

SUMMER 2009: GREATEST DEALS EVER

Condé Nast Traveler

WIN!
A \$25,000
DREAM
TRIP
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TRUTH IN TRAVEL

MAY 2009

EUROPE
ON SALE
CRUISING
CLASSIC CITIES

HOT LIST WORLD'S TOP NEW 140 hotels*

50 Restaurants

50 Spas

35 Nightclubs

*including 43 under \$250

INSIDER'S GUIDE

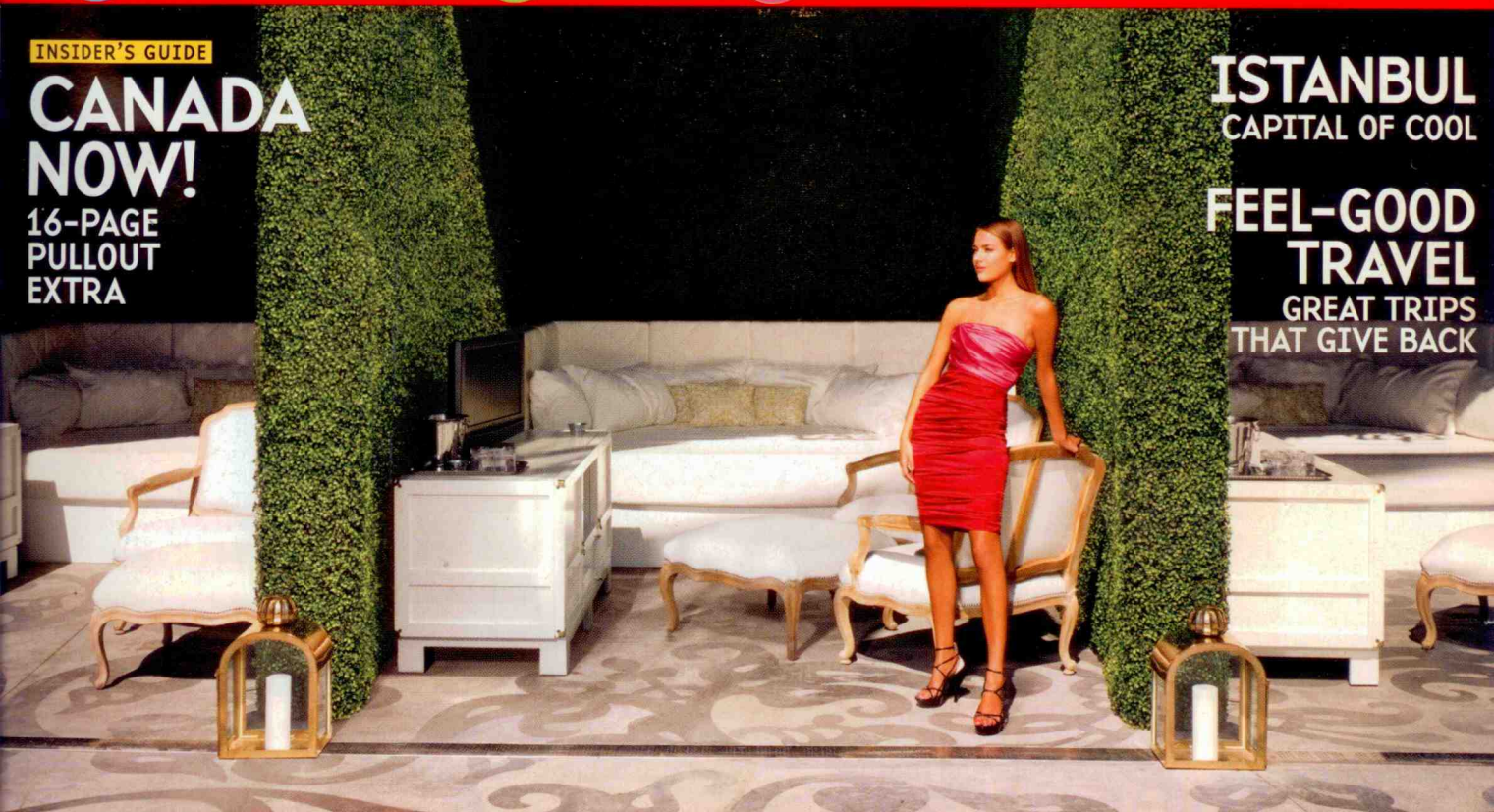
CANADA NOW!

16-PAGE
PULLOUT
EXTRA

ISTANBUL CAPITAL OF COOL

FEEL-GOOD TRAVEL


GREAT TRIPS
THAT GIVE BACK



Condé Nast Traveler presents
THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL

HOT LIST 2009

THE YEAR'S 140 TOP NEW HOTELS*



*including 43
UNDER
\$250 A NIGHT





Consider it a silver lining: Hot hotels continue to open in record numbers despite the recent economic overcast, and many are more affordable than ever. Of the thousands that made their debut in the last year, we checked into the most promising—incognito—measuring up the service, trying out the beds, and sampling the food. The 140 properties that passed our scrutiny make up the largest Hot List yet, proving that the standards for excellence haven't slipped; in fact, they've only risen. Spanning 53 countries (including new-to-the-list destinations Israel, Mongolia, Peru, Slovenia, and Zimbabwe), they range in size from a three-pavilion hideaway an hour north of Sydney to a 2,034-room high-rise on the Vegas Strip, and in room rates from \$89 at an invitingly accoutred Palm Springs hot spot with a pool straight out of a David Hockney print to \$2,050 for a sprawling safari tent in northern Botswana. Such bright choices make the forecast easier to weather.

Green peace: At the Southern Ocean Lodge, rooms offer IMAX-esque views of Kangaroo Island's virgin shoreline.



AUSTRALIA

Southern Ocean Lodge, Kangaroo Island

 If Kangaroo Island—an unspoiled 1,700-square-mile haven teeming with native animals—is Australia's Galápagos, then the Southern Ocean Lodge is a very natural selection, with its recycled timber floors, soaring glass, and limestone. A thoroughly evolved eco-wilderness lodge, this 21-suite human sanctuary offers panoramic ocean views from the pristine clifftop brushland it inhabits. Rooms come with trekking gear (backpacks and water flasks), but cell phone reception is limited and not all suites have TVs. From the moment you walk into the vast atrium, your attention is drawn to the great outdoors. Over a third of the island is untouched national park land, and the sheer amount of wildlife is bewildering (there are 267 bird species alone). The lodge takes full advantage of the natural abundance, and the rates include treks, evening "Kangaroos and Kanapés" excursions, and half-day tours that take in seal colonies, the island's oldest lighthouse, and remarkable rock formations. **When to go:** September through November for the spectacular wildflowers. **Which room to book:** The Osprey Pavilion for the privacy and the 180-degree views (61-2-9918-4355; southernoceanlodge.com.au; suites, \$1,152–\$2,304, all-inclusive).   

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Hot Spas

50

NEW SPAS TO LOSE YOURSELF IN

A little R and R is just what the doctor ordered. And as luck would have it, this past year delivered a bumper crop of superlative spas from Macau to Mexico. Our reviewers left no hot stone unturned in their effort to identify transcendent spots for head-to-toe pampering—rejecting scores of also-rans in the process.



Spa Boat at Taj Lake Palace

»Udaipur, India
Taj's barge, floating at anchor on Lake Pichola, provides a novel stage for a spa treatment.

