

THE HOT LIST

FRANCE

LES HAUTS DE SANCERRE

Petite and cloud-encircled, this 1874-built château sits atop the rocky peak of Sancerre, the Loire Valley village famed for its crisp mineral wines. It had been in the hands of the Marnier Lapostolle family until it was snapped up by David Chicard and Audrey Dumont. Last summer it sprang into life as Les Hauts de Sancerre, an immaculate eight-suite hotel with sublime views of vine-striped countryside (it's close to wine houses Joseph Mellot, Vacheron, Paul Prieur, Fouassier and Pinard) and a wine library housed in the 12th-century cellar. Interior designer Jérôme Lescrenier imbued the historical structure with contemporary furnishings of natural stone, wood and muted fabrics. Light-filled guest rooms have deep soaking tubs. A sleek pop-up restaurant, La Table d' Arnaud, is led by 22-year-old chef Arnaud Munster, whose tasting menu – featuring the likes of cod in elderflower jus with clément millefeuille and ceps – is inspired by the terroir. His permanent dining concept, L'Atelier des Cèdres, launches this year. Dumont and Chicard have dreamt up visits to barrel makers; tastings at Maison des Sancerre; and encounters with the potters of La Borne. Artistic direction is by Stanislas de Poucques, former executive at Brussels contemporary art museum Mima; the venue has already debuted a lawn exhibition that drew more than 30,000 visitors, and each room has a work by Dutch artist Roan van Oort. *MARIA YAGODA*
Doubles from about £245; hautsdesancerre.com



INDONESIA

LOMBOK PRIVATE VILLA ESTATE

A singular, elemental energy emanates from this ocean sanctuary posited between two volcanoes. Sheltering in the long arm of Gondang Beach in northwestern Lombok, this secluded modernist villa-hotel and five-acre property started with one house and morphed into a constellation of private residences, with hotel services available, that opened last year. The estate sits in a coconut grove in the lee of the often cloud-wreathed Mount Rinjani. The iconic volcano, the second highest in Indonesia, rises above an emerald patchwork of rice paddies, and to the west is the wide ocean horizon. This means guests have a ringside seat for the constantly changing spectacle of surf, volcano and violet sunsets. The nine low-slung villas are built from rough stone, blending into the startling pewter-coloured beach. The sober brutalist linearity of the architecture, its minimalist palette and restrained aesthetic enforce a deep sense of tranquillity that enhances the peerless views. The main hub is home to Ofyr Grill restaurant (the freshest of fish and seafood cooked on an open flame in front of diners), a wellness and communal living space, small gym, yoga studio, bar and Kérastase hair salon. On the private terraces at dusk, the diamond sparkle of mica catches in the light of evening lanterns and flares. This is a place to decompress, breathe and forget the world, with total privacy and 24-hour service from a butler and chef. *CATHERINE FAIRWEATHER*
Doubles from about £519; thelomboklodgevillas.com

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