

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

TRAVELLER

HOTEL AWARDS

2023

WE'VE SCOURED THE PLANET TO BRING YOU THE BEST NEW AND IMPROVED HOTELS, FROM A BEACHSIDE PAD IN SRI LANKA TO A MOUNTAIN LODGE IN NORWAY. WHETHER YOU WANT UNIQUE INTERIOR DESIGN, WORLD-BEATING FOOD, INCREDIBLE VALUE OR SIMPLY A CHANCE TO ESCAPE THE WORLD FOR A DAY OR TWO, YOU'RE GUARANTEED A MEMORABLE STAY AT EVERY ONE OF OUR 42 WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP



A suite at Sommerro in Oslo, Norway, winner of the Clever Conversion category

THE WINNERS

City Star

CAPELLA SYDNEY,
AUSTRALIA

Remote Escape

UNDER CANVAS
BRYCE CANYON, USA

Mountain Refuge

SIX SENSES
CRANS-MONTANA,
SWITZERLAND

Food Hero

BOTANIC SANCTUARY,
BELGIUM

Romantic Bolthole

ANANTARA CONVENTO
DI AMALFI GRAND
HOTEL, ITALY

Beach Sanctuary

AHU BAY, SRI LANKA

Wellness Haven

ALEENTA RETREAT
CHIANG MAI, THAILAND

Eco Stay

CAP KAROSO,
INDONESIA

Unique Space

CANFRANC ESTACIÓ,
SPAIN

Country House Retreat

BOYS HALL, ENGLAND

Clever Conversion

SOMMERRO, NORWAY

Revamped Hotel

LIFE HOUSE, BERKSHIRES,
USA

Budget Break

LEVEN, ENGLAND

Boutique Pad

DE DURGERDAM,
NETHERLANDS

The judging panel of travel writers

JULIA BUCKLEY
LEE COBAJ
ZOEY GOTO
CAMILLA HEWITT
BEN LERWILL
ALICIA MILLER

JOHN O'CEALLAIGH
DANIEL STABLES
KERRY WALKER
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
TRAVELLER (UK) TEAM

BUDGET BREAK

WINNING HOTELS THAT PROVE A GREAT STAY NEEDN'T PUT YOU OUT OF POCKET

★ Leven, England

Once upon a time, Manchester's Gay Village was where you went for a good time, before retiring to bed elsewhere. But all that's changed with the unveiling of the Leven hotel, right alongside buzzing Canal Street. The red-brick walls of this former cotton warehouse have witnessed various reincarnations over the years, including stints as a brewery and comedy club. Its latest transformation into a 42-room hotel celebrates the industrial heritage of the building, with the guest entrance in the loading dock, and preserved steel-framed Crittall windows throughout. Room rates have been kept in check and there's an extra incentive for the budget-conscious digital nomad: a spacious communal lounge with wooden canteen tables providing the perfect perch to work-from-hotel. If you'd rather relax than hunker over a laptop, a lobby bar serves cocktails until late. There's also a large selection of room types available, from doubles with king-size beds to duplex penthouse suites with lounge areas and kitchens. From £89, room only. liveleven.com

Runners-up

NÓSTOS SÉRIFOS, GREECE
One look at this steal of a boutique hotel on the southern cusp of the wild, olive-cloaked island of Serifos and you'll be glad you took that two-hour ferry ride from Piraeus. The minimalist-cool bolthole slots seamlessly into its natural environment, with interiors capturing the dazzling white light and intense blues of the Aegean. Nature is woven into the hotel's sustainable ethos, with recycling, solar panels and thermal insulation upping the eco credentials. And you're just a flip-flop away from the slosh of the sea on the great creamy curve of Livadakia Beach. From €61 (£52), B&B. nostosboutiquehotel.com

YING'NFLO, HONG KONG
Ying'nFlo has a prime location in the shopping and eating district of Wan Chai. And there are plenty of other reasons to stay here: bright pastel-hued rooms with mountain views and mini-kitchens that you can actually cook a proper meal in. It's a good place to meet fellow travellers, too, perhaps over the foosball table in the music lounge or in the café. Novel vending machines sell snacks, drinks, condoms and dog leads. Art is a theme here, seen in wall murals by Berlin-based artist Josephine Rais and rainbow-shaped floor lamps. From HK\$880 (£88), room only. yingnflo.com



The lobby bar at Leven in Manchester has mid-century design touches. Right from top: De Durgardam has 11 rooms and three suites; seasonal food at De Durgardam's De Mark restaurant



BOUTIQUE PAD

OUR THREE COSY BOLTHOLES ARE SMALL BUT PERFECTLY FORMED

★ De Durgardam, Netherlands

Still within the municipality of Amsterdam, this 17th-century lakeside getaway in the coastal village of Durgardam is the perfect antidote to city life. Built as an inn for fishermen and sailors in 1664, the clapboard construction — set right on the waterfront — has seen many iterations, and was even a regular haunt of Dutch Prince Henrik in the 19th century. The wood-lined restaurant is a draw even if you're not staying at the hotel, with simple menus of barbecue herring or roasted cod with mussels crafted by Richard van Oostenbrugge and Thomas Groot, two local chefs who have worked in Michelin-starred restaurants. Meanwhile, the 14 bedrooms subtly reference the fishing village surroundings with decorative shells, wavy wood headboards and soothing tones in ochre and green. From €305 (£262), room only. dedurgardam.com

Runners-up

VERMELHO HOTEL, PORTUGAL
In the sleepy fishing village of Melides comes an unusual addition — a boutique hotel owned by shoe royalty Christian Louboutin. The 13 bedrooms feature parquet flooring, one-of-a-kind artworks, patterned tiles and delicate frescoes. Sophisticated touches come via the Indian Lounge — complete with gilded tables and peach sofas — and a garden designed by Louis Benech, responsible for recent landscaping at Versailles. Life in the village is slow and unbuttoned, making it the perfect setting for long lunches and wild walks — you can leave the stilettoes at home. From €400 (£344), B&B. vermelhohotel.com

NO 17 THE PROMENADE, SCOTLAND
In the coastal town of Oban, this hotel majors in classic Scottish hospitality and has plenty of inviting cosy corners and flickering fireplaces. There are only seven bedrooms, which mix vintage pieces with modern metallics, yet there are five dining options right on site, from an Italian restaurant to an intimate residents' salon. After tucking into Isle of Mull scallops, order a glass of something cold and grab a seat at the outdoor bar overlooking the neighbouring Isle of Kerrera. From £145, B&B. no17thepromenade.com



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