

The best family holidays for children of all ages P.15

TRAVEL

FEBRUARY
Colchagua, Chile

MAY
Monterey, California



JULY
Jungfrau, Switzerland

OCTOBER
Amalfi, Italy



All change: the new holiday calendar

With sweltering summer temperatures in the Med, prohibitive peak-season prices and changing tastes in travel, this is the year to plan differently, says Chris Leadbeater

There was a time when the European holiday calendar was set, if not in stone, then certainly within four defined boxes. Spring, summer, autumn, winter. One was hot, one was cold – and the other two offered a little of both. Pack your bags accordingly. But things change. Not least the climate. And the old certainties of travel have changed with them. Where once the southern Mediterranean seafront was the ideal setting for an August escape,

now the heat can be unbearable, as last year's Greek wildfires made all too apparent. Where, not so long ago, you could assume a thick coating of Alpine white in December, now the ski resorts of France and Italy face a nervous wait for the first flakes. Where even the idea of aiming for the mountains during July would have caused confusion in a former decade, now such an idea is just as likely to prompt nods of sage agreement.

▲ Mix it up: forget traditional holiday choices and think outside the box in 2024

And as weather patterns have altered, so have we, moving on from the straitened travel windows of 30 or so years ago into something more flexible: shoulder seasons – still the quieter, great-value options they always were, but now with more reliable good weather – winter-sun wanderings, and journeys further afield in search of whatever it is we cannot find on familiar turf, whether that be Canadian snow or Far Eastern sand. Add in the cost

of living crisis, where the value offered by choosing the option less travelled is more important than ever, and the holiday calendar looks rather different to how it did even relatively recently. A little like the following, perhaps. So, if you are already planning your getaways for the year, let our pick of the best new options be your guide.

Continued on page 2



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20 hotel openings that will be turning heads this year

From a big-name spa in London to a fresh iteration of a Maldives favourite, Fiona Kerr picks the best places to stay in 2024

What makes a brilliant hotel opening? Whether it is big names, first-time hoteliers or bold homegrown brands, there is a special kind of alchemy in creating a truly great place to stay. Perhaps it is taking a storied building and bringing it back to life, or focusing a fresh light on an undiscovered destination.

▲ A remote and rare offering? Someva Secret in the Maldives comprises 14 enormous villas

Sometimes it is the staff who shine, other times it is the design that captivates us. Often, though, it is more than that – a coming together of chefs and artists, designers and travel pros, all with a passion to create somewhere that

shifts the dial on what a hotel can be. Here are 20 hotel openings for 2024 that do just that: city hotels that create a sanctuary amid the noise, far-out beach spots that dig deep for their community, transformative wellness retreats and sustainable farm stays – all weaving their magic to make your next trip unforgettable.

BRITAIN

The Pig on the Farm Warwickshire, England

From the Kent countryside to the Cornish coast, the Pig hotels – with their kitchen gardens, 25-mile menus and rustic mismatched interiors – have always had a much-loved earthiness. Here in Warwickshire, five miles south of Stratford-upon-Avon, the group is taking that back-to-the-land vibe one step further with its very own farm – 53 acres of pasture surrounding a 16th-century manor house. The 35 bedrooms will be spread across the former farmhouse, stables and other outbuildings; the restaurant, in a converted barn, will source many of its ingredients from just outside – where there will be fruit orchards, a mushroom-growing house, polytunnels for cultivating vegetables, plus sheep grazing right up to the front lawn.

The Gallivant Littlestone Beach Kent, England

Hunkered behind the dunes at Camber Sands is breezy beach hotel the Gallivant – about as reminiscent of New England as you can get this side of the Atlantic. Just a 20-minute drive east along the coast from the original, this sibling outpost takes over the former Romney Bay House Hotel right on



▲ A much-loved earthiness: the Pig on the Farm grows fruit, vegetables and mushrooms

Littlestone's beach. Built in 1929 by architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis (of pastel-pretty Portmeirion fame), the hotel will lean into its Edwardian origins with a gong to announce pre-dinner cocktails. But it's not all Gatsby-era indulgence: there will also be a yoga studio, sauna and treatment room.

Six Senses London London, England

Six Senses is known for its wellness-focused hotels in tucked-away places, from Zigly Bay in Oman to Portugal's

Douro Valley. In 2024, however, the group is breaking form in a big way by opening three city hotels – in Bangkok, Kyoto and London. Here in the capital, the newcomer will have 110 bedrooms, a huge spa and the Six Senses Place wellness and social club. All of this is housed in the Art Deco shell of the former Whiteleys department store in Bayswater, between Paddington and Notting Hill, and the design riff on the London location with works by contemporary British artists and a spa space modelled on an old-fashioned Tube station.

Date and rates TBA (sixsenses.com)

House of Gods Glasgow, Scotland

House of Gods' Edinburgh bolthole is already known for its deeply decadent style, a low-hi wonderland of velvet, fringe and animal print. This new sibling in Glasgow's Merchant City doubles down on the opulence with freestanding gold bathtubs, Rock Star suites with private cinemas and a Garden of Eden-inspired rooftop bar for cocktails beside the marble fountain. Venture outside and the city is buzzing right now with cracking restaurants and an always-on cultural scene. This year also sees the arrival of Soho House and the return of the cutting-edge Glasgow International festival of contemporary art. House of Gods is just the spot from which to join the party.

Opens January; doubles from £119 (houseofgodshotel.com/glasgow)

Hotel du Couvent Nice, France

Marseilles has the cool, Cannes and St Tropez the glitz, but Nice has always been less of a show-off – all dreamy light and grand Belle Epoque villas. It is here this summer that hotelier Valéry Grégo, the man behind the effortlessly hip Les Roches Rouges down the coast, opens his latest hotel, an ambitious project in a 17th-century former convent that had been shuttered for almost 40 years. Set in 2.5 acres of terraced gardens in Nice's Old Town, the hotel will be a sanctuary with Roman-inspired thermal baths, an in-house herbalist (a nod to the convent's ancient apothecary), 88 soothingly monastic bedrooms and plenty of space for quiet contemplation among the olive, apricot and lemon trees in the gardens.

Opens summer; rates TBA (hotelducovent.com)

Casa Monti Rome, Italy

Rome has been a boomtown on the hotel front recently, with splashy openings from Soho House, Bulgari, W and Edition. Casa Monti, however, is the antithesis of these head-turning newcomers, located among the vintage shops and wine bars in the narrow cobble alleys of the Rione Monti neighbourhood. The idea is for it to feel like an artist's home, and the 36 bedrooms – decorated by Parisian interior designer Laura Gonzalez – creatively pair pattern and colour. The rooftop bar looks set to become an in-the-know hangout.

Opens spring; doubles from £388 (casamontiro.com)

Gundari Folegandros, Greece

With its dramatic exposed cliffs and just a single main road snaking down the island, Folegandros is a world away from the sunset-selfie-seeking crowds of neighbouring Santorini. The name of



▲ The Old Town area of Nice, where Hotel du Couvent boasts 88 'soothingly monastic' rooms, thermal baths and quiet gardens

▲ At Casa Monti in Rome, 'the idea is for it to feel like an artist's home' – albeit with 36 bedrooms

▼ Finca big: two estates have been merged to form Son Eritmit and Son Binideufa, Menorca

EUROPE

this new hotel on its south coast is inspired by the word 'Gundari', meaning rocky land, which the Phoenicians used to describe the island. The raw wildness of Folegandros is captured in the simple white-on-wood interiors of the 25 suites, each with its own infinity pool looking out from its cliffside perch towards the horizon. Gundari has a holistic wellness programme incorporating wild native herbs, as well as a farm-to-table restaurant using ingredients sourced from the hotel's own organic farm.

Vestige Son Eritmit & Binideufa Menorca, Spain

In the north of Menorca, these two neighbouring fincas are being brought back to life by the Vestige Collection, run by the Madera Fernandez family, who have a very special clutch of painstakingly restored historic castles and houses across Spain and its islands. While many of Vestige's properties are beautiful private retreats for buy-out rentals, it added its first hotel, Son Vell, in Ciutadella, Menorca last year. Here in Ferreries, the two renovated estates will have 22 bedrooms spread across the farmhouses and its outbuildings to form one hotel, the gateway to a go-slow



FURTHER AFIELD

One&Only One Za'abeel Dubai, UAE

In a city where every opening wants to be bigger, taller and more gold-encrusted, One&Only One Za'abeel has the world's longest cantilever - the Link, a 750ft steel bridge, 330ft above the ground between two skyscrapers - as its superlative splash. Inside the hotel, sleek bedrooms have interiors by design veteran Jean-Michel Gathy and include corner suites with 180-degree views of the city skyline and extravagant penthouse villas. Out on the Link itself you will find a dazzling 29 Michelin stars shared between all the chefs in the resort, who include Anne-Sophie Pic and David Muñoz (voted best chef in the world for the past three years).
Opens January; doubles from £365 (oneandonlyresorts.com)

Aman Nai Lert Bangkok Bangkok, Thailand

Aman - known for its ultra-luxury, ultra-secluded resorts - has slowly been creeping into cities around the world. Of those urban outings, the brand's skyscraper Tokyo outpost is undoubtedly one of the most loved by its "Amanjunkie" fans. Can it repeat that success with its second high-rise Asian city hotel? Thailand is Aman's homeland, where it opened its first property, the peaceful Amanpuri on Phuket, in 1988. Here in the Thai capital, it is taking that slice of serenity and slotting it in up high above the city chaos. There will be a huge Aman Integrative Wellness Centre spread across two of the floors, and at the very top, a rooftop jazz bar will look out onto the Nai Lert Park below.
Opens autumn; rates TBA (aman.com)

Soneva Secret The Maldives

Soneva created barefoot luxury in the Maldives, its "no shoes, no shoes" castles, chic cribbed and copied all across the archipelago in the decades since Soneva Fushi opened its thatched doors. Soneva Secret will consist of just 14 vast villas - including some floating in the Indian Ocean accessible only by boat and all with retractable roofs for stargazing. Each comes with two dedicated staff, as well as a chef to rustle up bespoke menus, whether a picnic on a deserted island or a dinner around the firepit. It is a remote and rare offering.
Opens February; villas from £2,560 (soneva.com)

Kotiyagala Yala National Park, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is bouncing back from a rough few years with a freshly minted walking route - the Pekoe Trail - through its heartlands and some intriguing independent hotel openings. The chilled-out south coast is already strung with low-b surf lodges, but here further east are the leopard-spotting wilds of Yala National Park. Eco-minded Kotiyagala promises to elevate the Yala experience quite literally - its 12 villas and walkways are stilted above the jungle. The Dunes restaurant serves dishes such as Jaffna curry crab, while other diversions to enjoy between safari drives include spa treatments or a soak in the storm room (which mimics the stimulating sensory effect of rain).
Opens March; one-bedroom villa from £1,499 full board (kotiyyagala.com)

Atzaró Okavango Camp Botswana

The Ibiza-born Atzaró group has taken a circuitous route (via a phinisi in Indonesia and a villa in Cape Town) to the wildlife-filled Okavango Delta. What stands out here - alongside the stargazing beds and the deep brass bathtubs on private decks - is the partnership with ever-brilliant safari brand



▲ Get active: guests at the Ranch Hudson Valley, in New York state, can try stand-up paddleboarding, power-walking around the lake or yoga in the converted ballroom



African Bush Camps, founded by Zimbabwean former guide Bekis Ndlovu. Top guides will offer safari hikes and mokoro canoe expeditions as well as the more usual elephant, lion and hippo-spotting game drives.
Opens March; rates from £545 pp/nn (atzaró-okavango.com)

Voarara Madagascar

As the founder of ultra-curated travel companies PE's List and the Kiwi Collection, Philippe Kjellgren has stayed in more than 2,000 hotels that he recommends around the world to make sure they are up to standard - and now he is opening his own, Swedish-born Kjellgren grew up in Madagascar and has returned to Ile Sainte Marie, known as Nosy Boraha among locals, to conjure up his dream retreat. Inspiration has been taken from some of his favourite hotels - Lancaia in Fiji, the Brando in Tahiti and Uxua Casa in Brazil. The first eight bungalows and one villa, of an eventual 45, will open this March and the project will also support the island's community, with 80 per cent local staff and a portion of the profits going to nearby schools and replanting pro-

grammes which combat deforestation.
Opens March; bungalows from £599 full board (voarara.com)

▲▲ 'A natural next step': Our Habitas Santa Teresa, in Costa Rica, joins earlier outposts in Tulum, Mexico and other equally laid-back spots

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► Hotel Casa Lucia in Buenos Aires, Argentina, has drawn on local talent for everything from room design to cocktails in the bar and art in the lobby

grammes which combat deforestation.
Opens March; bungalows from £599 full board (voarara.com)

The Twenty Two New York City, United States

When it opened on London's Grosvenor Square in 2022, the Twenty Two shook off the old-boys stuffiness or too-cool-for-school exclusiveness of the usual members' clubs, with its open-to-all restaurant, charmingly friendly staff and confident sense of fun. It was an arrival an especially exciting development. Spanish group Unico Hotels (which owns Finca Serena in Mallorca and Hotel Unico in Madrid) has rounded up an impressive roster of local talent to turn the Edificio Mihanovich building in the chic Recoleta neighbourhood into Hotel Casa Lucia. Admire works from Argentine artist Cristóbal Mohaded in its rooms, and a large-scale mural by Cristina Codern, who works with natural fibres, in the lobby. Meanwhile cocktail bar Le Club Bacan comes from one of the city's coolest bar owners, Martín Suñay, offering some of Buenos Aires' top DJs on the decks and 400 varieties of Argentine wine on its menu.
Opens January; doubles from £228 (hotelcasalucia.com)



Hotel Casa Lucia Buenos Aires, Argentina

Compared with other capital cities, it must be said that the hotel scene in Buenos Aires has been something of a slow burn - which makes this new arrival an especially exciting development. Spanish group Unico Hotels (which owns Finca Serena in Mallorca and Hotel Unico in Madrid) has rounded up an impressive roster of local talent to turn the Edificio Mihanovich building in the chic Recoleta neighbourhood into Hotel Casa Lucia. Admire works from Argentine artist Cristóbal Mohaded in its rooms, and a large-scale mural by Cristina Codern, who works with natural fibres, in the lobby. Meanwhile cocktail bar Le Club Bacan comes from one of the city's coolest bar owners, Martín Suñay, offering some of Buenos Aires' top DJs on the decks and 400 varieties of Argentine wine on its menu.
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Sea Sea Hotel Crescent Head, New South Wales, Australia

The Slow in Ball, launched by George Gorrow and Cisco Techturtschenthaler, was the catalyst that turned Cangu into one of the world's coolest beach hangouts. Now they have their eyes on the sleepy town of Crescent Head, midway between Sydney and Byron Bay, for a 1970s-inspired, 24-room hotel and surf club opening this Easter. It is a creative world they are making here, with live music, photography shows in the Room 13 exhibition space and a souvenir shop selling Sea Sea homewares and Gorrow's new fashion label Non-Type with its trendy wetsuits and tailored linen suits to take you from breaks to bar.
Opens spring; doubles from £212 (seasahotel.com)

The Ranch Hudson Valley New York State, United States

The Ranch's Malibu original is the kind of place to which A-listers slip away for a pre-Oscars bootcamp or burn-out Hollywood agents come to be forcefully separated from their cellphones. "Ranchers" - as they are called - love the high-octane fitness programmes, which include 5.30am hikes and a strict 1,400-calorie vegan diet plan. For its new East Coast HQ, the Ranch has landed on the Table Rock Estate in upstate New York, built in 1902 by JP Morgan as a wedding gift for his daughter. There will no doubt be plenty of JP Morgan types here still, power-walking around the lake or limbering up for yoga in the ballroom-turned gym.
Opens spring; rates TBA (theranchmalibu.com)

Our Habitas Santa Teresa Santa Teresa, Costa Rica

Boho brand Our Habitas started life in Tulum, Mexico, and has evolved into a collection of hotels in other equally laid-back spots. So its arrival this year in surfers' favourite Santa Teresa on Costa Rica's Nicoya Peninsula seems a natural next step. The thatched rooms and tents are slotted between palm trees and look out across the white sand to the Pacific. There are plenty of activities, too, from horseback rides on the beach to snorkelling in the Mal Pais underwater volcano. And for serious wave chasers, Our Habitas has another opening this spring, in Mazunte on Mexico's Oaxaca Coast.
Opens April; doubles from £560 (ourhabitas.com)

rural experience with an authentic Balearic island flavour.
Opens June; rates TBA (nestigeolection.com)

Hotel Borsari Martigny, Switzerland

Near the French border in the southern corner of Switzerland's Valais region, Martigny is as Swiss as fondue, all ruddy-cheeked mountain trails, with a rich dry-watered mountain springs. It is these waters that Hotel Borsari taps into, with incredible underground baths constructed in former wine tanks, decanted channelling the town's ancient Gallo-Roman history and bathing culture, the look will be crisply modern - the hotel will be a member of Design Hotels - while the 180 restaurant will delve into regional cuisine using ingredients sourced within a 150km radius.
Opens spring; rates TBA (designhotels.com)

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FURTHER AFIELD



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