



# SEEKING SANCTUARY

Whether poking about in Patagonia, soaking in a thermal spa in New Zealand or just hanging out on a Californian Beach, these laid-back way stations offer the perfect time-out.



## HERITAGE HANMER SPRINGS

Located in a high-country basin with the snow-capped Southern Alps providing a majestic backdrop, the air almost impossibly pure, and only 90 minutes' drive from Christchurch, this historic hotel completed a multimillion-dollar restoration in 2000. It remains faithful to the original 1930s style, with grand arches, large fireplaces and an outlook over a manicured 3.6ha garden with pool and pétanque court. Isabel's restaurant serves suitable hearty fare and self-contained three-bedroom villas (pictured) are also available. From \$NZ169 (\$136). 1 Conical Hill Road, Hanmer Springs, New Zealand. +64 (3) 315 0060. heritagehotels.co.nz

## HOTEL ERWIN

Overlooking the palms of Venice Beach, this neat little boutique draws a hip Dogtown crowd through its (commissioned) graffiti entrance. Suites and rooms are easy and breezy after a recent style reset - a driftwood and bone-inspired colour palette is accented with turquoise-hued walls and beachy embellishments. From \$US269 (\$256). 1697 Pacific Avenue, Venice Beach, California, USA. +1 (310) 452 1111. jdvhoteles.com/hotels/losangeles/erwin

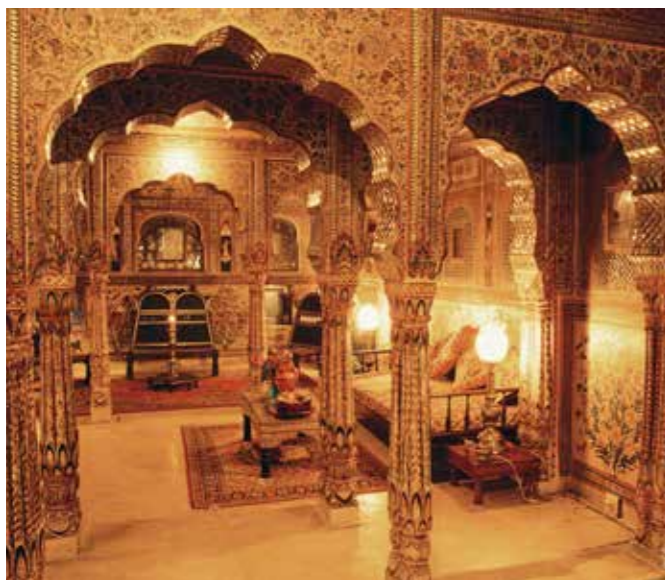
## WHERE I STAY

JAC HUNT  
CO-FOUNDER/  
DESIGNER JAC + JACK



### SAMODE HAVELI, JAIPUR

"This hotel became my home away from home the year I was planning my 40th birthday party in Jaipur. The Haveli is a grand home in the old city and has an assortment of rooms with painted ceilings, decorated with beautiful objects and carved stone privacy screens. The carved beds have patterned quilted bedspreads, and although India can be over-the-top in terms of pattern play, the sophisticated way these elements come together makes it utterly unique." From INR12,600 (\$223). Gangapole, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India. samode.com/Jaipur-haveli/boutique-hotel-in-jaipur.html



## HOTEL REFUGIA

Sea meets rainforest in the Chiloé Archipelago. The Refugia's 12 suites have inland sea views, a reading room, dining room and living space with fireplace and terrace. Suggested daytrips include horse-riding, the wetlands, colonial Jesuit churches and exploring the fjords on the hotel's own vessel. Closed May-August. From \$US530 (\$504). San José Playa, 217 Casilla, Castro, Chiloé, Chile. +56 (65) 772 080 www.refugia.cl/en-us

## ASK THE CONCIERGE



CLIVE SMITH  
THE CAPITAL, LONDON

### ❖ When friends are in town I take them for a drink at...

The Grenadier, a cosy historic pub in Belgravia.

❖ The restaurant that best shows off London is... the National Portrait Gallery's rooftop Portrait Restaurant.

❖ For designer fashion I steer guests towards... the Victoria & Albert Museum. The David Bowie Is exhibition (March 23-July 28) contrasts with Treasures Of The Royal Courts: Tudors, Stuarts & The Russian Tsars (March 9-July 14).

❖ For the perfect gift or memento I'd shop at...

Fortnum & Mason on Piccadilly. Tea is an obvious choice, but try the biscuits in beautiful tin boxes (clotted cream or lemon curd).

❖ Couples wanting a romantic evening for two should consider...

Le Pont de la Tour for French cuisine with unsurpassed views of Tower Bridge.

❖ For great art head to... Tate Britain or, for contemporary, the Saatchi Gallery, which is inspiring.

❖ The best markets can be found at... Camden Lock and Portobello. On Sundays, begin with Columbia Road Flower Market for breakfast and then walk to Brick Lane and London's oldest market, Spitalfields.

❖ For vintage finds head to... Camden Lock Market for retro clothes. More exclusive vintage is stocked at Sign of the Times on Chelsea Green.

❖ If it's raining... treat yourself to breakfast in bed at The Capital. In the afternoon head over to the Victoria & Albert Museum. The David Bowie Is exhibition (March 23-July 28) contrasts with Treasures Of The Royal Courts: Tudors, Stuarts & The Russian Tsars (March 9-July 14).

❖ Sights that are overrated include... the London Dungeon and Madame Tussauds - huge queues and expensive.

❖ London's best-kept secret is... Chelsea Physic Garden, a unique living museum founded in 1673 to study the medicinal qualities of plants.

❖ If I were a visitor with a free day I would... take a trip to Hampton Court, Henry VIII's favourite residence, and marvel at the staterooms and vast Tudor kitchens. Trying to get out of the famous maze is a favourite pastime. Then on to Windsor, where you can walk across a little stone bridge into Eton, one of the world's most renowned colleges.

More exclusive vintage is stocked at Sign of the Times on Chelsea Green