

TATLER[®]

Travel Guide 2023

The 101 best hotels in the world





Postcard from the edge: the view across the Miami skyline from the rooftop bar at Life House, Little Havana

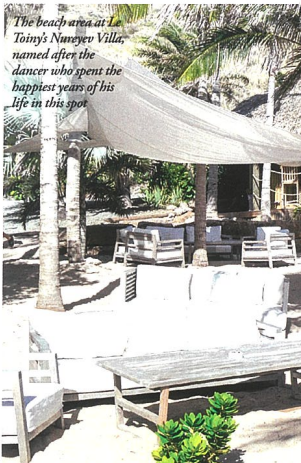
Drink in the views of vineyards at the chic wine-country retreat Royal Champagne Hotel & Spa



LIFE HOUSE, LITTLE HAVANA

Miami, USA

Standing with a cocktail in hand on the plant-filled rooftop Terras bar, seduced by the glittering towers of Miami's ambitious skyline in the distance, you realise how relaxing it is to be on the edge. Forget Downtown's soaring glass statements: here you are firmly grounded in a low-rise neighbourhood – the Latin district – where a laid-back charm pervades and salsa music escapes from front-room get-togethers. This peach-toned hotel, housed in a converted 1920s mansion, is a glamorous ode to the '50s: slatted blinds, leather sofas, mid-century tables, dark woods and moody lighting. And the rooms exude a cool cosiness, with stylish notes provided by art photography, Afro-Cuban ceramics and Marshall speakers. Gold-tapped, chunky marble sinks come equipped with a range of Le Labo bath products, and Revival New York linens adorn comfortable beds. But it's back on that Terras that *Life House* really gets going, with a smart Latin playlist and drinks infused with herbs from the garden. Locals and guests tuck into a menu inspired by South American and Caribbean street food, featuring ceviche, tacos and salted cod *bacalaitos* while the odd dreamer reclines in a hammock – or on a sunbed – to take in the stars. *Life House, Little Havana* is just the kind of place to help you see the bigger picture. *Doubles from £205 (lifehousehotels.com).*



The beach area at Le Toiny's Nureyev Villa, named after the dancer who spent the happiest years of his life in this spot



Make time for yourself by the spa pool at LUX* Grand Baie

LE TOINY

St Barths, Caribbean

Stylish, chic and effortlessly cool, Le Toiny is tucked away on the quiet and rugged side of the island, overlooking the virtually untouched Anse de Toiny. And with its open kitchen, soft lighting, up tempo music and light-hued furniture, the restaurant-bar immediately sets the scene for a wonderfully indulgent stay. This Caribbean getaway offers the ultimate luxuries of today: total privacy and complete calm. There are 22 villas on the estate – all fantastically well-equipped with generously stocked wine- and snack-bars, spacious rooms, Sonos speakers and private pools directly accessible from the living rooms – and they're perfect for hosting the party of a lifetime (especially the Nureyev Villa); or, if you prefer, hiding away in total serenity without seeing a single soul. In daylight, have an adventure or recover from last night's cocktails with a visit to the beach club on the Anse, where you can indulge in surfing or simply watch the waves crashing on the shore. But the journey there is an adventure in itself. Guests arrive at the beach courtesy of Le Toiny's Land Rover shuttle, which entails an *Indiana Jones*-ish journey through uneven tropical terrain, while marvelling at the pristine waters beyond. *Scott Dunn (scottdunn.com)* offers seven nights from £13,998, including breakfast, flights and transfers.



PHOTOGRAPH BY NICOLA JOENSING FOR TATLER; DINA SOROKINA

LUX* GRAND BAIE

Mauritius

Detox to retox is the order of the day at this swish newcomer. Split your morning between a vigorous PT session at the open-air rooftop gym, a steam in a hydro-thermal bath and a feast of nitro-infused kombucha, pineapple sourdough and bountiful spreads of fresh fruit at the hotel's trendy breakfast deli – and you'll be perfectly teed-up for a day of high-vibe sun-worshipping. By lunchtime, the main pool area more closely resembles an Ibiza beach club than a slouchy tropical-island terrace: the DJ and accompanying singer provide a party-like ambience for throngs of guests clinking cones of home-churned pistachio ice-cream and ordering rounds of cocktails from the in-pool bar. As the sun starts to set, you'll be heading to the leafy rooftop pool to join a crowd of chic locals for aperitifs. And for dinner, you'll be spoiled rotten at Ai KISU, the hotel's exceptional modern-Asian restaurant: across the moodily-lit room, watch as the chefs flame lobster and octopus on a rice-straw grill in the open kitchen; and expect the soya-sauce sommelier to pay your table a visit and advise on the best pairing for your meal. Then wash it down with an icy shot of sake – again, after discussing your selection with the specialist sommelier on hand. *Elegant Resorts (elegantresorts.co.uk)* offers seven nights from £2,965, half board, including flights and transfers. □

THE WEST HOLLYWOOD EDITION

Los Angeles, USA

As good as it gets in the LA-cool, rooftop-pool category. Top marks for its 'location-location-location': the hotel sits in a prime position on the border between Beverly Hills and hipster WEHO. But with its jaw-dropping decor, it is also an entertainment destination in itself. The tone is set in the soaring lobby, which features a Sterling Ruby mobile called 'The Scale', a bright-yellow pool table, striking emerald floor-to-ceiling curtains and plush velvet seating. And the magic continues in the signature restaurant, Ardor, a symphony of rich, dark wood, dripping in foliage. But dreamy interiors aside, the talking point at Ardor is the gooseberry phyllo pizza, featuring crème pâtissière and 25-year-old aged Balsamic. Meanwhile, the suites, serene eyries in the LA skyline, are dazzling. Thanks to their full-length windows and minimalist interiors, there's no distraction from the views – which are equally thrilling when you're lounging by the pool with a mezal cocktail in hand. In a city with a legendary hotel scene, and some serious old-timers, this one more than holds its own. *Doubles from £532 (marriott.com).*

Join the cool crowd by the rooftop pool at The West Hollywood Edition in LA

