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Preferred Hotels & Resorts have compiled a list of the best must-see hotels in the world. From breath-taking views in Switzerland, crystal clear waters in The Maldives and the iconic Lake Como, they are the ultimate in style, sophistication and exclusivity. See these exotic global destinations before you plan the trip of a lifetime.

The Stafford London

The Stafford is tucked away in a quiet, central area of St. James, London. Guests can choose from three contrasting styles of rooms and suites: the Main House, the Mews Suites and the Carriage House. Each room at The Stafford London is individually decorated and designed with the utmost attention to detail. With two restaurants headed by Chef Carlos Martinez, the cuisine is just one part of what makes this hotel special. In fact, the American Bar continues to be one of London's most noted cocktail establishments. The location provides easy access to some of London's top attractions such as Trafalgar square, Harrods, the London Eye and Hyde Park. The Stafford wine cellar is a particular highlight and hosts a number of wine tasting events and dinners throughout the year. Master Sommelier Gino Nardella has 40 year's worth of experience and oversees the wine service in The Stafford's restaurant, ensuring luxury service and the highest standard of hospitality.

Il Salviatino, Florence, Italy

This former palace is set in the hills of Florence. Guests can relax at the on-site spa, take cooking classes, or read classics in the restored library. Il Salviatino provides unique dining experiences to guests by allowing them to eat anywhere on the property from the expansive gardens, the terrace overlooking Florence, or the greenhouse. Local artwork decorates the hotel, which epitomises the perfect Tuscan getaway.

Finca Cortesin Hotel, Golf & Spa, Casares, Spain

This resort is located in one of the most peaceful and upcoming areas on the Mediterranean coast. The gardens, spa, three pools, beach club, cuisine and prestigious golf course provide activities for all the family. Guests can dine at two poolside bars, a sushi restaurant or an Italian restaurant.

The Alpina Gstaad, Gstaad, Switzerland

Switzerland is not only a winter destination and The Alpina Gstaad is most definitely a getaway perfect for any season. There are panoramic views over the Bernese Alps, a Six Senses Spa and two pools, a kid's adventure room and a private cinema providing entertainment for families. Guests can experience international cuisine across the three restaurants and explore Gstaad's attractions including Cailler Chocolate Factory and Lake of Thun.

Dusit Thani Maldives, Mudhdhoo Island, Maldives

Guests can arrive in style with an airplane transfer from Male airport straight to the resort. Spa treatments, dolphin cruises, and swimming with white sharks are exceptional activities for a holiday at the Dusit Thani Maldives. For families, there is a Ban Sanook kids club which has an extensive programme of activities including origami, t-shirt making and face painting. There are six dining options featuring fresh seafood, Asian tapas and Thai cuisine.

Hotel Napoleon, Paris

The five star hotel is steeped in history with a romantic past: a wealthy Russian met a young Parisian woman, fell in love and gave his bride the 8th Arrondissement hotel as a wedding gift. The hotel is located just a few minutes' walk away from the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs-Élysées and has a spa offering a variety of treatments. For the more active traveller, there is a fully equipped fitness club. The hotel's restaurant-lounge has a cosy atmosphere and serves cuisine from all over the world.

OH! All suite hotel, Crete

Located in a secluded Crete peninsula and surrounded by the sea, the hotel features all-suite accommodation with luxury amenities including Jacuzzi bathtubs and plasma televisions. The Euphoria Rejuvenating Spa, swimming pool and proximity to the sea provides the perfect environment for relaxation. The nightly music, Brazilian shows and kids activities make the hotel an ideal stay for a family holiday. There are also off site attractions including a PADI certified scuba-diving centre, the Historical Museum of Crete and the Capsis Minoan Amusement park.

Grand Hotel Tremezzo, Lake Como

With views across the entire lake and surrounded by five acres of Italian gardens, this hotel allows guests to feel at home in Italy whilst enjoying a luxurious break. Those wanting to explore the Italian lakes can take a trip to Menaggio and Comacina Island before dining at one of the hotel's restaurants. Options include a fish and meat BBQ on the beach overlooking the pool, traditional pizzas in the gardens, the T Bar Terrace, L'Escale Fondue & Wine Bar, or à la carte at La Terrazza Restaurant.

Dromoland Castle Hotel, Ireland

This 16th century castle has been transformed into a luxury hotel with a championship-level golf course and 410 acres of gardens. There are many activities available including clay shooting and Hawk Walks to the Dromoland School of Falconry. The individually decorated rooms and the spa, coupled with the hotel's exceptional service, make for an unforgettable stay.

The Scotsman Hotel, Edinburgh

This 100 year old building has been restored to a luxury hotel and incorporates original features such as the marble staircase and is one of Edinburgh's most stylish and intimate hotels. Located in the centre of the city, it is the perfect spot to explore. However, those seeking relaxation can retreat to the hotel spa to while away the afternoon.

Azur, New Zealand

Set among lakes and impressive mountains, Azur is a boutique hotel that has wilderness and nature on its doorstep. Activities include helicopter trips to Milford Sound, jet boating, winery tours, bungee jumping, historic lake cruises and the Onsen Hot Pools. After a day exploring the South Island, guests can indulge in fine food including gourmet pizzas and locally caught fish, from the nearby Vknow restaurant in the comfort of their own private villa.

Banyan Tree Cabo Marques, Mexico

It is no surprise that Banyan Tree has been accredited as an AAA Five Diamond resort, with an array of world-class facilities and amenities available, including private swimming pools to award-winning spa treatments. This hotel provides a luxury intimate getaway – not forgetting the added bonus of nearby activities such as cliff diving, horse-back riding and boating.

Castello di Casole, Italy

This enchanting all-suite hotel provides unparalleled views of the neighbouring Tuscan villages and vineyards. It is the perfect location to relax and experience true Tuscan culture. Activities in the surrounding area include Vinarello (painting with wine), pizza classes, guided wine tasting, horseback riding and bike tours. There are also a number of nearby towns to explore including Casole d'Elsa and San Gimignano. Guests can retreat to the hotel and make use of the spa, unique dining venues and an infinity pool.

Devhi Ghar, India

This fully restored 18th century palace has been transformed into a five star hotel, in the heart of Udaipur. The hotel provides authentic excursions to Delwara village and Rashtrasen temple as well as horse safaris. Each suite has a private terrace and pool, allowing guests exclusivity and a private retreat after a day exploring the town of Udaipur.

Divan Istanbul Asia, Turkey

Divan is an opulent hotel set in the heart of Istanbul. Guests can enjoy the historic sites that surround the hotel, as well as the property's spa and Turkish baths. Dining options include a rooftop bar, The Health Bar which offers fresh juice, salads, and sandwiches, and a Brasserie that serves Turkish cuisine

Condado Vanderbilt, Puerto Rico

This historic beachfront hotel has its own private beach and spa facilities and is an expansive 20th century style resort. For the more adventurous, there are the Camuy caves and the Condado lagoon nearby. The hotel also features cigar lounges, fine dining and a romantic wine bar, so there is something for everyone to enjoy, whilst retaining a relaxing atmosphere in a deluxe setting.

Eau Palm Beach, Florida

Set on an exclusive Floridian beach, this five star resort's nearby attractions include Atlantic Avenue Delray beach, The Boca Museum of Art and scuba diving. The dining options are endless from the beachside BBQ to fine dining. The grounds also feature two pools as well as seating areas surrounding a crackling fire pit, which make for a truly relaxing evening.

Es Saadi Palace, Marrakech

Indulge in luxury at the Es Saadi Palace where you can enjoy a dip into the sparkling pool or a walk in the well-maintained gardens. For the explorer, visit the Saadian tombs, Menara Gardens and the souks, all within close proximity of the hotel. There are four restaurants which offer Moroccan inspired delicacies and modern cuisine. The hotels interior boast Moroccan design and architecture, making for an authentic North African experience.

Grand Hotel Palace, Rome

This boutique hotel combines historic roman architecture with contemporary style. Guests will enjoy exploring the nearby Colosseum, Pantheon and St. Peter's square. Serving modern and Italian cuisine, Piero's Bistrot offers al fresco dining and the Ristorante Cadorin is in a lounge setting. Guests can indulge in spa treatments at the Kami spa which offers a wide variety of services.

Hotel Miramar, Barcelona

Sit at the top of Mountjuic, Hotel Miramar provides panoramic views of the Spanish city. The hotel is within walking distance of the city centre and is near to Montjuic Castle, the Miró museum and botanical gardens. The hotel prides itself on the award winning restaurants where guests can relax, view the cityscape and taste Mediterranean cuisine.

LV Garden Huanghuali Art Gallery, Beijing

Filled with ancient Chinese artefacts, and surrounded by Asian inspired gardens, this hotel provides an oriental haven. The hotel features an indoor pool, a live-performance theatre, cinema, and a karaoke lounge. Guests can enjoy authentic Peking Opera, Kunqu Opera, calligraphy, painting and chess. For those looking to travel further afield, landmarks in the area are Tiananmen Square, Temple of Heaven, The Forbidden City, and the Great Wall of China.

ME, London

Guests can enjoy panoramic views of London's skyline at Radio Rooftop bar where guests can enjoy tapas and champagne. There are two New York style restaurants and Aldwych and Strand is on its doorstep, providing a vast array of shops, theatres and restaurants. The rooms overlook the Thames and boast contemporary décor, atmospheric lighting and private terraces.

Montage Kapalua Bay, Hawaii

Montage Kapalua Bay is equipped with facilities to please every traveller, with golf courses, a spa and nature trails. Island sunsets can be enjoyed from the guest suites, some of which overlook gardens and others have ocean views. Kapalua Bay has two restaurants serving fresh local food including Cane and Canoe and the Sunset Bar where guests can enjoy weekly events such as poolside movies and BBQs.

Peter Island Resort, British Virgin islands

This luxury oceanfront hotel is perfect for a romantic getaway. The beaches line sparkling Caribbean waters and, for the more adventurous type, hiking through the island terrain is ideal for panoramic views. From snorkelling to massages, there is plenty to keep guests entertained throughout their stay. The Peter Island Resort is a dreamlike retreat that allows guests to enjoy the Caribbean sunshine with unparalleled privacy.

The State Hermitage Museum Official Hotel, Russia

In the heart of St. Petersburg lies this impressive hotel that provides luxurious accommodation and five star amenities including marble baths, Hermes toiletries and classic Russian décor. The hotel grants guests exclusive access to the State Hermitage Museum due to its official link. Choose from classic Italian at the Michelangelo restaurant or Russian cuisine at Catherine the Great.

The Dhara Dhevi Chiang Mai, Thailand

This secluded resort is set in the Thai countryside. The swimming pool, shopping village and authentic Thai cuisine makes this hotel particularly special. There are many recreational facilities including The Dhevi Spa and Wellness Centre, The Kad Dhara Shopping Village Jum Sri Hall Library, Lanna Kids Club, Dhara Dhevi cooking academy, bike tours and a number of swimming pools. The tropical countryside provides a beautiful setting for guests to relax and experience authentic Thai culture.

The Fullerton Bay Hotel, Singapore

This hotel is the newest addition to Singapore's Marina Bay waterfront. Clifford Pier, a stately building serves as the hotel entrance and each guestroom offers panoramic views of the other landmarks across the city. The hotel's skilled concierge team offers assistance in planning outings, arranging tours, and purchasing tickets for attractions such as Sentosa Island, Boat Quay shopping district, the Botanic Gardens, Universal Studios, Singapore Night Safari and Singapore Zoo.

The Mark, New York

In one of New York's most exclusive neighbourhoods, lies The Mark, an award winning hotel. The Mark in Manhattan offers a fleet of Republic Bike custom bicycles for its guests' use. Grab a lunch-to-go gourmet picnic basket filled with wonderful delicacies created by Chef Jean-Georges and experience the ultimate picnic in Central Park. Guests can also enjoy the following New York local attractions such as Central Park Zoo and the American Museum of Natural History.

Town House Duomo, Milan

A hotel that matches Milan's upmarket scale is Town House Duomo with great views of the city. Milan's historic landmarks and sites are on the hotels doorstep such as the Milan cathedral. Guests can dine in the hotel's pizzeria, lounge spaces and a winery. Its close proximity to the tourist attractions, such as La Scala theatre and Via Montenapoleone Fashion District, combined with it being the only luxury hotel in Duomo square, makes this hotel unique and attractive.

Hotel Bayerischer Hof, Munich

The hotel in central Munich has hosted queens, celebrities, and artists in its exclusive accommodation. Located in the historic Altstadt neighbourhood, the luxury hotel is closest to Marienplatz and the English Garden, one of the world's largest urban parks and the Deutches Museum. The hotel also offers a variety of shows and festivals throughout the year, including jazz concerts, New Year's Eve parties, and carnival celebrations. Pamper yourself with a trip to the award-winning Blue Spa and relax fireside on the terrace overlooking Munich. Hotel Bayerischer Hof has a Michelin-starred restaurant and its own Night Club Bar, making this hotel a true urban retreat.

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