

AUSTRALIA

GENTLEMEN'S QUARTERLY

INTERVIEW

DAVID  
POCOCK

FINALLY A FOOTY  
PLAYER WITH A  
DECENT OPINION

WINNING  
OVER  
NORTH  
KOREA

(WITH BAD USTV)

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STYLE TIPS TO SEE  
YOU THROUGH  
THE SEASON

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KEEPING  
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THE MEN OF  
STYLE &  
SUBSTANCE

STARRING

DAVID BECKHAM

CHRIS PRATT

ADAM DRIVER

SCOTT EASTWOOD

KANYE WEST

VANCE JOY

NICHOLAS HOULT

PLUS EZRA MILLER | LAMBORGHINI | JON STEWART | LUXE HOTELS

# TASTE & TRAVEL

## THE WORLD'S BEST HOTELS

TIME TO GET JET-SET AND WRAP YOURSELF IN A BLANKET OF BOUTIQUE CHIC.

WORDS: ROB M. FARLAND

There's no shortage of luxury hotels – each year iconic chains opening new properties in yet more exotic locales. And there's certainly room for them – all delivering a five-star stay with pretty much the same look and feel from Shanghai to Santiago.

But wouldn't you rather somewhere more charismatic and bespoke? We would, so check out these stand-outs in our favourite capitals of cool.

NEW YORK CITY, USA

**THE WESTHOUSE**

ROOMS: 172

RATES: FROM \$640\*

This is like that exclusive New York club everyone wants to be a member of. Communal spaces include The Den, a wood-paneled oasis of leather sofas, antique furnishings and hand-picked books, and The Terrace, a private rooftop bar and lounge with views over the Hudson River. In other words, it's epic.

Each room features marble-topped desks, leather

chairs and Art Deco fittings. Deluxe amenities include in-room tablets, 400 thread-count sheets and, thanks to GHD straighteners and hair dryers, zero bad-hair days.

For approx. \$46 a day on top, 'hotel residents' (no 'guests' here), are treated to breakfast, afternoon tea and early-evening wine and canapés. And the best bit? Central Park, MoMA and Carnegie Hall are but a bagel toss away.

[westhousehotelnyc.com](http://westhousehotelnyc.com)



THE BEST BIT? CENTRAL PARK AND MoMA ARE BOTH BUT A BAGEL TOSS AWAY.

\*RATES ARE PER NIGHT, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND CHANGE.



LEFT PAGE: THE NAUMI HOTEL, SINGAPORE. THIS PAGE: NEW YORK'S THE WESTHOUSE. INSIDE FAENA HOTEL IN BUENOS AIRES.

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

**FAENA HOTEL**

ROOMS: 89

RATES: FROM \$517

Argentine fashion designer Alan Faena and legendary French architect Philippe Starck have transformed this former grain warehouse into an opulent haven of whimsy and fancy. Starck's fingerprints are all over it – from the freestanding claw-footed baths in the Porteno suites to the unicorn heads lining the walls of the all-white fine-dining Bistro Sur. Rooms are furnished with

white leather couches and ruby-red carpets and curtains; bathrooms awash with arabesque marble.

For more casual fare, eat at El Mercado, a bustling cantina-style Argentine barbecue. There's also an elegant outdoor pool, a spa with a marble hammam and a book-lined library bar – perfect for a late-night libation. Oh, did we mention El Cabaret, the intimate 1920s-style theatre that hosts sensual tango performances? [faestay.com](http://faestay.com)



SINGAPORE

**NAUMI HOTEL**

ROOMS: 73

RATES: FROM

APPROX. \$280

This chic urban retreat is back at the top of its game, courtesy of a multimillion-dollar refurb in late 2013. All rooms now feature Apple TVs, Nespresso machines and coma-inducing beds, with seven layers of 400 thread-count Egyptian cotton. Looking to impress? Book the Andy Warhol-inspired Eden & Nirwana suite with psychedelic furnishings and pop artwork.

For further relaxing, kick off the night with a Singapore sling, paired with hypnotic city vistas at Cloud 9, the hotel's rooftop bar and infinity pool. Then, mosey on downstairs to feast on contemporary Indian cuisine at Table by award-winning restaurant group Rang Mahal.

What really elevates this hotel above Singapore's other offerings is simple: exemplary service. Nothing is too much trouble for the ever-smiling team of Naumi Angels. It's what we imagine heaven might be like – with better cocktails. [naumihotel.com](http://naumihotel.com)



FROM TOP: THE BOWLING ALLEY IN LONDON'S HAM YARD HOTEL; DESERT PALMS IN DUBAI; A SUITE AT BERLIN'S THE MICHELBERGER.



LONDON, UK

**HAM YARD HOTEL**

ROOMS: 91  
RATES: FROM APPROX. \$720

The fact owners Tim and Kit Kemp installed a four-lane 1950s Texan bowling alley in their latest project says it all: this is not your average hotel.

Ham Yard Hotel is full of these sorts of surprises. There's also a 190-seat theatre, an orangery, a spacious rooftop terrace and a hypoxic chamber for altitude training. Naturally.

Sit on a quiet (for London) pedestrianised square in stylish Soho, it's remarkable how tranquil this place is given Piccadilly Circus is just two minutes' walk away.

Rooms feature Kit Kemp's distinctive interior design, so brace yourself for strong colours, bold prints and whimsical touches – polka-dot seamstress mannequins and wall-mounted fairytale scenes, anyone? Love it or loathe it (we're of the former), it's far from dull. [firmdalehotels.com](http://firmdalehotels.com)

DUBAI, UAE

**DESERT PALMS**

ROOMS: 38  
RATES: FROM \$276

While Dubai has its fair share of dramatic five-star high-rises, with plenty attached to soul-destroying mega malls, it's not for us. Thankfully, Desert Palms is the antithesis of this – a low-rise fusion of traditional Arabian architecture and contemporary luxury, set within the verdant confines of a 60-hectare polo estate. Stay between October and April and be treated to views of a game on one of the estate's four championship fields, either from the white stone terrace of the Polo Bar or at one of the spacious Polo Villas.

Conveniently located 20 minutes from the airport and downtown Dubai, the retreat also boasts two restaurants, a spa and mesmerising views of the city skyline. [desertpalm.peraquum.com](http://desertpalm.peraquum.com)



BERLIN, GERMANY

**MICHELBERGER HOTEL**

ROOMS: 119  
RATES: FROM APPROX. \$100

Who says style has to be pricey? This beyond-cool establishment offers an array of rooms, from affordable little closets to lofts with mezzanine beds, and suites boasting libraries and movie projectors. All are individually styled with eclectic decor – side tables fashioned from sleighs and mirrors hanging from ropes.

The hotel's heart and soul is the reception-cum-lounge-cum-bar, which morphs from a lazy daytime coffee hangout to a hip and happening nightspot. There's also an in-house restaurant specialising in organic, local produce, and a courtyard that's both beer garden and live music venue.

If you can tear yourself away from the bar's killer cocktails, you have two of Berlin's trendiest neighbourhoods – Friedrichshain and Kreuzberg – right on the doorstep. [michelbergerhotel.com](http://michelbergerhotel.com)

