

Paris, 12 May 2026

Press release

# Prix Versailles 2026: The World's Most Beautiful Hotels

Today, 12 May 2026, the Prix Versailles is revealing the World's Most Beautiful Hotels List 2026.

These sixteen establishments, all of which recently opened across the globe, are simultaneously singular and hereditary references for the destinations they represent.

About this latest selection, Jérôme Gouadain, Secretary General of the Prix Versailles, observes that:

“All the projects featured on the World's Most Beautiful Hotels List for 2026 embrace a lifestyle based on enchantment and innovation, and fit perfectly into their local scene.

They give us illuminating insight into what excellence looks like in the interior and exterior design of buildings. This allows them to deliver a positive form of hospitality, one that beautifies the built environment and fulfils travellers' hopes and aspirations. These hotels, each endowed with its own amazing personality, provide a bright outlook and, in their own way, establish a welcome dialogue in today's world of cultural globalisation.”

Three of the sixteen hotels on the List will, at the end of the year, receive the further distinction of a World Title – Prix Versailles, Interior or Exterior.

The awards discerned by the Prix Versailles aim to promote intelligent sustainability, in which culture serves and transcends the notion of the environment.

Following the 2026 announcements for the Museums and Hotels categories, the next World Selections for this year will be released on 1 June for Restaurants, 15 June for Airports, 29 June for Emporiums, 27 July for Campuses, 28 September for Passenger Stations and 19 October for Sports.



## PRIX VERSAILLES

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### WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL HOTELS LIST 2026

**The ArcadiaPlace, Lugu Lake**

*Yanyuan, China*

**The Silk Lakehouse,  
Shangri-La Hangzhou**

*Hangzhou, China*

**Sir Prague**

*Prague, Czech Republic*

**Chiemgauhof Lakeside Retreat**

*Übersee, Germany*

**La Fondation**

*Paris, France*

**Les Roches**

*Le Lavandou, France*

**The Telegraph Hotel**

*Tbilisi, Georgia*

**Villa Dubrovnik**

*Dubrovnik, Croatia*

**The Oberoi Rajgarh Palace**

*Khajuraho, India*

**Orient Express La Minerva**

*Rome, Italy*

**Splendido, A Belmond Hotel**

*Portofino, Italy*

**Kasbah d'If**

*Marrakesh, Morocco*

**Naboa**

*Tulum, Mexico*

**Soori Penang**

*George Town, Malaysia*

**Desert Rock**

*Hanak, Saudi Arabia*

**Maison Mystique**

*Khao Yai, Thailand*

*The Laureates are listed in the alphabetical order of the countries they represent  
(based on their two-letter ISO 3166 country codes).*



## **PRIX VERSAILLES**

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PRESENTATION OF THE LAUREATES

## The ArcadiaPlace, Lugu Lake

*Yanyuan, China*



© The ArcadiaPlace

Perched at an altitude of 2,690 metres along the Sichuan lakeshore, The ArcadiaPlace, Lugu Lake is set beside two ancient Mosuo villages, offering guests an immersion into one of the world's last matriarchal societies. Its organic curves echo the surrounding terrain, evoking a gestating foetus, a quiet symbol of harmony between humanity and nature.

Designed by architect Lu Yang, the establishment now comprises 57 guest rooms bathed in light, each one opening onto a terrace with striking panoramic views of the sky, the water and the surrounding topography.

Like in the three standalone villas, the interior is a mix of raw material and soothing tones. Jade-hued bathtubs and custom ceramic tiles reflect the shifting colours of Lugu Lake's waters, creating an ambiance of depth and serenity.

Outside, each moment brings a new experience: by watching the winter mist, admiring the summer flowers or gazing at the stars from the infinity pool (nicknamed the "Eye of the Sky"), guests can reconnect with the rhythms of nature, culture and time itself.



© The ArcadiaPlace



© The ArcadiaPlace

# The Silk Lakehouse, Shangri-La Hangzhou

*Hangzhou, China*

The magic of West Lake, in Hangzhou's historic city centre, has been lauded by poets for more than a thousand years. On this superlative site, The Silk Lakehouse is a reinterpretation of the former East Wing of Shangri-La Hangzhou.

Under the guidance of Kokaistudios, the original top two floors of the hotel were intentionally removed to serve the conservation of the UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Landscape and protect the skyline of West Lake. The façade was reworked, and the building's various openings were carefully framed so as to enhance the views they afforded.

Inside, in keeping with the opulent spirit of the place, Belgian designer Gert Voorjans and Spanish designer Lázaro Rosa-Violán came together to reimagine the home of a Jiangnan silk merchant, in a dialogue where East meets West, and where an ancient culture meets the contemporary world.

The intimate atmosphere and peacefulness here are reminiscent of a visit to a friend's home – the quintessence of Asian hospitality based on the art and joy of hosting.



© The Silk Lakehouse, Shangri-La Hangzhou



© The Silk Lakehouse, Shangri-La Hangzhou



© The Silk Lakehouse, Shangri-La Hangzhou

# Sir Prague

*Prague, Czech Republic*

Sir Prague was launched in a Neo-Renaissance structure built in 1884 by architect Vratislav Pasovský and later enhanced by the Art Nouveau stylings of Osvald Polívka.

Just steps from the Vltava River, within the limits of a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Historic Centre of Prague), the hotel is right near the National Theatre and Frank Gehry's Dancing House, proof of a successful intermingling of historical style and bold ingenuity.

The restored stone façades, iron railings, timber parquet floors and a sculptural wooden staircase all feel comfortably familiar.

In contrast, the bold interior renovation by Linda Boronkay was inspired by the legacy of Czech Cubism, as evidenced by a curated selection of vintage furniture with angular silhouettes.

A poetic narrative refers to Princess Libuše, the mythical founder of Prague.

The result is a series of spaces, each one different from the others, featuring warm and eclectic guest rooms and suites. At the same time, many of the original architectural features were left intact.

A meticulous restoration, combined with a splendid reinterpretation, have earned this hotel a reputation for design.



© Sir Prague



© Sir Prague



© Sir Prague

# Chiemgauhof Lakeside Retreat

Übersee, Germany

With panoramic views of Lake Chiemsee and the Alpine arc on the horizon, Chiemgauhof Lakeside Retreat was designed according to the vision of hotel entrepreneurs Ursula and Dieter Müller, in which atmosphere and integrity reign supreme.

Matteo Thun's Milan-based studio revisited the spirit of the region's barns: architecture that takes a step back to heighten the presence of the nature that was so dear to the German Romantics. Immersed in its environment, the building becomes a visual landmark at night, recalling the theme of Japanese lanterns and limiting light pollution in the natural landscape.

The interior design intermingles natural materials with touches of Japanese inspiration. Every small detail and finish was crafted in close collaboration with local artisans. The structure and décor hint at a geometric rigour, combined to reinterpret tradition in a contemporary way.

At Chiemgauhof, luxury takes an understated form, rooted in its territory, that blends Bavarian heritage, modern hospitality, and a life in harmony with nature.



© Elias Hassos



© Elias Hassos



© Elias Hassos

# La Fondation

Paris, France

In the heart of the 17th arrondissement, in the former village of Batignolles (a creative and residential district undergoing profound changes), La Fondation offers a novel vision of Parisian hospitality: lively, multi-faceted and deeply rooted in its neighbourhood.

The hotel, designed by PCA-Stream, is part of a broader, hybrid project combining fine dining, wellness and cultural programming. It makes the most of the building's original layout, mineral materiality and structural force.

As a counterpoint to rougher materials, nature is everywhere here – on green walls, terraces, patios and in hanging gardens – creating verdant refuges set apart from the hustle and bustle of city life.

The Roman and Williams design studio developed a sensory language for the interior architecture, in which fine materials, lighting effects, craftsmanship and contrasts combined to form a refined décor.

A role model for quiet luxury off the beaten trail, this arty cocoon anticipates all the needs and expectations of a 5-star hotel. This Parisian mystery won't stay a secret for long.



© Romain Ricard



© Romain Ricard



© Romain Ricard

## Les Roches

*Le Lavandou, France*



© Nicolas Anetson

Built in the 1930s facing out towards the îles d'Or and the Mediterranean, Les Roches brilliantly exemplifies the revival of a legendary location on the French Riviera.

Reimagined by architect Jean-Baptiste Pietri, the hotel hugs the natural lines of the rocky inlets of Peire Gouerbe.

The structure, with its thick walls, controlled openings, sustainable materials and sun-cast shadows, gives off the impression of a ship floating on the water.

The spaces embedded in the slope, the metal footbridges, and the stairs that meld with the scenery all help to establish an ongoing, fluid dialogue between the massive minerality of the locally mined Bormes stone and the light weight of fibre-reinforced concrete.

Inheriting a rich history of hosting artists and other iconic figures, including Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall, Jean Cocteau and Christian Dior, Les Roches is a mix of memory and modernity.

From the lobby to reception, from the suites to the poolside pergola, and from the green roof to the garden, a collection of pieces by contemporary artists and designers has turned the hotel into its own little museum.



© Nicolas Anetson



© Nicolas Anetson

# The Telegraph Hotel

*Tbilisi, Georgia*



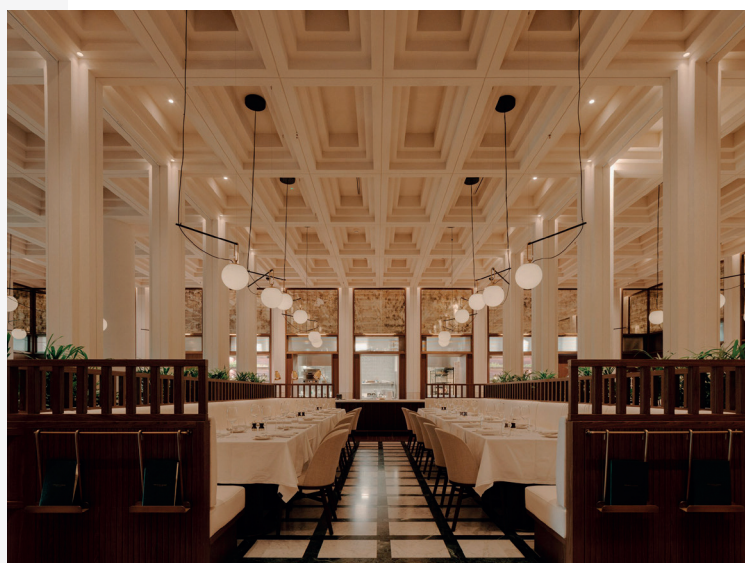
© The Telegraph Hotel



© The Telegraph Hotel

The Telegraph is a tour de force from the Shanghai-based architectural design firm Neri&Hu. The building, originally designed in 1964 by Georgian architects Lado Alexi Meskhishvili and Teimuraz Mikashavidze, is a monument to the conquering glory of Soviet architecture, with its architectonic façade, imposing cornices, double atriums and coffered ceilings. This legacy – whose anachronistic name is still full of poetry – has become a shining symbol of the city's future. A former nerve centre for communication, The Telegraph has been reinterpreted, at the impetus of George Ramishvili and Silk Road Group, as an architectural gem where industrial history is brought into dialogue with contemporary design.

In what was long a restricted place, the ground floor has now become an extension of the public realm, with a network of corridors recalling the city's narrow alleyways. The central courtyard, arranged like an urban square, is flanked by restaurants, a library and a club, creating an interior yet civic world where communal balconies – like the kind found in typical Georgian residential complexes – make it feel like a joyful gathering place



© The Telegraph Hotel

# Villa Dubrovnik

*Dubrovnik, Croatia*

Perched above the emerald waters of the Adriatic Sea, Villa Dubrovnik sits inside a protected heritage building, originally designed by the architect Mladen Frka in 1961. Its outer shell hugs the coastal topography across from Lokrum Island and the old town. Some 65 years later, Studio Arthur Casas was tasked with profoundly remodelling the interiors.

The decision to opt for simplicity, clean lines and local materials, in a style specific to the Brazilian architect, was a tribute to the cosmopolitan soul of Dubrovnik.

Limestone, stucco, cotto and oak establish a natural colour palette, enriched by subtle references to Italian and Venetian influences.

Further refinement can be found in various surprising decorative details, like perforated wardrobe panels that reinterpret Croatian lace motifs.

Still, nothing here is ostentatious. The furniture quietly bridges the gap between yesterday and today. At Villa Dubrovnik, modesty equals serenity. Such artistry!



© Fran Parente



© Fran Parente



© Fran Parente

# The Oberoi Rajgarh Palace

*Khajuraho, India*

At the gateway to Panna National Park, a biosphere reserve populated with tigers, The Oberoi Rajgarh Palace was originally a fortress before being converted into a palace. At 350 years old, it was painstakingly restored under the supervision of the architect Ravi Kumar Gupta.

This wonder of Madhya Pradesh is now home to one of the most beautiful examples of Indian hospitality, with its 65 guest rooms and suites, not to mention elegant villas, and an unbeatable view of hills, forests and a sparkling lake.

Water, in the form of reflecting pools and narrow channels, is the site's guiding thread. From the gardens to the Courtyard of Silence, it introduces movement and coolness for an unforgettable sensory experience.

Indoors, each detail – from sumptuous textiles to craft pieces – is in line with an approach to luxury that stems from a desire to be faithful to age-old expertise.

Here, architecture and landscape come together to treat visitors to an unrivalled sense of princely grandeur.



© Amit Mehra



© Amit Mehra



© Amit Mehra

# Orient Express La Minerva

*Rome, Italy*

Located in the historic centre of Rome, Orient Express La Minerva is the embodiment of a subtle mix of Roman heritage and contemporary refinement. Inside a 17th century palazzo, the establishment has retained its remarkable architecture, dominated by elegant façades, generous spaces and genuine, period sculptural details. The legend continues in this revisited building, where illustrious authors the likes of Stendhal and Melville once laid their heads.

Inside, the artist and architect Hugo Toro celebrates the spirit of travel. The different areas blend the finest materials, like marble and precious wood, with decorative touches inspired by the world's great railway lines. Each guest room and suite promises its own unique adventure, in a hushed atmosphere where each object, from the bespoke furniture to the delicate light fixtures, is the epitome of timeless, understated luxury.

From the realm of the Capitoline goddess Minerva to the heavens above, time stands still on the gorgeous rooftop terrace. The vista, on a level with the red rooftops covering the city, offers 360° panoramic views of age-old monuments like the Pantheon, the Vittoriano and the dome of St. Peter's Basilica, each of which can be reached from the hotel on foot.



© Mr. Tripper



© Alexandre Tabaste



© Alexandre Tabaste

# Splendido, A Belmond Hotel

*Portofino, Italy*

Looking out onto the Ligurian Sea, Splendido embodies all the radiance of the Italian Riviera. Set in a former 16th century Benedictine monastery, the building underwent a major restoration orchestrated by Martin Brudnizki Design Studio, who tactfully met the challenge of achieving the perfect blend of Ligurian heritage and contemporary elegance.

A haven of peace nestled on the hillside, the hotel exudes palatial grandeur, as exemplified by its Baronessa Suite, which mimics the drawing room of an Italian aristocrat.

At the far end of the park, the sumptuous Villa Beatrice provides a total change of scene. Its eclectic architecture – inspired by the Art Nouveau and Gothic Revival styles – has towered over the sea for more than a century.

Formerly a private summer residence, the villa is now open to visitors for the first time in its existence. Likewise renovated by Martin Brudnizki, a palette of iconic colours imbues it with newfound charm.

Lush gardens cascade down to the shoreline, further cultivating a timeless dreamscape.



*Villa Beatrice © Marco Valmarana*



*Villa Beatrice © Matthieu Salvaing*



*Splendido © Salva Lopes*

# Kasbah d'If

*Marrakesh, Morocco*

Thirty kilometres outside Marrakesh, on the mineral highlands of the Agafay Desert, Kasbah d'If stands out like a citadel. Spanning more than 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> on an 80,000 m<sup>2</sup> property, the fortress-like hotel symbolises the revival of a contemporary kasbah, built in the early 2000s using ancestral raw earth techniques, in the best tradition of the great architecture of southern Morocco.

Power and refinement come together in this oasis hotel, with its corner towers, controlled openings and façades sculpted into Amazigh motifs. When construction resumed in 2020, it utilised the full range of age-old know-how and craftsmanship, in an extension of the original intention of engaging in an act of preservation.

This living legacy was furthered by the reuse of existing materials and the utilisation of local resources.

Naturally bioclimatic, thanks to its thick earthen walls which regulate temperature and humidity, and imbued with understated elegance, Kasbah d'If is the epitome of modern, responsible hospitality with deep local roots.



© Kasbah d'If



© Kasbah d'If



© Kasbah d'If

# Naboa

*Tulum, Mexico*

In the heart of Mexico's Riviera Maya, Naboa Tulum is an extraordinary retreat whose contemporary architecture seems to have sprung straight out of its exuberant nature setting.

Designed by Jaque Studio, in collaboration with Studio Wenden, the project reflects a commitment to material authenticity and environmental preservation.

Built on a 2,500 m<sup>2</sup> site, its composition is intentionally fragmented into multiple free-standing buildings, laid out seemingly haphazardly, recalling the organic ways that traditional Mayan settlements would develop.

This configuration allowed for the creation of transitional zones – courtyards, shaded passages and terraces – while preserving 60% of the existing plantlife, which defines how guests move around and use the space.

As a result, the immersion is nearly complete, with the ground floor suites – even their bathrooms – opening onto luxuriant vegetation, while the upper-level units enjoy clear views of the canopy. Common areas sit beneath a timber pergola supported by slender columns, forming a porous threshold between buildings and gardens.

Here, chic simplicity and the spirituality of a sacred forest promise a getaway where time stands still.



© Jaque Studio



© Jaque Studio



© Jaque Studio

# Soori Penang

*George Town, Malaysia*

Long before George Town became a UNESCO World Heritage city, Soo K. Chan, the architect behind this project, spent his childhood in Khoo Kongsi, an important, ancient Chinese temple.

And so it was with sensitivity, and a subtle balance between heritage conservation and contemporary hospitality, that a row of 15 historic shophouses adjacent to the sanctuary were transformed into Soori Penang.

The restoration successfully preserved the scale, rhythm and spatial character of the street. The interior is a refuge protected from the heat.

The temple guardian lions and the filtered light put the finishing touches on the restrained, tactile materials utilised here – lime plaster, timber, stone, bronze and crackled porcelain panels – not to mention the rice-flour grinding stones reinterpreted as fountains.

Hotel guests are also granted privileged after-hours access to the temple's lantern-lit courtyard. A truly authentic, multi-flavoured experience, almost like visiting a museum.



© Soori Penang



© Soori Penang



© Soori Penang

# Desert Rock

*Hanak, Saudi Arabia*

Melting into the tectonic landscape, to the point of causing imposing structures to appear and disappear in an echo to ancient Nabatean civilisations: this was the mission accomplished by Oppenheim Architecture on this mythical site, by taking an immersive approach that favoured effacement over domination. Except that here, amongst the ancient folds of the Hijaz Mountains, Desert Rock's 54 villas and 10 suites were designed along futuristic lines.

Its facilities located within crevices and caves, or on shaded slopes, make the most of cooler microclimates and minimise solar heat gain.

Studio Paolo Ferrari has imbued the indoor spaces with a refined contemporary aesthetic, where sculptural minimalism, tactile materials and lighting effects interact with the raw power of the mineral landscape.

During the day, the complex becomes virtually invisible, absorbed into the surrounding ochre and rosy hues.

At night, its presence emerges subtly, like a constellation of small lanterns.

A project that invites visitors to rediscover the natural and cultural riches of the desert.



© Studio Paolo Ferrari



© Studio Paolo Ferrari



© Studio Paolo Ferrari

# Maison Mystique

*Khao Yai, Thailand*

Maison Mystique creates an imaginary realm through its architecture designed by Katechano "Fearn" Dhadasih, the brains behind this breathtaking site. The philosophy underpinning the project viewed aesthetics not as an object of contemplation but rather as an experience for the senses. Drawing from literary traditions and old-world influences, the hotel's design prioritises intimacy, layered composition and quiet elegance.

Set within a 70,000 m<sup>2</sup> mountainous, landscaped park, the property is a narrative in and of itself, leading to spaces with their own individual characters.

Circulation is structured to allow guests to gradually appreciate every detail, connection and interior plan that makes Maison Mystique an explorer's playground.

Each guest room is defined by a distinct theme, ranging from botanical to celestial by way of contemplative, while adhering to the same material language.

Alongside grand halls and a library like something out of a fantastic tale, the hushed ambiance extends all the way to the dining room – The Vivarium – where the carefully set tables seem to be wordlessly conversing with the magic of the gardens encircling the hotel.



© Maison Mystique



© Maison Mystique



© Maison Mystique



## PRIX VERSAILLES

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