

HOTELS + RESORTS

## The 100 Best New Hotels in the World

The 2023 It List.

This year, for the first time, we divided our 100 It List winners into seven categories, looking at them through the lens of affordable luxury, best new wellness getaways, and inviting beach vacations, among other designations. Here, we've compiled our 100 winners, listed in no particular order, so you can see them all in one place.

63

of 100

### Hotel Chelsea — New York City



PHOTO: ANNIE SCHLECHTER/COURTESY OF HOTEL CHELSEA

New York bohemians breathed a collective sigh of relief last summer when the Hotel Chelsea, the city's most cherished artistic refuge, reopened its doors to paying guests after an 11-year closure. And although its 12 floors were mostly redesigned — fans will look in vain for the Bob Dylan, Patti Smith, and Leonard Cohen rooms — the density of underground lore feels palpable from the moment you walk into the lobby. The original carved 1884 fireplace is still flanked by paintings traded for rent by Stanley Bard, the artist-loving owner in the glory days of the '60s and '70s, and the splendid, Gothic wrought-iron spiral staircase still coils above the front desk. A special door leads to the hotel's Spanish restaurant El Quijote, where Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, and the musicians from Jefferson Airplane gathered for sangria and "shrimp and green sauce" in the summer of '69 before driving up to Woodstock. The space has preserved the red vinyl booths and antique Cervantes-themed murals. Cocktails are served in the majestic Lobby Bar, where polished wooden counters and antique mirrors look like relics from when Mark Twain held forth. Most important for guests, the upstairs floors no longer resemble "a middle school prison," as Patti Smith described the aesthetic in her memoir "Just Kids." In fact, the remastered rooms are now downright luxurious — spacious and filled with enough light to satisfy any wide-eyed artist. The chic, retro decor — including plush velvet lounges, chairs with tiger-stripe patterns, brass fittings, and sumptuous baths — offers nods to the rock-and-roll lifestyle. Suites open onto balconies by the iconic neon hotel sign, offering New York's coolest new Instagram opportunity. Meanwhile, shuffling in and out of the elevators are the 40 full-time tenants of the Chelsea, who have managed to hang through legal wrangles, and many of whom recall the hotel's golden age of artistic debauchery and can tell wild stories about rockers, poets, and assorted hangers-on. To coin a phrase: only in New York. [hotelchelsea.com](https://www.hotelchelsea.com); *doubles from \$220*. —Tony Perrottet