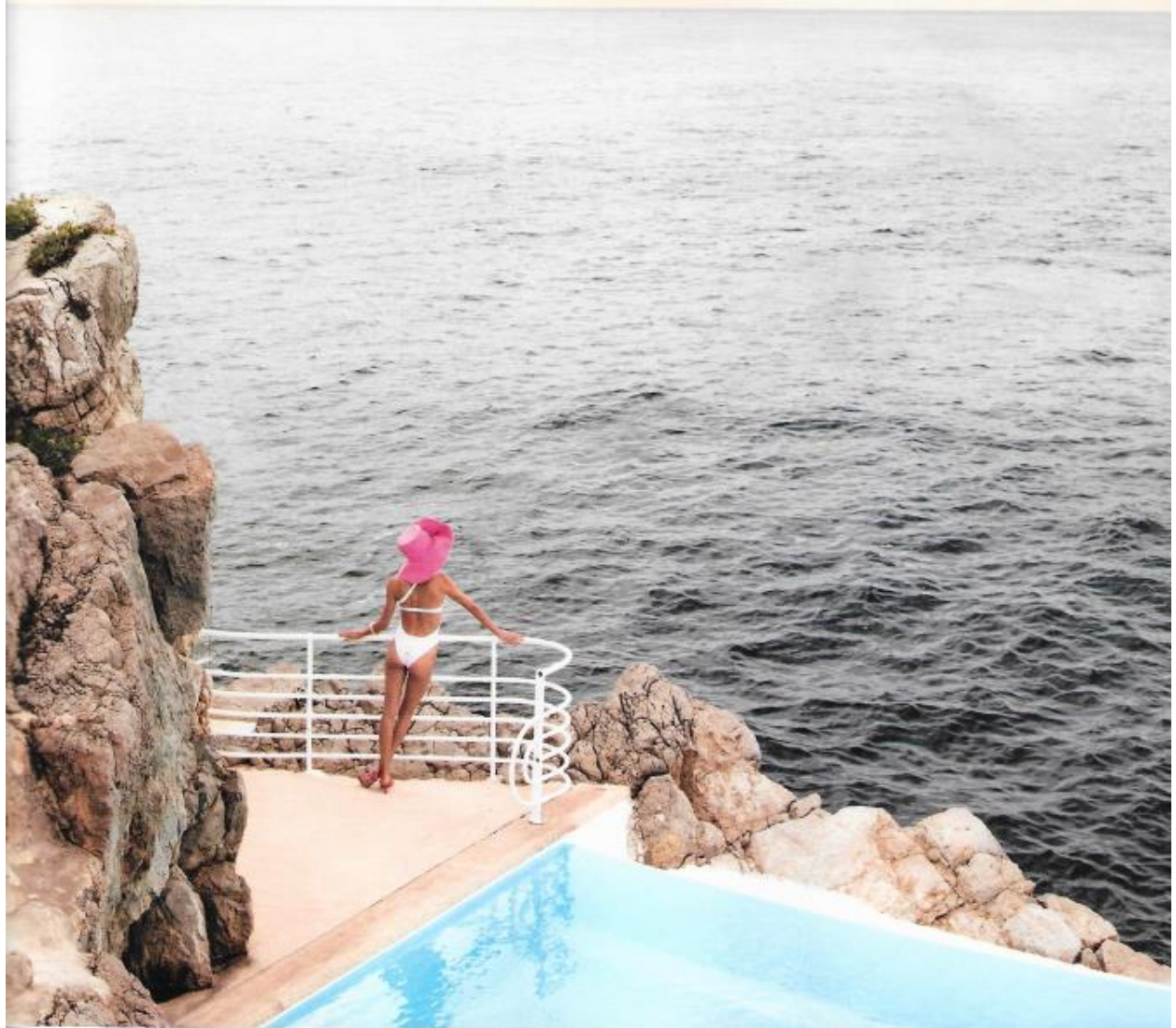


TATTLER

Travel Guide 2020

The 101 best hotels in the world



TWA HOTEL

John F Kennedy International Airport, USA

When it opened in 1962, the curvilinear TWA Flight Center was nothing if not futuristic. Every detail announced the arrival of the Space Age: winged roof, red-carpet jetways, sleek skylights bending sensuously towards their apex. This spring, the terminal, decommissioned since 2001, reopened as a luxury hotel; its re-design informed not by fantastic visions of tomorrow, but by a nostalgic reimagining of the past. Attendees wear retro cabin-crew skirt suits. A split-flap departure board chatters overhead mingling in the ether with a rotation of hits from the era (*lost of The Beatles*). At the Sunken Lounge, travellers ward off jet lag with bona fide New York City soft pretzels. Outside, a 1958 Lockheed Constellation airliner scintillates with renewed purpose as a cocktail bar. The bedrooms are the ultimate in retro reverie, with rotary telephones and vintage issues of *Life* magazine; 4.5in-thick windows muffle the sound of planes taking off – a spectacle best surveyed from the infinity pool on the observation deck. *Double, from £178 (twaahotel.com).*



Futuristic silhouette of the TWA Hotel

Time warp travel

Back to the future... and to neoclassical French splendour via the Roaring Twenties



COTTAR'S CAMP

Nairobi, Kenya

This wonderful 1920s-inspired camp was founded by Calvin Cottar, whose veteran safari outfitting family arrived in this golden-hued *Out of Africa* Maasai Mara hotspot 30 years before Dutch author Karen Blixen. Cottar's offers a romantic nod to nostalgia without forcing the point: canvas tents are swathed in white cotton, with four-poster beds and gramophones. Bush Villa, which sleeps 12, is furnished in dark wood and copper-accented bathrooms. New this year to mark the 100th anniversary of the Cottar's safari business: are fly camps decked out in utilitarian-chic. The guides deliver entertaining game drives and, come nightfall, escort you to your room through the unfenced camp with a Maasai sword. It's not just about the Big Five here, but also the thrill of a walking safari and the plight of smaller creatures. When you're not out game viewing, relax in a bush bath outside your room with champagne in cut-glass crystal coupes, listening to jazz vinyls. Or take a flight over buffalo herds and elephant at dawnbreak: imagine no sound other than the gentle whirring of the hot air balloon. Nothing short of magical. *Double, from £540 (cottars.com).*

Family tent, Cottar's Camp



Grand Suite, Château du Grand-Lucé

HOTEL CHÂTEAU DU GRAND-LUCÉ

Loire Valley, France

This quintessential French chateau is film-set perfect, cocooned in neoclassical splendour still lined with sculptures (see-warming gifts from Louis XV) and a swimming pool fashioned out of an original fountain. The chateau has been many things since it was built in 1764 – a boathole for Rousseau and Voltaire, a safe haven for a cache of the Louvre's paintings – but never a hotel until its meticulous transformation by Californian hotelier Marcy Holthus, a genius restorer with an eye for colour and whimsy. Utterly bewitching, it has vast swagged and gilded rooms with claw-foot baths and chandeliers that sparkle like something out of a Wes Anderson film. Gastronomic delights are prepared by rising star chef Maxime Thomas. Staying here is the ultimate rococo fantasy – a perfect marriage of romance, intimacy, beauty and exquisite attention to detail. *Double, from £410 (chateaugrandlucé.com).*



BURGH ISLAND

Devon, England

Where the Famous Five meet *Swallows and Amazons*, with a dash of Agatha Christie, Burgh Island is a bastion of Englishness, an art-deco beauty which is exactly how you would imagine a 1920s cruise: refined hedonism, black tie dinners, plenty of jazz. Nancy Cunard, Noël Coward, Josephine Baker and Christie all stayed in this old-school seaside palace hotel. A quaint sea tractor ferries you across; if the tide is high, you're cut off from the mainland. Nettlefood, the seafood

restaurant, is fabulous, particularly for Seaside Martinis (made from Cornish samphire gin) paired with Exmoor caviar; the impromptu drinks party in the Palm Court is always fun; but the black tie dinner in the Grand Ballroom is the ultimate theatrical time warp experience with copper-domed trolleys serving racks of lamb and lemon sole. The hotel is enchanting, offering the most innocent of seaside pleasures, such as swims in the seawater lagoon known as Mermaid Pool, and crab sandwiches at the Pilchard Inn, which dates from 1336. The glamorous island setting could come straight from the pages of Christie's *Evil Under the Sun*. *Double, from £295, including dinner and breakfast (burghisland.com).*

A quaint sea tractor ferries you across to Burgh Island – a bastion of Englishness



Grand Suite cabins on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express

VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT-EXPRESS

Venice to London, Europe

A classic of style and design, the elegant aesthetics of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express have been carefully preserved, paying homage to the Roaring Twenties, that glamorous decade of jazz bands, cocktails and long ropes of pearls. So it's fitting that for 2020, Belmond is launching a new immersive time-travelling journey, *The Party*. This two-night trip is the epitome of romance. Check in to the Belmond Hotel Cipriani and you can dance the night away in a bellini-induced haze before setting off the next morning for London. Expect even more old world glamour onboard, especially in the new Grand Suite cabins with their gargantuan beds and fabulous marble showers. It's all about dressing up: for dinner in bias-cut silk dresses and free-flowing champagne as you chug past Lake Maggiore and through the Swiss Alps. For character, romance and soul, this train has no rival; the food is exquisite, as are the stewards, who will fulfill your every whim – whether to package up some Lalique glassware to take home or bring you scrambled eggs with caviar at midnight. *Belmond (belmond.com) offers The Party, 27–29 March 2020, from £3,760.*

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