

TATTLER[®]

Travel Guide 2020

The 101 best hotels in the world





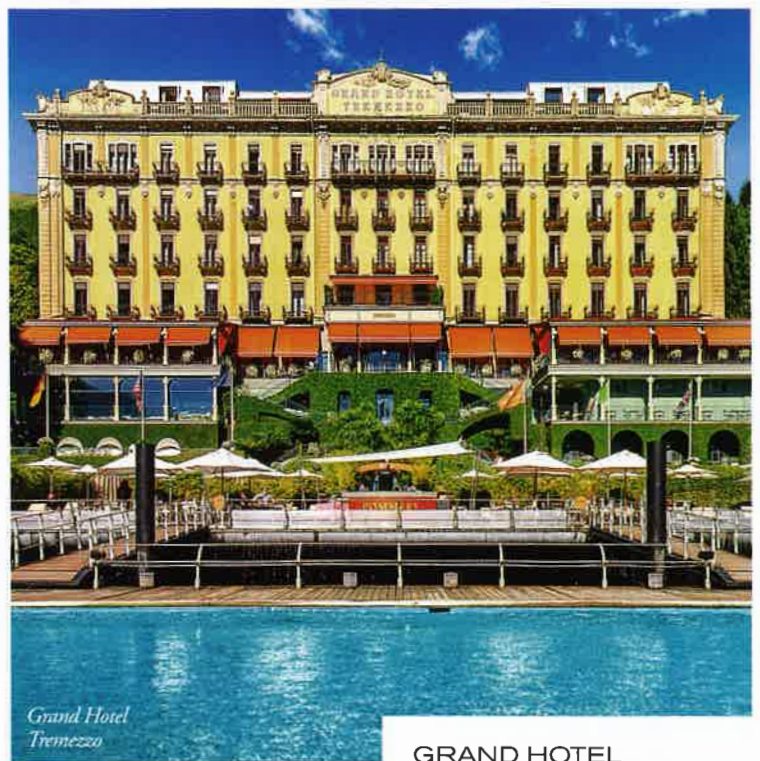
Four Seasons
Astir Palace

FOUR SEASONS ASTIR PALACE HOTEL

Athens, Greece

Once frequented by Jackie Kennedy, Aristotle Onassis and The Beatles, the Astir Palace, sprawling across a pine-scented peninsula on the Athens Riviera, has reopened as the Four Seasons' first property in Greece. It's actually two hotels (and 61 bungalows), the retro-chic Arion and boho resort-y Nafsika, where Athenians come to see and be seen by the olive tree-lined, sea-facing pool. Thirty minutes from the city centre, it's easy to pop up to the Acropolis, but it's also a serene retreat from the city's bustle. There are three private beaches, muscle-melting massages in the marble and light-filled spa, and four restaurants (best of all, Pelagos, serving catch of the day with lemon and olive oil). Rooms are stylish and contemporary with traditional Greek touches like evil eyes and a tippie of mastika left at turn-down. Rooms at Nafsika have jaw-dropping views over the Aegean and the yachts that slide in for a taste of the Astir Palace life. *Elegant Resorts* (elegantresorts.co.uk) offers seven nights from £1,450, including flights and transfers.

Like Garbo, you will want to be left alone – to revel in Tremezzo's comforts



Grand Hotel
Tremezzo

GRAND HOTEL TREMEZZO

Lake Como, Italy

Greta Garbo said the Tremezzo was one of her favourite hotels in the world, her 'sunny, happy place'. In her spirit, fling open the bedroom shutters of Suite Greta, look out over the ravishing setting of Lake Como and wholeheartedly embrace the indulgence. To sit on the terrace and sip a glass of chilled Franciacorta while drinking in those views is to be in hotel heaven. With its gilded, draped and upholstered grandeur, and hundreds of sparkling windows, this is one of Lake Como's old-school greats. The star swimming pool floats on the lake, but another glorious pool lies tucked away in the gardens, surrounded by towering palms and banana plants, a heavenly space ornamented with statuary and vines, where a great stone staircase cascades down to the water's edge. The spa housed in the 18th-century Villa Emilia has impressive treatments; equally restorative is time spent taking in the views from the relaxation area. Like Garbo, you will want to be left alone – to revel in the grandest comfort zone. *The Ultimate Travel Company* (theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk) offers seven nights from £2,200, including flights and transfers.



Château
Saint-Martin

CHÂTEAU SAINT-MARTIN

Vence, France

Built on 12th-century castle ruins, the steeply perched Chateau Saint-Martin was transformed into a hotel and spa by its owners between the Thirties and Sixties. Views from the south-facing windows are gasp-out-loud stunning: the walled village of Vence in the foreground and the Cap d'Antibes and coast beyond. An intimate restaurant, spacious patio bar and all the guest rooms sit on this side, bathed in sunshine. Above the property looms the steep rock wall of Baou des Blancs, tempting guests

to climb the winding path and look down on the panoramic sweep of this gorgeous building, surrounded by olive and lemon trees, and its six butler-serviced villas. By arrangement, the chef can lead picnic parties up the Baou. It's a timeless place, but there are overt nods to now. A brightly coloured mural by artist Erick Ifergan envelops the high-ceilinged room off the lobby that used to be the chapel. The modern spa offers a signature treatment based on the oil extracted from the orange-pink Tango roses cultivated in the garden. And check out the helipad: there for guests to make the eight-minute flight to Monaco during grand prix weekend. *Double*, from £300 (oetkercollection.com).