

INSIDER TIPS FROM THE TOP CONCIERGES

TRAVEL + LEISURE

JUNE 2008

SPECIAL

hotels ISSUE

30
EXCLUSIVE
HOTEL
DEALS!

MEXICO
PARIS
CALIFORNIA
VIETNAM
PORTUGAL
ST. BART'S

2008

itlist

WE PICK THE BEST NEW
HOTELS FOR YOU

Display until June 24, 2008



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it list

THE T+L EDITORS' CHOICE AWARDS

2008

The Caribbean Sea view from the rooftop of a beach cabana at Mexico's new Mandarin Oriental.



A good hotel is a place to rest your head; a great hotel has the power to transform the travel landscape. For *Travel + Leisure's* third annual It List, we trekked (literally) across the globe to determine the select properties you'll be going to next. Here, from beach resorts to city hideaways, our editors' picks for the best new hotels of 2008.

the top 30 new hotels in the world

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[RUSTIC] SAN PEDRO, CHILE

TIERRA ATACAMA HOTEL & SPA

This 32-room adventure hotel in the Atacama Desert is one of the most ambitious new design statements in South America. The owners, along with a team of architects, photographers, and a landscape painter, were inspired by the surrounding landscape. But rather than building in the traditional manner, they used unorthodox materials (plates of oxidized iron, sandblasted glass) alongside adobe, rammed earth, and shale for a fresh take on desert style. In some cases, important details seem to have been afterthoughts. While architecturally stunning, the pool lacks shade—it's too hot to swim during the height of day. These foibles are forgiven when you consider the inspired interiors. Midcentury-style furniture covered in raw linen, cowhide throws, curtains made from desert seeds: in fact, it's all so well done that you could almost overlook the main attraction, the Atacama Desert. The hotel employs a staff of expert guides to take you biking in the salt flats, climbing on volcanoes, and hiking high in the Andes. 800/829-5325 or 56-2/263-0606; tierraatacama.com; doubles from \$1,390 for two nights, all-inclusive.



The pool at Tierra Atacama Hotel & Spa, in Chile. Opposite: The Ara Starck-painted ceiling at Le Dalí, at Paris's Le Meurice.