



Rise above the Las Vegas Strip, get hip in New York, and regard Hong Kong street traffic from on high through the glass bottom of an infinity pool.

## BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITIES

### MANDARIN ORIENTAL LAS VEGAS

Taste and Vegas are not mutually exclusive. The decor of this Asiatic eyrie far above the glitz of The Strip is Zen serene, the bed massive and cloud-comfortable, and the bathroom boasts a vast array of pampering concoctions plus possibly the best rain shower on Earth. In the heart of the entertainment zone, casinos such as Bellagio and Caesars Palace are within a short walk and the Mandarin's restaurants, bars and spas are superb – but it's the nocturnal neon panorama that hits the jackpot. **From \$US195 (\$217). 3752 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. +1 (702) 590 8888. mandarinoriental.com/lasvegas**



### WHERE I STAY

BLAKE MYCOSKIE  
FOUNDER, TOMS SHOES



### ESTANCIA VIK JOSÉ IGNACIO, URUGUAY

"This place has amazing views and with only 12 rooms, it feels like a house rather than a hotel. The beach is 15 minutes away and you can even enjoy the surrounding areas riding around on horseback. Plus, they have a pitch-and-putt golf hole to keep my short game sharp. The sunsets are to die for, some of the best I've seen on my travels. Lastly, the wine cave is the perfect place for fresh seafood or a Uruguayan barbecue, with a cellar that holds nearly 5000 wines." From \$460.

Camino Eugenio Saiz Martinez, José Ignacio, Maldonado, Uruguay. +598 (94) 605 212. estanciavikjoseignacio.com



### HOTEL INDIGO

Rising high above the frenetic Wan Chai district, the newly opened Hotel Indigo may at first glance appear to be yet another business hotel, but glimpses of innovative design reveal it to be something more. A burnished bronze dragon appears to twist around the building, acting as an offbeat sunshade to keep the 138 rooms and six suites cool. Additional excitement can be found on the 29th floor, where the rooftop infinity pool, complete with glass bottom, is limited to 40 swimmers at one time, ensuring an intimate pool party experience. **From \$HK2300 (\$330). 246 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong. ihg.com/hotelindigo**



### THE JADE HOTEL

This smart new boutique hotel in Greenwich Village is a quirky hipster among its trust-fund princess peers in New York. The 113 rooms pay homage to the neighbourhood's bohemian history – think retro phones and toiletries, art deco motifs, distressed leather furnishings. Hotel restaurant/bar Grape & Vine takes styling tips from Jay Gatsby, attracting a lively mix of guests and locals to its deep-set booths for a live set from a '20s-style crooner – and a Manhattan, of course. **From \$US350 (\$390). 52 West 13th Street, New York City, USA. +1 (212) 375 1300. thejadenyc.com**

### ASK THE CONCIERGE



ALESSANDRO SORIANI,  
GRAND HOTEL VILLA TORRETTA, MILAN

- ❖ **When friends are in town I take them for a drink** at the Pitbull Café. In an historic building in Corso Como, it's known for its white leather banquettes and flashy cocktails.
- ❖ **For designer fashion I steer guests** towards 10 Corso Como, a luxury store owned by Carla Sozzani (former Italian Vogue fashion editor) who uses her trained eye when stocking clothing and homewares. It's a pricey haven for fashion's elite.
- ❖ **For a perfect gift, I'd shop** on Via Montenapoleone in the centre of Milan. Watchmakers Audemars Piguet offer classic timepieces; Frette has linens.
- ❖ **Couples wanting a romantic dinner should consider** El Brellin, where traditional Milanese dishes are given a cosmopolitan update. Try the candlelit garden courtyard in the warmer seasons.
- ❖ **For great art** head to the Pinacoteca di Brera. The gallery features many 16th-century Italian paintings plus art works seized from churches and convents in Northern Italy during the Napoleonic era, many in near-perfect condition.
- ❖ **The best market can be found** in Porta Genova, where

the competitive stallholders have goods ranging from antique to pre-loved. The prices are lower than you'd imagine and there are no gimmicks.

- ❖ **If it is raining, visit** Castello Sforzesco, built in the 15th century and now a museum. It has withstood attacks, housed frescos by Leonardo da Vinci and is now a time capsule.
- ❖ **Sights that are overrated** include Chà Tea Atelier, where you can taste and buy different types of tea. It's designed to be an oasis of peace and relaxation, but is too frantic to be enjoyable.
- ❖ **The best-kept secret is** Duomo di Milano. Suspended above the altar within a tabernacle is the most precious relic of the cathedral, one of the Holy Nails reputed to have been used in the crucifixion of Christ. Once a year [September], it is displayed during the Rito della Nivola, which anyone with a reservation can attend.
- ❖ **If I were a visitor with a free day** I'd escape the city with a serene daytrip to Brunate, a picturesque village nicknamed "the balcony" of the Alps and known for its views of Lake Como and the Lombardy Plains.

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