



# New and Exciting

Check out the hot trends in hotel openings for 2020.

BY KRISTY ALPERT

**THE WORDS “PRODUCT QUALITY”** get thrown around quite a bit in the hospitality industry, referring to the constant quest of hoteliers and general managers to meet and exceed the expectations and needs of their guests. But don’t be fooled: There’s nothing exciting about product quality.

Aside from expecting a clean bed, a hot shower and maybe even a breakfast option for the morning, travelers have come to expect more excitement from the hotels they book when traveling for work or leisure. The lineup of new hotels for 2020 promises an entire year of excitement, from innovations in sustainability to futuristic technologies that make travel easier and more comfortable.

“What I’m most excited about is that the industry will start to take sustainability seriously and not pretend just because they got rid of plastic straws,” said Andrew Katz, partner for Europe and Asia, Prospect Hotel Advisors. “I like to think that we are finally gaining some traction on sustainability. The industry has a long way to go in getting rid of single-use water bottles and little amenity bottles. Some brands like Six Senses, SoHo House and Iberostar have done a good job, as has the luxury independent market, but the large international brands need to step up and lead.”

Katz has spent most of his life working in hotels, taking a summer job at a hotel at age 15 before landing his first professional job as a management trainee at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City. His expertise in hotels spans continents,



yet it’s still the little things that excite him about a new hotel.

“I love when I find a hotel with the full package,” he explained. “A great lobby with co-working spaces, a good bar with good food, a good fitness center and a functional room that offers design you don’t see at home but isn’t too far to the edge.”

In 2020 Katz expects to see hotels continuing to streamline technology. “Technology will continue to improve,” he predicted, “especially keyless entry, and I can’t wait to get rid of telephones in guestrooms. Guests will simply download the app — they’ll already need the app since it will be the key to their room — and communicate directly with the hotel.”

**ROYAL TREATMENT:**  
*The Royal Atlantis Resort & Residences (top) and swimming pool (right)*

PHOTOS: © ROYAL ATLANTIC RESORT & RESIDENCES

From an architectural masterpiece in New York City to the world's leading sustainable luxury hotel brand to a 43-story resort in Dubai featuring 10 celebrity chef restaurants on one campus, the lineup of new hotels in 2020 presents plenty to get excited about.

#### SIX SENSES NEW YORK | New York, New York

Six Senses properties have a reputation for unwavering commitment to sustainability and fresh design, and the brand's first North American property will maintain these standards. The Six Senses New York will reside in The XI, which comprises two twisting towers that seem to dance with each other as they reach skyward between Manhattan's Hudson River and The High Line. Two restaurants will serve locally sourced, seasonal cuisine with a focus on wellness that flows seamlessly to the hotel's on-site spa.

#### THE ROYAL ATLANTIS RESORT & RESIDENCES | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Perched on one of the most prestigious branches of Dubai's The Palm, the Royal Atlantis Resort & Residences will join the exclusive list of Dubai's most spectacular architectural achievements when it opens in 2020. The 43-story hotel will house 795 lavish guestrooms and suites, 35 world-class restaurants and a rooftop infinity pool — comprising only a portion of the six buildings that appear connected like Jenga pieces to create one single impressive skyscraper.

#### FOUR SEASONS RESORT AND RESIDENCES NAPA VALLEY | Calistoga, California

Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts has offered extreme service and luxury experiences for guests since the brand began in 1961. However, for the first time in the brand's history, Four Seasons' guests will be able to experience its first on-site winery and vineyard when the Napa Valley property opens in 2020. The resort features 85 luxe, farmhouse-style guestrooms with a vine-to-table restaurant and a seed-to-skin spa on site.

#### ALAIJA BELIZE | San Pedro, Belize

Set on Ambergris Caye, the largest of Belize's coastal islands, the eco-luxury property Alaia Belize, a Marriott Autograph Collection Hotel, spans more than 20 acres and includes a luxury hotel and a residential section offering two- and three-bedroom condominiums and oceanfront villas. Brazilian designer Debora Aguiar handled all the interiors, which will highlight the natural beauty of the property's surroundings by locally sourcing roughly 70 percent of fabrics and raw materials (such as reclaimed wood, linen curtains and rustic marbles) from Belize. Guests will have direct access from the hotel to more than 200 cays filled with lush jungles, secluded beaches, preserved Maya temples and ancient archaeological sites.



ALLURING LUXURY:  
*Six Senses New York (top), Four Seasons Napa Valley (middle), and Alaia Belize (bottom)*

PHOTOS: © SIX SENSES NEW YORK, © FOUR SEASONS NAPA VALLEY, © ALAIJA BELIZE







### ANICHI RESORT & SPA | Portsmouth, Dominica

This eco-chic property will open as a member of Marriott's exclusive Autograph Collection on 12 acres overlooking the Caribbean Sea and Dominica's stunning mountains. Anichi Resort & Spa will offer 128 rooms along the picturesque shores of Picard Beach, with private dip pools and sunken pool lounges, swim-up bars in infinity pools, specialty dining restaurants, a luxurious spa and special programming that focuses on sustainability. That includes the resort's partnership with Dominica's Citizenship by Investment program that awards citizenship to guests interested in purchasing redeemable shares or freehold suites on the property.



### KOZMO HOTEL BUDAPEST | Budapest, Hungary

Despite the dramatically high ceilings and chic design elements, guests will be sure to feel right at home when the brand-new Kozmo Hotel Budapest opens in May 2020. A member of Leading Hotels of the World, the Kozmo sits inside a beautifully renovated historic building near the Grand Boulevard of Budapest and just steps from Dohány Street Synagogue and the Great Market. Its distinct interpretation of classic luxury will be the first for Hungary's capital city.

### FAUCHON HOTEL KYOTO | Kyoto, Japan

When French gastronomy brand Fauchon Hospitality opened its first hotel in Paris in 2018, no one expected the voracious appetite of travelers to experience the brand's sumptuous accommodations. As one of the hottest properties in the city, this Leading Hotels of the World member's focus on pleasure (whether through food and luxury or through its unlimited amenities) keeps rooms in high demand. The brand's second location in Kyoto will likely stir the same response when this 5-star property opens with 70 guestrooms, a street-level bakery and breathtaking views of Kyoto from the world-class Grand Café Fauchon on the top floor.

SEASIDE OR CITY:  
*Anichi Resort aerial view (top) and pool (middle), and Kozmo Hotel Budapest guestroom (bottom)*

PHOTOS: © ANICHI RESORT & SPA, © KOZMO HOTEL BUDAPEST



### XIGERA SAFARI LODGE | Okavango Delta, Botswana

When the Xigera Safari Lodge opens in 2020, it will be the biggest investment into a safari lodge of its size on the entire continent of Africa, reinventing what it means to slumber in the African bush. The lodge will feature 12 suites within a reimagined baobab tree house that includes a luxurious spa inspired by the Okavango's delicate water lilies. The lodge's light footprint and sustainable amenities will not impede the indulgent experiences guests may enjoy while at the property.