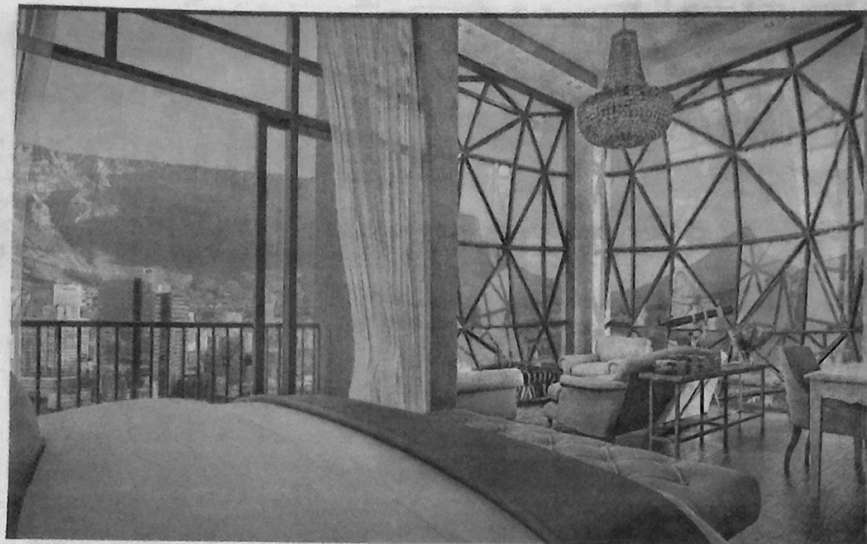


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LONDON

Those with an eye for vintage style will be awaiting the opening of the **Ned**, Soho House's reimagining of Sir Edwin Lutyens's Midland Bank building, in the heart of the Square Mile. The vault has been transformed into a bar and the rooftop pool has a million-dollar view over St Paul's. For cutting-edge architecture, though, it has to be **Nobu Hotel Shoreditch**, the latest collaboration between Robert De Niro and the Japanese chef Nobu Matsuhisa. The striking steel and glass facade is one part Blade Runner, two parts Dalek, and the restaurant will offer classic Nobu dishes, a DJ booth and an Asian-inspired full English. Sashimi cured bacon, anyone?

The Ned opens in April; doubles from £200; thened.com. Nobu opens in June; doubles from £299; nobuhotels.com

DEVON

After 21 years and two Michelin stars at Gidleigh Park, Michael Caines wanted a new challenge. At **Lympstone Manor**, his country house near Exeter, the decor will be as modern and original as the dishes. The rooms will have a New England feel and there'll be tasty views over the Exe estuary from the three dining rooms. Opens in April; doubles from £245, B&B; lympstonemanor.co.uk

SURREY

If walls could talk, **Beaverbrook's** would surely scandalise. The neoclassical party pad outside Leatherhead is where Max Beaverbrook, the first baron of Fleet Street, entertained the great and good when they were being bad – particularly Winston Churchill. The chocolate heir Joel Cadbury bought the place in 2010 and recruited the former Lime Wood director Justin Pinchbeck and the Soho House designer Susie Atkinson to add contemporary cred to its high-powered history. You can already stay in the Garden House, but the House's 18 rooms are the prize: they should be splendid. The House opens in spring; Garden House doubles from £280; beaverbrook.co.uk

LAKE DISTRICT

Watergate Bay was the Cornish hideaway that made family action holidays cool: now the team are heading north to unveil the **Lake**, with Ullswater replacing the Atlantic for high-octane watersports, and an 18th-century Cumbrian pile providing 40 folksy rooms. Opens in August; doubles from £160, B&B, family rooms from £270; anotherplace.com

WEST SUSSEX

The Pig hotels have been a runaway success, and the next one in the litter is due to open in a Georgian mansion near

HOT HOTELS 2017

Sexy hideaways, fashion statements and grand country piles: Susan d'Arcy has the pick of this year's most exciting openings



Arundel, with heart-stopping views of the South Downs National Park. Name? TBC. Style? Classic Pig – shabby, chic and supremely comfy. Opens next winter; thepighotel.co.uk

COGNAC

Tony Conigliaro is the king of the conceptual cocktail: his Michelin-worthy mixology has been the downfall of many a guest at London's Zetter Townhouses. Now he's branching out: details are sketchy, but centre on a bar with louche rooms by the River Charente, opposite the Hennessy distillery. Should be tasty. Opens in summer; room rates TBC; thedrinkfactory.com

MILAN

Outside spaces are in, and **Hotel Viu**, in Porta Volta, which is rapidly becoming Milan's answer to Shoreditch, is home to the first five-star hotel rooftop in the city, complete with sexy pool. The rooms have been designed by Molteni, the Armani of the Italian furniture world, and dinner is by the Michelin-starred Giancarlo Morelli. Opens in March; doubles from £160; designhotels.com

FORMENTERA

The lack of an airport has saved this baby Balearic island from the tourist

hordes, and the reinvention of the **Gecko** by Pablo Carrington, Spain's coolest hotelier, will make the half-hour ferry ride from Ibiza well worth the effort. It's all about barefoot luxury: the interiors are white on white, with a splash of cobalt blue, leaving the Gecko's sparkling strip of Migjorn beach to do the talking. Opens in April; doubles from £199, B&B; geckobeachclub.com

MARRAKESH

Jasper Conran has created womenswear, menswear, homeware, accessories, fragrance and, finally, a hotel. His 19th-century riad, **L'Hôtel**, has a 1930s vibe: the five suites are decorated with antiques and art from the designer's personal collection, and there's a communal pool, a rare and welcome plus in the steamy medina. Doubles from £294; 1-hotelmarrakech.com

NEW YORK

Even jaded New Yorkers cannot wait for **1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge** to "sprout" – this place is way too organic simply to open. Local artists have used native greenery for sculptures, and the 194 rooms have hemp-blend mattresses and chunks of reclaimed wood as furniture. There's a lobby farmstand stocked by artisanal producers and a "yappy hour" for visiting pooches. There's also a

gorgeous rooftop with firepits and views of the Manhattan skyline. Opens in February; doubles from £285; 1hotels.com

CAMBODIA

The islands off Sihanoukville are the Maldives on steroids: same glorious diving and Crusoe-esque coves, but with tropical forests and Khmer culture. **Allia Koh Russey's** high-concept villas will have glass walls and wow-factor infinity pools that are a match for the Indian Ocean's finest, but at about half the price. Opens in May; doubles from £232, B&B; alliahotels.com

CAPE TOWN

It won't just be the most exciting hotel in Africa: it'll be the most exciting building, too. The **Silo** is the star British designer Thomas Heatherwick's conversion of a historic grain store on the V&A Waterfront – the brief was to create 28 lust-worthy rooms within the elevator house, then, for an encore, turn the exterior into Africa's answer to the Eiffel Tower. He has done so by introducing pillowed window panels that glow like a lantern in the dark. Cranking up the cachet, the lower floors will house the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, which opens in September. Opens in March; doubles from £700, B&B; theroyalportfolio.com