

# HOUSTON

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Travel Special: Jet Set for Less

# The World On Sale!

Free rooms? Free flights? That's right. Pack your Vuitton and make a beeline for the airport: London. Rome. Paris. Athens. Rio. Luxury hotels are slashing prices and giving away rooms and even throwing in freebies like daily massages or airfare refunds. Still not ready for an overseas tour de force? Go domestic with fabulous staycations in New York, Miami, L.A., Washington, Chicago...



**STARCK RAVING MADNESS** Deal alert: Save 20 percent when you book at least 21 days in advance at the Philippe Starck-designed SLS Hotel in Los Angeles.



## America's Hottest New Hotels

# Domestic Stimulus

Stay local, save major. Check into one of these hot beds with cred right here in the U.S.

By *Danny Bonvissuto, Gillian Flynn, Kedric Francis, Stacy Girard, Nikki Novo, Degen Pener and Jaydine Sayer*

## 1. The SLS Hotel

>>> LOS ANGELES Designer Philippe Starck reaches his surreal/glam apotheosis at this über-hip, 297-room, Starwood Luxury Collection hotel from nightlife kingpin Sam Nazarian. A life-size, lampshade-headed horse greets visitors in the main lobby, while a second lobby houses The Bazaar, a social experiment that includes a gift shop curated by design savant Murray Moss, plus Rojo y Blanca, a sprawling tapestry of tapas imported from D.C.'s Spanish maestro José Andrés. Fitness buffs flock to the seven suites with state-of-the-art private gyms (personal trainer available). Rates from \$389; 465 S. La Cienega Blvd., 310.247.0400, [slsbeverlyhills.com](http://slsbeverlyhills.com)

SLS HOTEL PHOTOS BY PEDEN + MUNK

LUXURY FOR LESS:

PERKS! INCENTIVES! KICKBACKS! Book 14 nights at Soneva Fushi or Soneva Gili ([sixsenses.com](http://sixsenses.com)) in the Maldives and receive 14 additional nights free simply by volunteering for several hours of community

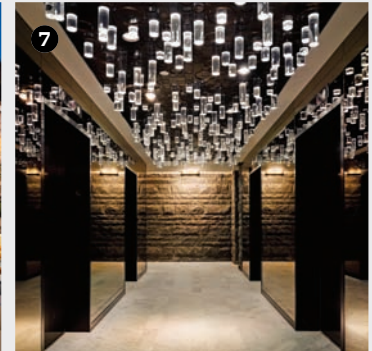
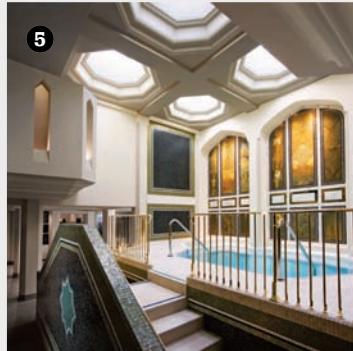
## 2. The Mark

>>> NEW YORK A 1920s Upper East Side landmark, The Mark just reopened under the exacting eye of architect/designer extraordinaire Jacques Grange. A block from Central Park, the remarkably spacious 118-room hotel claims a Frédéric Fekkai salon and, still in the works, a new gastro temple by Jean-Georges Vongerichten. *Rates from \$825; 25 E. 77th St., 212.744.4300, themarkhotel.com*



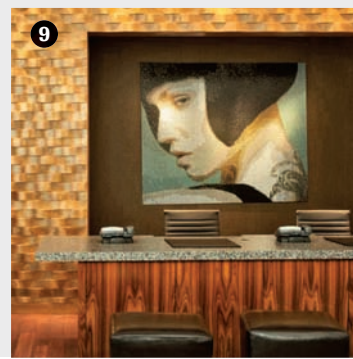
## 3. The Betsy

>>> MIAMI On the art deco-dominated northern (less hectic) end of Ocean Drive, The Betsy South Beach is somewhat conspicuous with its white, shuttered windows and colonial bones. The 63-suite boutique attracts a beautiful crowd to its oceanview rooftop and its BLT Steak outpost. *Rates from \$359; 1440 Ocean Dr., 305.531.6100, thebetsyhotel.com*



## 4. The Joule

>>> DALLAS The gothic façade of the Dallas National Bank Tower has sprung back to life as a 129-room hotel. The beautifully curated art collection spotlights Andy Warhol, David Levinthal and Ellsworth Kelly. Dive into the cantilevered rooftop infinity pool—if you dare—for dizzying city views. A subterranean club stages live burlesque. *Rates from \$239; 1530 Main St., 214.748.1300, luxurycollection.com/joule*



## 5. Montage Beverly Hills

>>> BEVERLY HILLS Inspired by the Spanish Revival architecture from Hollywood's golden age, this terra-cotta-roofed, 201-room hotel brings grown-up elegance to a trend- and youth-obsessed city. The rooftop pool offers postcard views of downtown, while a 20,000-square-foot basement spa provides chill-out bliss with Moroccan flair. *Rates from \$495; 225 N. Cañon Dr., 310.860.7800, montagebeverlyhills.com*

## 6. L'Auberge Del Mar

>>> DEL MAR, CALIFORNIA A \$26 million makeover has given this 120-room, seaside resort a new life, both classic and hip. The beach-chic lobby spills onto a sprawling terrace, and chef Paul McCabe's restaurant plays it cool (staffers wear red Vans sneakers). Surf décor and bossa nova beats give the new spa the perfect beachfront vibe. *Rates from \$355; 1540 Camino del Mar, 858.259.1515, laubergedelmar.com*

## 7. The Standard NYC

>>> NEW YORK A confident structure if ever there was one, the latest outpost of André Balazs' celebrity-soaked empire is a hinged glass marvel that elegantly straddles New York's High Line, an abandoned elevated railroad turned park and pedestrian walkway, in the Meatpacking District. Most of the colorful 337 rooms overlook the city with floor-to-ceiling panoramas. *Rates from \$195; 848 Washington St., 212.645.4646, standardhotels.com*

## 8. Pelican Hill Resort

>>> NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA Perched above the Pacific on a 504-acre hillside site, the resort celebrates Old World luxury—as in pre-2008!—and privacy. Its 204 bungalows and 128 villas (up to four bedrooms, 3,500 square feet) are detached from the main house, which oversees two golf courses, a stunning ocean vista and the world's largest circular pool. *Rates from \$695; 22701 Pelican Hill Rd., Newport Beach, 800.315.8214, pelicanhill.com*

## 9. The Dana Hotel & Spa

>>> CHICAGO The 26-story, 216-room Dana merges sleek design with luxury pampering in the red-hot River North district. And while standard rooms are smallish, each features a vast expanse of windows, a super-luxe bath and contemporary, eco-minded furniture. The neighborhood's hippest revelers flock to the rooftop lounge. *Rates from \$245; 660 N. State St., 888.301.3262, danahotelandspa.com*

## 10. The Lorien Hotel & Spa

>>> ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA Blending into its Old Town neighborhood, this new—but properly traditional—red-brick structure houses a 107-room Kimpton charmer designed by Vicente Wolf, whose gray and teal interiors, lattice headboards that touch the ceiling and claw-footed baths are stunning. Chef Robert Wiedmaier headlines Brabo and Brabo Tasting Room. *Rates from \$189; 1600 King St., 703.894.3434, lorienhotelandspa.com*



Jet-Setter Secrets

"In an abandoned bus on a secluded beach in Negril, Jamaica, **Da Bus** makes the most amazing jerk chicken. You sit at picnic tables and listen to live reggae. Be ready to drink lots of Red Stripes."

—Rande Gerber