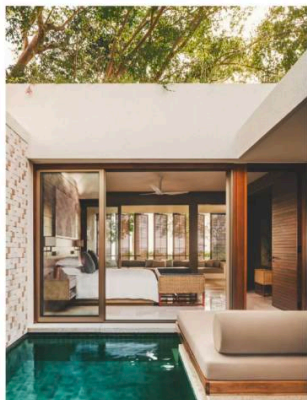


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*Following Kate Bolton's PT

(IMAGE 1 OF 3)

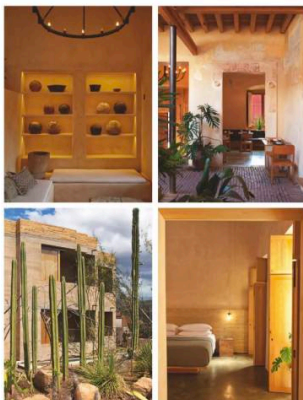
GRIFCO
AN MMGYGLOBAL COMPANY



MALAYSIA
ONE&ONLY DESARU COAST, JOHOR

The late Kerry Hill secured his place in design history with The Datal Langkawi, so it is poignant that he returned to Malaysia for one of his final projects. And Desaru is an elegant showcase of Hill's signature touch – his ability to transform the traditional vernacular and create a sense of all-encompassing nature. Triple-height pavilions make up the property's central hub, their walls of windows and timber shutters referencing the traditional Malay village. The space is dominated by a statement staircase that descends to a 50-metre pool with a glimpse of the South China Sea beyond. Smart Singaporeans have been waiting for a glamorous escape they can drive to (the city is about two hours away), and despite its position as part of a wider resort, the 128-wildlife-filled acres and 44 tropical suites have a private-island feel. Fronted by a sweep of bone-white sand, Ember Beach Club is also a draw, with its cabana-lined pool and barbecues from Jason Atherton alumnus Andrew Walsh. And there's a strong focus on wellbeing – experiences include *slaz malya*, a centuries-old martial art, and even medi-like consultations from pioneering Henri Chrost. One&Only's highly anticipated first foray into Asia looks set to carve itself a reputation among Malaysia's classic hotels.

FLASH POINT The suite at Hosh restaurant is so sculptural it could win the Turner Prize. Doubles from £600. oneandonlyresorts.com



THE HOT LIST 2021

MEXICO
ESCONDIDO OAXACA, OAXACA CITY

The region's capital has long been celebrated for its ancestral artistry, which hometown hoteliers Grupo Habita have drawn on in transforming this downtown colonial-era building. Merging old and new, architect Alberto Kalach has added a surprisingly brutalist extension beyond its unassuming russet facade. The initially minimalist-looking rooms – four in the original building and eight in the new tower – are dedicated to Mexican craftsmanship. Each has a bedframe made from *ahuahuete* wood, a type of cypress that was sacred to the indigenous Zapotec culture and even featured in its creation myth, with locally woven olive blankets matching the elemental style. Italian chef Mario Pettenino serves up traditional dishes from his home region of Piedmont such as handmade ravioli; afterwards sip on a mezzal nightcap in the library-like Culture Room. Escondido is within walking distance of all the city's hits, from Enrique Olvera's famed restaurant Criollo to the main plaza with its Templo de Santo Domingo de Guzmán and the Museo de las Culturas de Oaxaca, the latter connecting the past and present – much like the hotel itself.

FLASH POINT The Patio Rooms have the best view with sliding wooden doors that reveal a meditation garden filled with pebbles and potted clay plants. Doubles from about £255. escondidooaxaca.com

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(IMAGE 2 OF 3)

USA
THE MAKER, NEW YORK STATE

Art-loving New Yorkers don't need much excuse to escape up to Hudson for the weekend, with its throngs of antique shops and galleries and woodworking studios run by Brooklyn-transplant creatives. But this 11-room hideaway was a welcome new draw in a year when most city dwellers were confined to exploring their home state. A cabinet of curiosities writ large, it fused together a 19th-century carriage house, a Georgian mansion and a Greek Revival villa on a sunny corner of Warren Street, the town's main artery, and filled them with an equally period-hopping collection of one-of-a-kind treasures worthy of the hotel's name.

There's a metal writing desk made by a French blacksmith and woven rugs picked up in Morocco, as well as original painted ceilings and stained-glass windows. The four suites are dedicated to various makers – The Artist, The Writer, The Architect, The Gardener – and all are stocked with products by Fresh, the beauty brand founded by co-owners Lev Glazman and Alina Roytberg. Downstairs, there's a pool and a light-filled restaurant inside a conservatory. But the best part is the low-lit, velvet-clad bar, an extension of The Maker's old-world bohemian glamour that's primed for future partying.

FLASH POINT Check out the Fragrance Library with around 180 scents for guests to try. The limited-edition *eau de parfum* The Maker is a woody, spicy number blended by Glazman and local nose Christopher Diaghi. Doubles from about £310. themaker.com



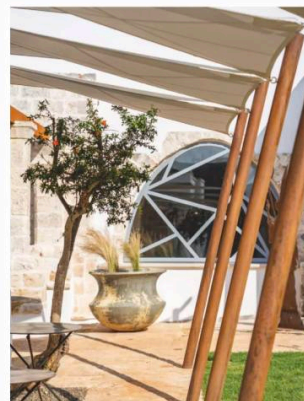
PHOTOGRAPHY: ESTER LOPEZ/UNERITE PHOTO; ART: THOMAS

ITALY
PARAGON 700, PUGLIA

Not what you'd usually expect from a holiday hideout in the stiletto heel of Italy. This Apulian diva, painted a startling shade of Pompeian red, cuts a surprising dash in the labyrinthine white citadel of Ostuni. When Swiss entrepreneurs Pascale Lauber and Ulrike Bauschke first saw the 18th-century Palazzo Rosso, it was derelict and abandoned.

Their three-year restoration unveiled faded frescoes of Biblical tableaux and grotesques, antique majolica tiles, forgotten walled gardens and fragments of cloisters and colonnades. Architect-designer Lauber's interiors are an operatic *mise en scène* of voluptuous baroque-style furniture and sleek contemporary pieces, spice-coloured fabrics and an A to Z of exotica. The 11 rooms soar with arches and ancient murals of amber, smoky, topaz and opal. They are elegant and elevated, far removed from the rustic, whitewashed domed *trulli* that scatter the countryside. In the communal areas, Lauber's dramatic choreography continues, nudging guests between the indoor and outdoor spaces: by day, walking in the swimming pool, the grotto-like spa or the waters of the Adriatic at the hotel's beach club; by night, sipping prosecco under a stone-columned pergola in Moorish gardens, dining in the starlit orange grove or round the Arturian olive press in the vaulted bistro. Chef Giovanni Ceroni's tasting menus infuse local traditions with flavours of his travels in Asia, venturing off on a culinary journey as eclectic as Puglia itself.

FLASH POINT Grassy lawns, the only outdoor pool in Ostuni's old town and sailing trips on the private yacht are all enticing propositions in Puglia's long, searing summers. Doubles from about £255. paragon700.com



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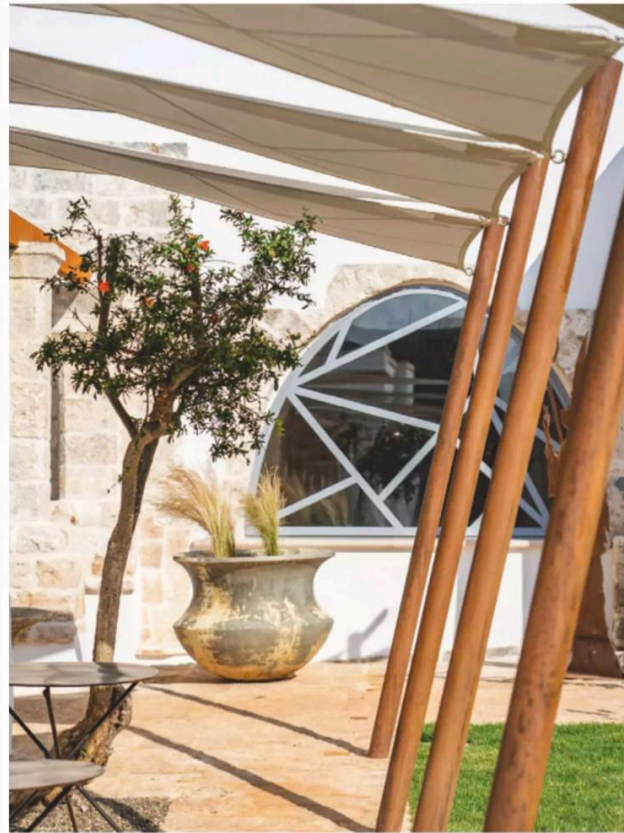
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