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what's new
hotel hot list

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From a brand's urban debut in New York to two London properties remaking the city's skyline and a wellness retreat in Hungary, here's a curated list of 10 hotly anticipated hotels coming online through 2021. That includes three lifestyle spinoffs from notable luxury brands that foster a creative and transformative environment.

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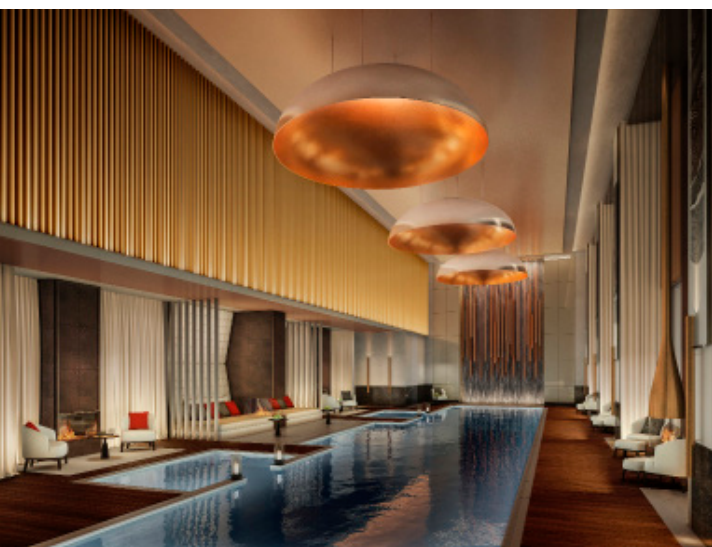
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Though construction and development continues for many of these properties, some openings may be delayed due to COVID-19.

By ALIA AKKAM, MATT DOUGHERTY, and KATIE KERVIN

Aman New York

Located on Manhattan's famed Fifth Avenue in the Crown Building—the original home of the city's Museum of Modern Art—the Aman New York marks the luxury brand's first foray on the East Coast. Expect a refined yet elegant design from acclaimed architect Jean-Michel Gathy of Singapore-based Denniston that pays homage to the building's Neoclassical architecture. With 83 rooms and suites and 20 luxe apartments, the true star of the show is the three-story Aman Spa. An urban sanctuary, it will feature a 65-foot-long indoor pool surrounded by firepits and daybeds. That's just the beginning of the lavish amenities: There's also Italian offering Arva, Nama restaurant—an interpretation of Japan's washoku dining tradition—a subterranean jazz club, and wine library.



Photos and renderings courtesy of AMAN RESORTS, ESMIE JONKER, BENOIT LINERO, and ROMAN AND WILLIAMS

NoMad London

For NoMad's first property outside the U.S., Sydell Group's Andrew Zobler turned to Roman and Williams to transform a former 19th-century Covent Garden courthouse and police station into a 91-key hotel. Like its sister properties in New York, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas, the hotel will marry a classic European look with bohemian moments, expressed through the New York-based firm's signature theatrical lens. Take the construction of the three-story glass atrium that connects the historic building to a new-build structure. Here, natural light will spotlight the cascading greenery, creating a moment of serenity in the bustling London neighborhood.





The Buda Resort Visegrad, Hungary

About 30 miles north of Budapest, near the Danube River, an unfinished concrete structure once intended as a Hilton in Hungary's Visegrad Hills is being transformed by Copenhagen-based Johannes Torpe Studios into the Buda Resort, a 210-key luxury spa retreat. Built into a former stone quarry, the form nods to its hillside setting. In fact, the property itself rests on circular columns, opening seven of the building's floors up to a massive, 100-foot-tall rock that sits at the center of the lobby and serves as a breathtaking anchor. Based on the idea of a lotus flower—recognized as the symbol for the heart chakra—the design explores a sense of opening up from the earth to the sky.



The Londoner

Slated for a summer debut, the 350-room Londoner, the latest from Edwardian Hotels London, is an architectural and design feat. Led by Woods Bagot, the 16-story hotel descends six feet below ground, where the ballroom, meeting rooms, spa, swimming pool and gym, hair and nail salon, barber shop, and two private screening rooms reside. The rooftop terrace, on the other hand, offers panoramic views of Leicester Square. With prolific firm Yabu Pushelberg behind the design, the refined interiors will be infused with the energy of the surrounding area. Art also plays a crucial role, including artist Ian Monroe's commissioned tile façade that is inspired by 1930s-era London.





Surety Hotel Des Moines, Iowa

Aparium Hotel Group, the Chicago-based developer known for transforming historic buildings in secondary markets into design-driven upscale hotels, has six properties launching through the spring of next year. Among them is the 138-room Surety in Des Moines, a collaboration between local firm Slingshot Architecture and Minneapolis-based DLR Group that celebrates its history while looking forward. Since it is located in the 1913-built Hippee building (also known as the Southern Surety Building—hence the hotel's name referencing a surety bond in banking), the design is at once refined and comfortable, evoking the rich character of its Beaux-Arts structure.



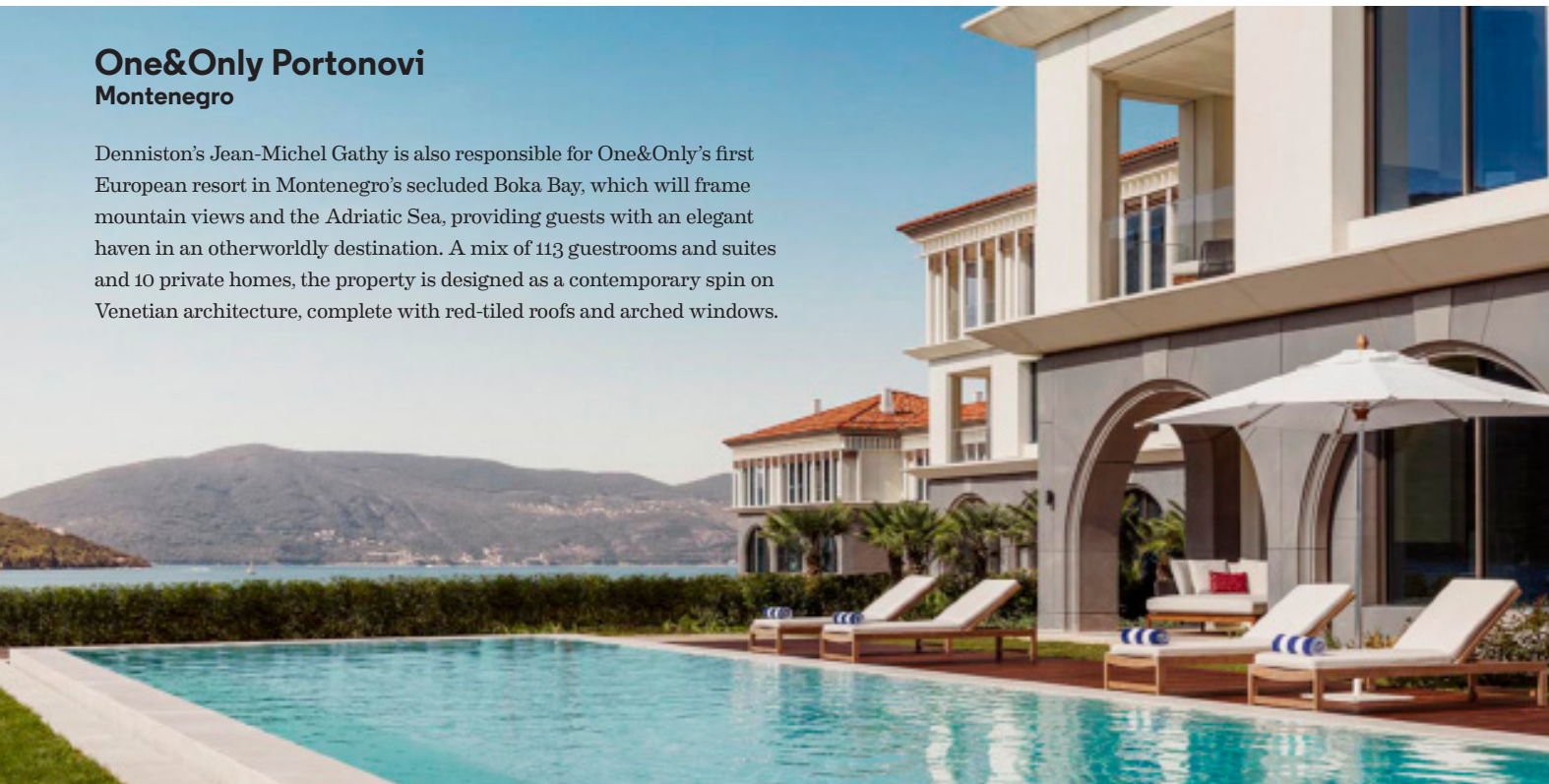
Zentis Osaka Japan

Japan's Palace Hotel Group tapped Tara Bernerd & Partners to craft the first outpost of its new Zentis Hotels brand. Located in Osaka's riverside Dojimahama area near business and entertainment zone Kita-shinchi, the inaugural location will feature a timeless palette with masculine touches throughout the 212 rooms and Upstairz restaurant, managed by Tokyo-based F&B operator Café Co. Raw materials like exposed brick and timber beams will meld with floor-to-ceiling windows in the lobby that overlook the outdoor greenscape. Opening this summer, the new build is the first in a series of hotels for Zentis, which is part of a larger licensing deal between the brand and the London-based design studio.



One&Only Portonovi Montenegro

Denniston's Jean-Michel Gathy is also responsible for One&Only's first European resort in Montenegro's secluded Boka Bay, which will frame mountain views and the Adriatic Sea, providing guests with an elegant haven in an otherworldly destination. A mix of 113 guestrooms and suites and 10 private homes, the property is designed as a contemporary spin on Venetian architecture, complete with red-tiled roofs and arched windows.



Pendry West Hollywood

After successful openings in San Diego and Baltimore, the lifestyle brand is ramping up its offerings with the 149-room Pendry West Hollywood. With an Art Deco-inspired look from London firm Martin Brudnizki Design Studio, the design will act as a love letter to Los Angeles. The lobby's Old Hollywood vibe comes to life with a mirrored ceiling and black and white marble floor, continuing into the guestrooms that are dressed in a rich palette of teal, navy, and gold tones. The property will also feature a rooftop pool and lounge, a penthouse-level restaurant helmed by chef Wolfgang Puck, a music venue, screening room, café, and lower-level social club, the Britely, with bowling lanes.



Virgin Hotels Las Vegas

A reflag of the longstanding Hard Rock right off the Strip, the upcoming Virgin Hotels Las Vegas, part of Hilton's Curio Collection, brings together an all-star cast of talent, with New York's Rockwell Group, locally based Klai Juba Wald Architecture + Interiors, and Los Angeles firm Studio Collective collaborating on the design. Aside from its 60,000-square-foot casino, the reimagining will include more than 1,500 guestrooms and suites, five acres of poolside spaces and event venues, and restaurant options from the likes of Todd English and chef Nobu Matsuhisa.



The Rockaway Hotel Queens, New York

Following the devastation of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, Rockaway Beach in Queens has undergone a revival. The beach town—a hidden gem for locals—will welcome the 53-room Rockaway Hotel this summer. Led by local firms Morris Adjmi Architects and Curious Yellow Design, the exterior reflects a beachside bungalow, drawing inspiration from the porches, clapboard, and cedar exteriors of the nearby homes. Meanwhile, the art-infused interiors convey a calming, retro atmosphere, flaunting materials like teak, linen, wool, leather, and rattan that complement a palette of rose pink and dusty blue.



IT'S ALL RELATIVE

Luxury brands welcome lifestyle offerings to the family



For some luxury hotel companies, stepping into the realm of more accessible, lifestyle-oriented accommodations is an alluring and practical way to diversify their collections. Here are three thoughtfully conceived spinoff brands to look forward to.



A rendering of Janu Montenegro's scenic pool setting



Suites at the Patina Maldives, Fari Island, boast private pools, shown in a rendering



A rendering of a one-with-nature guestroom at Janu Montenegro

Renderings courtesy of AMAN RESORTS and CAPELLA HOTEL GROUP

Hotel June

It was only 2017 when the first Kelly Wearstler-designed Proper Hotel arrived in San Francisco, quickly followed by locations in Santa Monica and Austin. Still, Proper Hospitality cofounders Brian De Lowe and Brad Korzen are already tackling their next venture, the laidback 250-room Hotel June.

In addition to an approachable price point that will help make it “the ‘every visit’ hotel,” says Patrick Pahlke, vice president of commercial at Proper Hospitality, Hotel June’s aim is “to capture the quintessential feeling of being in Southern California, bringing a summer sensibility to our guests year-round.” Opening this month on the Westside of Los Angeles, it will showcase a young, active, cheerful personality to reflect De Lowe and Korzen’s “deep-rooted love for California,” Pahlke points out. (Discussions to expand Hotel June beyond its home state are in the works.)

Situated in a revamped Welton Becket-designed building, local firm Studio Collective is behind the interiors, with the objective to “respect and celebrate the building’s true midcentury aesthetic and balance that with a bit looser, playful California spirit,” says design director and partner Christian Schulz. Guestrooms will incorporate color-blocking and feature elements like custom rift-cut solid white oak armoires, daybeds wrapped in coastal blue upholstery, and tables topped with speckled terrazzo.

Janu

Since its founding in 1988, retreat-style brand Aman Resorts has been synonymous with luxury, building glamorous hideaways in some of the world’s most intriguing locales. After listening to loyal guests over the years, it became clear there was room for an addition to the portfolio—an



Janu Montenegro will feature vibrant gathering places like the soaring lobby, shown in a rendering

option with the same design, service, and wellness values as Aman, yet with a focus on social inclusion and mindful seclusion under one roof.

Janu will debut in 2022, first in Montenegro, with a design by Toronto- and New York-based Yabu Pushelberg, followed by properties in Tokyo and Al-Ula, Saudi Arabia, all regions with existing or upcoming Aman properties. “We want to spark human interaction again,” says Aman’s chief operating officer Roland Fase, singling out activities like wine pairings and group meditation that will elicit moments of conversation and togetherness. “Janu’s core guest will be drawn to opportunities for self-exploration, inspired by purpose and the lively energy of others,” he adds.

As Yabu Pushelberg founding partner Glenn Pushelberg puts it, “Janu is Aman’s younger, more animated brother.” Although it will flaunt more vibrant gathering places and “layered experiential components” than Aman, he continues, a “sense of privacy remains uncompromised.” Adds founding partner George Yabu: “Janu offers the Aman experience with a bit of zest; there’s a frisson of excitement over the possibilities of who you might meet.”

Patina Hotels & Resorts

Fari Islands, Pontiac Land Group’s forthcoming resort development in the Maldives, will unite a trifecta of hospitality brands, including the Ritz-

Carlton, Capella Hotels & Resorts, and newcomer Patina Hotels & Resorts, around a marina and beach club. The latter, a socially minded concept from Capella that puts sustainability and community at the forefront, was spawned by guests’ “ever-evolving desire to travel ethically and consciously,” says CEO Nicholas M. Clayton.

After it debuts in the first quarter of 2021, Patina will roll out in Ubud, Bali, and Sanya, China—cities that are already home to Capella properties. With a bigger room count, Patina will be rooted in art, music, wellness, and culinary collaborations to resonate, Clayton says, with “those who seek meaningful connections with both themselves and the world around them.”

For Patina Maldives, Fari Islands, Marcio Kogan’s São Paulo-based Studio MK27 embraced materials such as stone, brick, and ceramic latticework in the 90 beach villas and suites. Architect Renata Furlanetto, who co-led the project, notes that the relationship between the natural surroundings and the architecture is an honest one, illuminating “low volumes and pure lines.” The buildings, she adds, are organized by a “hierarchy of textures and coverings—the trees and [their] shadows, the pergolas, the wooden decks—that creates a gentle transition between open and closed spaces.” **hd**

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