

HOUSE & GARDEN

HOTELS by DESIGN

A guide to the most beautifully designed hotels in the world

NEWS

AT A GLANCE

A bird's-eye view of some of the world's most exciting hotels, by Pamela Goodman

Europe

ENGLAND

London locations don't get much more impressive than Piccadilly Circus, where the famous **Café Royal** (below) relaunched as a hotel late last year. While retaining the grandeur of the historic rooms, David Chipperfield Architects has created 159 rooms and suites in a twenty-first-century style. Also new to London is **The Wellesley** near Hyde Park Corner - glamorous, art deco and deeply luxurious - designed by Mary Fox Linton; and **ME London** in the Strand, the first UK hotel project by Foster + Partners and the first for which it has designed all of the interiors and exteriors. **Heckfield Place** in Hampshire, with gardens by Todd Longstaffe-Gowan (see 'Who goes where?') and kitchens overseen by Siye Gyngell, is all set to be England's country-house hotel of the year. In Dorset, hotel supremo Robin Hutson and his team from Home Crown Hotels will open **The Pig on the Beach**, sister hotel to **The Pig in the New Forest** and **The Pig in the Wall**.



FRANCE

Make note of the December arrival in Courchevel 1850 of **L'Apogée**, the latest addition to the Oetker Collection, which also includes **Château Saint-Martin** in Vence and **Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc**. There'll be 54 rooms, a signature restaurant and a private ski lift to its location in Le Jardin Alpin. In June, Jocelyne Sibuet (Bastide de Marie, Fermes de Marie, Villa Marie) will open a new retreat, **Domaine de la Baume** at Tourtour in Provence. **Mas de la Fouque** (above) opened last spring on the edge of the Camargue nature reserve. Rooms are stylish, elegant and a little bit bohemian; then there's a waterside restaurant, deserted beaches nearby and, of course, wild horses and pink flamingos.



SPAIN

In the Sierra Nevada mountains near Granada, British designer Andrew Martin has turned his hand to the refurbishment of **El Lodge** (left), a ski and spa resort from the team behind the **Marbella Club**. Mountain style - lashings of wood, animal skins and fur throws - prevails, but with a chic yet homely twist. In May the island of Minorca sees the opening of **Torraibenc**, a pretty boutique hotel surrounded by farmland and vineyards and just a short bike ride from the sea.

ITALY

Tuscany's beautiful **Hotel Monteverdi**, with its seven exquisite suites, is to open a restaurant, **Oread**, this June. Simultaneously, an art gallery at Monteverdi, directed by Sarah McCrory - director of Glasgow International and former Frieze curator - will open with a great programme focusing entirely on contemporary art. In the tiny Tuscan village of Pienza, a former convent has been transformed into a simple, deeply stylish hotel - **La Bandita Townhouse** (right) - with 12 bedrooms, a small restaurant and wine bar, and a walled medieval garden.



GERMANY

The 140-year-old grande dame **Brenners Park-Hotel & Spa**, on the edge of the Black Forest, will see the launch of its brand-new, multimillion-euro spa in September. Part pampering, part medical, this will be a serious spa for serious spa devotees. In the diplomatic district of Berlin, overlooking the zoo, **Das Stue** (above), Danish for 'living room' - this used to be the Danish embassy - has been designed by Patricia Urquiola to combine a grand sense of heritage with a strong contemporary vibe. There are 80 rooms, a three-level library, vintage fashion photography and lots of references to animals.



THE NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam is having a moment. Last year saw the reopening of the Stedelijk Museum after a nine-year closure and this year sees the reopening on April 13 of the Rijksmuseum after 10. The Van Gogh Museum, after a refit period of just a few months, also reopens this April. So it is apt that a new hotel should have burst on to the scene - the **Andaz** (left), one of Hyatt's 'lifestyle' brands, in this instance designed and part-owned by Dutch designer Marcel Wanders. The hotel - particularly its public areas - is eccentric, imaginative and fun, with numerous quirky design references to deft, as well as a crazy selection of video art.



TURKEY

D-Hotel near Marmaris, a Mediterranean pleasure ground that opened last summer, has every conceivable facility and a view of the Aegean to make you weep. In Istanbul, the **Marti** (above), designed by Zeynep Fadilloglu - the first woman to have designed and built a mosque - has opened in Taksim, the commercial and entertainment hub of the city. Ottoman tradition meets modern flair in its 270 rooms, while the spa has two Turkish hammams and a Roman bath.