curtains. To sleep and then drive on would be a waste. Guests stick around for games on the outdoor pitch, and art lessons with local artisans. Calistoga town, full of cafés and galleries, is well placed for exploring Napa wine country, and the Old Faithful geyser is up the road.  
Doubles from £161 B&B (calistogamotorlodgelandspa.com)

**07 Geejam, Jamaica**  
Grace Jones and No Doubt are among the musicians who've recorded in the music studio at Geejam, on a six-acre estate in northeast Jamaica that extends from the foothills of the John Crow and Blue Mountains to a sweep of Caribbean sea. Cabins and villas are named Ska, Drum and Bass and Rocksteady, with whirlpool baths on the verandas, Philippe

Starck baths and artworks by former guests Banksy and Juergen Teller.  
Doubles from £328 (geejamhotel.com)

**08 Pumphouse Point, Tasmania**  
In the heart of Tasmania, in a Wilderness World Heritage Area and national park, Lake St Clair – known as Leeawuleena, or "Sleeping Water", by the native Big River tribe – is Australia's deepest. You can sleep above it at Pumphouse Point, a reinvention of a Thirties pumphouse constructed for the state's hydro electricity scheme and now incubating design-savvy travellers. The grand, temple-like building sits 240m out at the end of a long stone walkway. Timber-clad rooms have wood burners, and there's a help-yourself bar and larder: all the cosy touches required for watching the wild weather roll in. The art deco substation at the lake's edge, the Shorehouse,

has more bedrooms and a dining room.  
Doubles from £164 B&B (pumphousepoint.com.au)

**09 Fife Arms, Braemar, Scotland**  
The cutting-edge Hauser & Wirth gallery in Bruton, Somerset, helped turn the area into one of the coolest in Britain. The art duo's adjoining holiday rental, Durslade Farmhouse – a colour-embracing, rough-luxe visual feast with a Piet Oudolf garden – has been a huge success. Now, their new 46-room Scottish guesthouse, the Fife Arms, in Aberdeenshire, is looking like the hottest home-turf hotel of the year, with Russell Sage-designed interiors packed with art and specially designed tartan.  
Doubles from £250 B&B (thefifearms.com)

**10 Public, New York**  
Cool hotels are as common as salt-beef bagels in NYC, and it's easy to reel off dozens: the

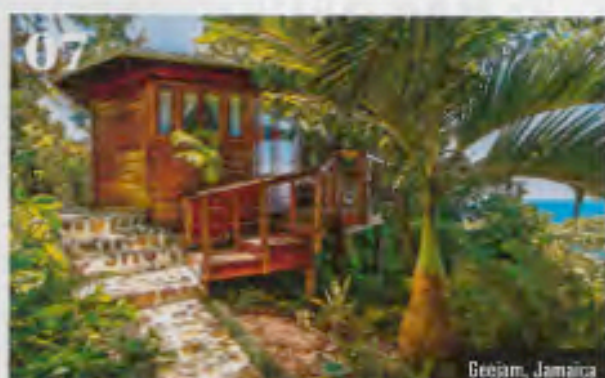




La Granja, Spain



Calistoga Motor Lodge and Spa, USA



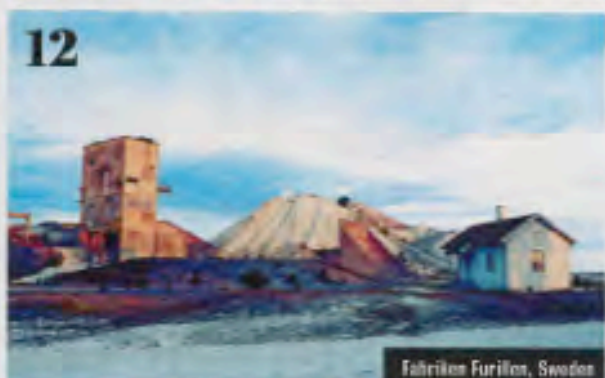
Geejam, Jamaica



Public, USA



Giraffe Manor, Kenya



Fabriken Furillen, Sweden



Casa Habita, Mexico



Terminal Neige Tulum, France



1899 The Post, Belgium

Beekman, the Hoxton, Brooklyn's the Wythe, NoMad, with its in-house magician ... Now there's another to add to the list, Public, on the Lower East Side. It has a no-frills concept and is the latest venture of Ian Schrager. *Doubles from £175 B&B (publichotels.com)*

### 11 Giraffe Manor, Kenya

What could be more joyful than feeding giraffes out of your bedroom window? The herd of Rothschild's who live at Giraffe Manor, a unique safari hotel in a Thirties manor house near Nairobi, stick their necks inside the dining room and upper bedroom windows for treats. *Doubles from £957 full board (thesafaricollection.com)*

### 12 Fabriken Furillen, Sweden

Fabriken Furillen on a wild peninsula in Gotland has transformed a quarry and its

workshop and canteen buildings into an impressive design hotel. The stark limestone factory building and huge mounds of gravel were left on site for their "brutal beauty" and are often used as a backdrop for fashion shoots. Inside is as cosy as can be, with wood burners, baskets of logs and sheepskins on pale grey concrete floors.

*Doubles from £228 B&B (furillen.com)*

### 13 Shinta Mani Wild, Cambodia

Interior designer Bill Bensley, darling of the hotel trade (with 200 hotels and a royal palace under his spangly belt), has gone off the charts with his latest creation, Shinta Mani Wild, a luxury camp in Cardamom National Park. Fifteen colonial-style tents have been filled with antiques and jungle prints, their iron roll-top baths set next to the Tmor Rung river, above whose torrents and waterfalls

are hung relaxation nets and two zip lines for guests to arrive in style.

*Doubles from £1,830 (shintamani.com)*

### 14 Fogo Island Inn, Newfoundland, Canada

Resembling a ship at sea, with one end raised on stilts above the rock, the Fogo Island Inn is a striking example of beauty in a place of extremes. Floor-to-ceiling windows look onto subarctic terrain dubbed "salty Narnia" and the North Atlantic's Iceberg Alley, where whales breach. Wood burners, rocking chairs, handmade quilts and rugs lend warmth inside, plus there's a rooftop hot tub and telescopes. The forage-to-table restaurant uses caribou moss, local berries, scallops and salt cod. In March you can observe the heavens with the cosmologist in residence.

*Doubles from £1,158 B&B (fogoislandinn.ca)* ➔



**15 Casa Habita, Guadalajara, Mexico**  
Grupo Habita is the go-to brand for hip Mexican hotels, rich in colour and with impeccable edgy taste. From the original Habita Hotel, Mexico City's first boutique hotel, to Fifties-style Boca Chica in Acapulco and agricultural estate Maison Couturier in Veracruz, the brand has broken new ground (and spread to New York and Chicago). One of its most interesting is Casa Habita in Guadalajara, a culturally rich city north of the capital. Drool-worthy maximalism includes a fabulous retro coral-coloured lobby. Doubles from £93 B&B ([casafayette.com](http://casafayette.com))

**16 Terminal Neige Totem, Flaine, France**  
Native American detail meets midcentury design at the 96-room Hotel Totem, a funky Alpine hotel in a modernist block beside a totem pole designed by Picasso. Designer Marcel Breuer was hired by visionary planners in the Sixties to create the resort of Flaine 1,600m up the mountain. Refreshed with colourful Navajo-inspired textiles, graffitied walls, exposed concrete and a long outdoor pool, it chimes with this year's centenary of the Bauhaus school, to which Breuer belonged. Doubles from £167 B&B ([totem.terminal-neige.com](http://totem.terminal-neige.com))

**17 1898 The Post, Ghent, Belgium**  
Dark interiors are in, and 1898 The Post has very dark interiors. Plush rooms come in moss green, with sloped roofs and a grand black spiral staircase. Then there are all the touches alluding to the building's former incarnation as Ghent's post office: antique writing desks in the rooms and free postage of guests' letters. The octagonal suite in the medieval tower is the one to write home about. Doubles from £158 room only ([zannierhotels.com](http://zannierhotels.com))

**18 The Siam, Bangkok**  
A tattoo parlour is the latest addition to the Siam hotel in Bangkok, a 39-room riverfront boutique hotel in the royal Dusit quarter. Originating among the Tai tribes of southwest China, Sak Yant is a hand-inked form of tattooing. A luxury teak barge for sunset cocktail cruises on the Chao Phraya and a cooking school are other big sells. In its glamorous interior, 16th-century wooden Buddha statues jostle for attention with art deco posters and tropical plants. Doubles from £439 ([thesiamhotel.com](http://thesiamhotel.com))

**19 Etnia Pousada, Trancoso, Brazil**  
Trancoso, a Bahia beach town hemmed in by jungle, has become a byword for tropical escapism, with the Etnia Pousada luring grown-up hippies with its style and lassitude. Doubles from £193 per night B&B ([etnibrasil.com.br](http://etnibrasil.com.br))



The Siam, Thailand



Dunton Hot Springs, USA



Manon Les Suites, Denmark



Mama Shelter, France



Madonna Inn, USA



Eremito Hotelito del Alma, Italy

**20 Dunton Hot Springs, Colorado**  
At Dunton Hot Springs, a tiny Wild West mining town has been reborn as a luxury wilderness resort, with 12 log cabins arranged around the old saloon, dance hall and a bathhouse with a natural pool. Doubles from £509 full board ([duntonhotsprings.com](http://duntonhotsprings.com))

**21 Manon Les Suites, Copenhagen**  
Jungle foliage tumbles down into the internal atrium at the Manon Les Suites to a gorgeous pool, lined with dark emerald and turquoise tiles, which becomes a focal point for monthly parties. Danish hipsters lie on the daybeds while DJs spin tunes, and friends can share any room – all 87 of them can sleep 4 people. Doubles from £219 B&B ([guldsmedenhotels.com](http://guldsmedenhotels.com))

**22 Mama Shelter, Toulouse, France**  
The Mama Shelter group is creeping across the globe, with hotels in Belgrade, Prague, Los Angeles and London, as well as several French cities, with design by Philippe Starck and Thierry Gauguin. Its attractions include XXL family rooms, rooftop bars and terraces. We like the new Toulouse joint, with pink, tangerine and maroon rooms behind the façade of an old cinema. Doubles from £60 ([mamashelter.com](http://mamashelter.com))

**23 Nomade Tulum, Mexico**  
Is Tulum over? The popularity of Nomade would suggest not, corralling boho tastemakers and vegan yogis who are drawn to the sherbert sands and clean-eating soul-food bars. Across the street, the Yaan Wellness Energy Spa deals in "pre-hispanic healing rituals". Doubles from £120 per night B&B ([nomadetulum.com](http://nomadetulum.com))

**24 Madonna Inn, San Luis Obispo, USA**  
The ultimate kitschfest, the saccharine joys of the Madonna Inn cannot be beaten. All 110 bedrooms are decorated differently, but none is minimalist: there are rock rooms, cave rooms, waterfall rooms, rooms with turquoise walls and tiger-print carpet, jungle, golf and desert-themed rooms. The Steakhouse has neon-pink booths and a lot of gold. Doubles from £161 room only ([madonnainn.com](http://madonnainn.com))

**25 Eremito Hotelito del Alma, Parrano, Italy**  
Eremito is a stone-crafted retreat in a 14th-century monastery, with no phone, wifi or TV. Digital detox is obligatory. Its rooms imitate the aesthetic of ancient monks' quarters, but with nicer towels and a heated pool and stone steam room. Guests can attend candlelit silent dinners at tables for one. Doubles from £276 full board ([eremito.com](http://eremito.com)) ■