

Condé Nast Traveller

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10TH ANNIVERSARY HOT LIST SPECIAL

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THE HOT LIST 2009

Our choice of the world's best new hotels



in association with Virgin Atlantic: '25 years and still red hot'

THE HOT LIST 2009

AUSTRALASIA, ASIA & PACIFIC OCEAN



SOUTHERN OCEAN LODGE South Australia

When you enter through the imposing double doors of Southern Ocean Lodge, you are greeted by sensational sea views through floor-to-ceiling glass. It is like standing on the prow of a great liner with water and sky all around. Built on the south-western tip of Kangaroo Island, known as the 'Galapagos of Australia' for its abundant wildlife, this new luxury lodge is a half-hour flight from Adelaide, yet feels totally remote. All but invisible from the outside, the main building contains a spacious restaurant, bar, lounge and terrace (with plunge pool) in an open-plan space the size of a ballroom. White limestone walls complement the timber floors and designer furniture; boardwalks link the lodge to a spa and clifftop stargazing platform. A glass corridor leads to the 21 suites, named after ships that have been wrecked on the rocks below. Each suite has a heated limestone floor, king-size bed, glass-walled bathroom, sitting room and terrace. The food is contemporary Australian at its best, and there's a cellar of fine Australian wine. Adventure tours take guests to see the island's main landmarks and wildlife, including koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, sea lions, seals and fairy penguins. It's the perfect place for a wildlife safari on the edge of the earth, while getting pampered in great style.

WHEN TO GO November–March for the warm weather.

ROOM TO BOOK The Osprey suite, with its private plunge pool and panoramic views. 00 612 9918 4355; www.southernoceanlodge.com.au. From A\$900 (about £400) per person per night, full board (minimum two-night stay), including guided adventures

Above, a terrace at the Southern Ocean Lodge, overlooking the Indian Ocean.
Right, the entrance to the St Regis Bali Resort, Indonesia

10 ONES TO WATCH

Our choice of this year's most hotly-anticipated hotel openings

4. THE SERAI JAISALMER, RAJASTHAN, INDIA

www.the-serai.com



Jaisal Singh has already given friends and family a preview of his new desert camp outside Jaisalmer; the 20 lavish tents, with campaign-style furniture and durrie rugs, will take the first paying guests in September

ST REGIS BALI RESORT Indonesia

The opulent St Regis is the newest resort hotel in Bali, and probably the biggest. Beyond its impressive entrance (hundreds of palm trees culminating in an epic lobby designed by US landscape architect Bill Bensley), the hotel continues to deliver the goods. Set in nine hectares of prime beachfront property in Nusa Dua, the St Regis has 97 suites, 24 villas (some on the sand, others around lagoon-like pools) and the two enormous Strand Residences. There's 24-hour butler service and – nice touch, this – a deli where you can choose wine, cheese and any other goodies you want; thereafter your butler will stock up. Chef Oscar Perez oversees beachfront restaurant Kayuputi, where his *dégustation* menu has gained him a reputation as the hottest chef in Bali; the sommelier Harald Wiesmann (who also writes poetry) knows his wines intimately, and his Bali Mary packs a serious punch. The Remède spa has 12 beautiful massage rooms with backlit, cut-out butterfly screens, and glass domes like silvery moons. There is more than a touch of Vegas in the scale and style of the St Regis (especially at night, when torches light the main pool as if in homage to Cecil B DeMille), but it still manages to feel intimate, especially when you are ensconced in your suite.

WHEN TO GO Any time except January–March.

ROOM TO BOOK One of the Strand Residences, or Cloud Nine, the honeymoon villa.

00 62 361 8478 111; www.stregis.com/bali.

Doubles from £377

