

SPECIAL
DOUBLE
ISSUE

Condé Nast Traveler

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020 £4.90

THE GOLD LIST 2020

THE EDITORS' ALL-TIME FAVOURITE PLACES TO STAY

EXCEPTIONAL TRAVEL EXPERIENCES
EVERYTHING CLASSIC. EVERYTHING OUTSTANDING



THE
GOLD LIST
2020



BELMOND HOTEL
SPLENDIDO
PORTOFINO, ITALY

The first guest to sign the hotel's visitor's book was the Duke of Windsor, who stayed here with Wallis Simpson in 1952. The following pages of the weighty volume reveal a *Who's Who* of the international Dolce Vita set (Clark Gable, Humphrey Bogart, Liz Taylor), and the stream of A-listers has never stopped. It hasn't really changed much, although super-yachts have replaced the fishing boats. A former monastery acquired by Orient Express hotels in 1985, the Splendido overlooks the harbour, giving all but a handful of the sunny bedrooms grandstand views. There's a retro-glam feel, with button-back banquettes, honey-hued parquet and custom-made Seventies terrace furniture. After a day spent lying by the saltwater pool, guests gather on the terrace to sip on Campari spritz while an old-timer plays schmoozy numbers on a baby grand, then tuck into lemon-scented linguine with clams. This is the only place to stay on the coast; no wonder it has such a loyal following. belmond.com.

Doubles from about £1,050



Italy:
More Classics

A tribute to the vision and folly of its creator, **Il San Pietro di Positano** burrows into a cliff, with a lift plunging down to the beach via a shaft hacked out of rock. It's the ultimate Amalfi Coast cocoon, made all the more attractive by delicious but not overly fancy seasonal food.

◆ Tuscan **Borgo Santo Pietro** has expanded from nine to 20 rooms since its 2008 opening, all done out in impeccable country style. Alongside a Michelin-starred restaurant, the hotel also has its own natural skincare line. ◆ Lake Como has seen its share of designer openings in recent years, but few match the glamour of century-old **Grand Hotel Tremezzo**, which is staying lithe with lakeside-view T Spa and a restaurant dedicated to late super-chef Gualtiero Marchesi.

◆ Celebrities (Madonna, the Beckhams) keep delightful Puglian resort **Borgo Egnazia**, above, in the news, but the heart of this hotel is not the private-villa district they hide away in. It's the pretty piazzas of Il Borgo and La Corte, where the community vibe is ramped up by six restaurants and three bars. ◆ The **Rome Cavalieri**, set in 15 acres on Monte Mario, with views to the dome of St Peter's, is both a lavish escape and perfect city-break address. The lack of neighbourhood action is more than made up for by a world-class art collection and La Pergola, one of the best restaurants in the capital.

CHEVAL BLANC
ST-TROPEZ
FRANCE

La Résidence de la Pinède, a classic peaches-and-cream Riviera hotel on the beach outside St Tropez's centre, was reborn in 2019 as the latest of LYMH's superb Cheval Blanc properties. It's both golden oldie and bright young thing. All that made La Pinède great has been preserved – that covetable strip of private beach; the three-Michelin-starred extravaganza of La Vague d'Or restaurant; the cinematic cluster of tables in the main courtyard. Inside, however, it has been transformed. Architect-designer Jean-Michel Wilmotte has applied a blue, white and ivory palette; the lines are angular; there are glossily glazed ceramics on the walls; and descending the stairs inside the front door leads to a Guerlain-scented parallel universe. St Tropez is blessed with marvellous hotels these days, in contrasting styles. In town, there's White 1921 and Byblos; nearby, wellness-focused La Réserve Ramatuelle and elegant Villa Marie. Cheval Blanc occupies the proverbial sweet spot in between. chevalblanc.com. *Doubles from about £520*

