



TATLER

TRAVEL GUIDE 2025
THE 101 BEST HOTELS IN THE WORLD

The 101 best hotels in the world

Full steam ahead! Roll on telepathic butlers, gold-leaf risotto and a grand piano on a Mongolian steppe. If you're seeking a heaven-sent haven or a private atoll, an equine jaunt or a phenomenal pool, Tatler's definitive directory is just the ticket

EXPRESS YOURSELF

Imagine soaking up the atmosphere of the world's grandest train while luxuriating in an art nouveau-style bathtub. The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express has long been the benchmark of glamorous nomadism, but its newest suite reaches unprecedented heights – and scale. Mere bedroom and bathroom this is not: one of the train's 17 original carriages has been transformed into a private wonderland, with more design details than can be explored in a single journey (including its own lounge and secret tea room behind a speakeasy door). If you want to feel as if you've been transported inside a Venice Biennale installation, nothing could compare to L'Observatoire, where artist JR has crafted an artisanal masterpiece. (He's taken his design cues from astronomy so, while you roll through the Alps, skylights allow you to contemplate the celestial wonders above.) For literati, there's a well-stocked library space of Gallimard French novels that give glimpses into the cultural references that provided his inspiration. Likewise, a vinyl collection; the soft scratch of a jazz record is a welcome accompaniment as you chug across mountain and meadow. You'll want to make every moment count, lounging in silk pyjamas as free-flowing champagne and towers of caviar are hand-delivered by your private butler. belmond.com

CIPRIANI, A BELMOND HOTEL Venice, Italy

All's well with the world when you're at the Cipriani, a private fantasy founded in the 1950s by Giuseppe Cipriani and three Guinness sisters. Surrounded by romantic, *Alice-in-Wonderland* gardens, complete with vineyards and some of the most impressive loggias imaginable, the buildings here are still painted a pale peach. (Well, its founder did think up the bellini.) And there are few culinary experiences that could rival dining in the vast, gilded environs of chef Vania Ghedini's stellar restaurant Oro. Cue appetisers of seafood tortelli or an irresistible and delicate risotto made with nettles and Morlacco cheese; then plates of shelled lobster tails, or fillet of beef with a truffle sauce (which all get top marks, especially for their pairings with wine from the Veneto region). Good food comes in many guises here, whether it's a late lunch hanging over the water at Cip's Club, where a must is to feast on the tagliolini verdi, or the vitello tonnato distinguished by the refinement and garlicky, creamy kick of its dressing. Like Venice itself, the club never disappoints. But it would be rude to not try the Bellini experience at Bar Gabbiano – ideally positioned by the heavenly suntrap of the swimming pool – where you can indulge in memorable variations of their signature cocktail, made with white peaches and Ruinart champagne. *Doubles from £830, including breakfast (belmond.com).*

The founder of the Cipriani was also the creator of the illustrious bellini cocktail – and guests can take a masterclass at Bar Gabbiano

Good taste

Lobster Wellington, sublime slithers of wagyu or freshly churned butter from the farm shop: here, it's all about food, glorious food



Château Troplong Mondot has been awarded a prestigious Premier Grand Cru Classé ranking for its red wines

CHÂTEAU TROPLONG MONDOT Saint-Émilion, France

Perched high above Saint-Émilion, Troplong Mondot is the ultimate seductress; its uniform rows of vines, dotted with bright sparks of fuchsia roses, drawing the eye to the honey-hued town beyond. The 18th-century chateau, with its light-filled interiors, has sumptuous en-suite bedrooms that boast stunning vistas. The day starts with fortifying coffee and delectable pains au chocolat – with the option of adding homemade chocolate praline spread – followed by a meander through the grapes to the cobblestoned streets of Saint-Émilion. Visit between April and August to see traditional Percheron horses at work – they're still valued for limiting soil compaction. The *pièce de résistance* is the Michelin-starred Les Belles Perdrix restaurant, under the direction of chef David Charrier. Start with an aperitif beneath a protective canopy of trees; it's the perfect spot for Taittinger Prélude, enhanced by a side of fresh vine tomatoes. Think tornado of pollock accompanied by smoked eggplant with shiso, followed by rhubarb belle valentine flavoured with almond pesto, verbena and basil. *Doubles from £216, including breakfast (troplong-mondot.com).* ▷

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All villas at One&Only Kéa Island in Greece have private infinity pools that merge with the blue hues of the Aegean Sea

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