

Hot Hotels

trance—the old tannery and herding pens—to the reception area, a glass cube suspended above century-old pulleys, pumps, and pipes. Ample guest rooms are decorated with Edwardian-style good taste (mahogany writing desks, brass side lamps), and a glass wall overlooks the wind-whipped shore of Last Hope Sound. **The experience:** At first, guests do little but gawp at the surroundings; once settled, they saddle up on neighboring estancias, bike the blustery coast, or chug up the sound in the hotel's 16-passenger motor launch. The sumptuous breakfast ranges from linseed and quinoa to the finest fetas and cured Patagonian lamb. **If only...** coordination with the Santiago reservations office were smoother; confirm spa treatments and excursions directly with the hotel. **The room to book:** Those close to the elevator save a lengthy to-and-fro (56-61-722-030; thesingular.com; doubles from \$520). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

UNDER \$300 Puma Lodge, near Reserva Nacional Río Los Cipreses

AA The specs: A luxe mountain lodge with 24 suites, situated where three valleys meet in the Chilean Cordillera, less than three hours from Santiago and near the Argentine border. **The look:** A sleek wooden structure, from Chile's NOI chain, with pine walls and hardwood floors. Volcanic stone, found wood, and handwoven blankets and rugs decorate the minimalist space; floor-to-ceiling windows face a

THE HOTTIES



6/18 Most efficient intercom

The whistle that hangs in each room of Peru's Hacienda Concepción in Puerto Maldonado, to summon the Peruvian staff in the event creepy-crawlies find their way in.

7/18 Most intimate spa

The teensy one-bed Potting Shed near the walled kitchen garden at The Pig in Hampshire, where soothing massages employ Bamford oils scented with organic leaves grown in English soil.

8/18 Best farm-to-table experience

The ultra-fresh truffles at Hotel Chocolat in St. Lucia, made from pods harvested on the estate with a little help from the consumer—that is, you.

spectacular tri-valley vista. Nooks and terraces of all sizes provide the setting for a bar, lounge, library, open fireplace, and game room. **The experience:** In winter, when snow blankets the cordillera, the lodge becomes one of Chile's premier heli-skiing operations, with most visitors opting to indulge in the untouched glacial peaks that seem to swallow the lodge. In summer, there's mountain biking, fly-fishing, rock climbing, and hiking through cypress forests to look for the endangered burrowing parrot. A full-service spa and wood-fired hot tubs under the stars provide relief for aching muscles. **If only...** transfers and excursions were better organized. **The room to book:** All are identical and have the same view, but those on the second floor let in a bit more light (56-72-741-486; www.pumalodge.cl; doubles from \$195). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

UNDER \$300 Lastarria Boutique Hotel, Santiago

AA The specs: A renovated 1927 mansion with 14 rooms in Santiago's vibrant Lastarria neighborhood. **The look:** Understated elegance running through a historic four-story stone structure with marble floors and a winding marble staircase. Contemporary artwork, modern furniture in the lobby, and an elevator were sufficient to update the space. **The experience:** With no other hotels around (though some are under construction), you feel like a local when exploring the Sunday flea market or dropping into one of the thriving cafés, bistros, and galleries that have popped up around Parque Forestal in recent years. Each room is unique in size and shape, all with dark-wood floors, antique wooden furniture, and ceramic shower tiles. Every inch of the rather tight space is utilized (a cyber center squeezes into the lobby), and stairs lead from the second-floor café and terrace to the inviting pool area, where high walls (one with a vertical garden) keep neighbors from peeking. The staff give genuine smiles when proffering scented water or directions to the metro. **If only...** there were more space for the pool chairs—moving into the sun often means moving into the bushes. **The room to book:** A top-floor junior suite with rooftop terrace (56-2-840-3700; lastarriahotel.com; doubles from \$230). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

Noi Vitacura, Santiago

AA 56-2-941-8000; noivitacura.cl; doubles from \$400. 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa, Torres del Paine

AAA The specs: A 40-room lodge one hour from Puerto Natales, set amid a big-sky landscape with uninterrupted views of the Torres del Paine massif. **The look:** Banked with earth and clad in lenga beechwood, the low-slung hotel winds for 650 feet along the base of a bluff, its aerodynamic shape barely interrupting the gales that whip in from Patagonia's Southern Ice Field. In the principal salon, a wall of glass

draws the eye across Lake Sarmiento to the serried peaks beyond. Ample guest rooms are smartly outfitted in a soothing natural palette of wood, wool, and leather; all command views of pampa and peak. **The experience:** Each morning, guests boot up for all-day hikes through cerro and dell or tramp off with the able, affable guides to search for condors and caracaras by deserted lakeshores, returning long before dusk to soothe weary muscles at the excellent spa. **If only...** the Puerto Natales airport were served by more than budget operator Sky Airline; the larger Punta Arenas airport is a four-hour drive away. **The room to book:** One of the three suites, which sprawl luxuriously over two floors (56-2-370-5301; tierrapatagonia.com; doubles from \$490). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

CHINA

Ritz-Carlton Hong Kong, Hong Kong

AA The specs: A 312-room hotel in a glass-and-chrome tower above a luxury mall in Kowloon, a half-hour from the airport. **The look:** Gordon Gekko goes to Asia. The building looms over the landscape like the lair of one of Batman's villains and wouldn't look out of place in Dubai. Inside, everything that stood still has been plated with marble or travertine (including the elevator handrails). The 1980s power-decorating effect isn't necessarily tacky, just very corporate, with lots of black glass, taupe silks, dark woods, and chrome. **The experience:** Deutsche Bank and Morgan Stanley maintain offices in the lower levels, and the ground-floor entrance is bustling with sleek-suited businessmen of all nationalities and young Japanese and Chinese women. A swift elevator delivers you to the smaller 103rd-floor lobby, where you'll find the hotel's Italian restaurant and chocolate bar (hopping at teatime). Rooms are spacious, very quiet, and well stocked; most have harbor views. Staff are superefficient, and everything—spa, restaurants, pool—is open until at least 10 P.M. The threadlike streets of old Hong Kong feel aeons away, but that doesn't seem to bother the mostly Chinese patrons, whose luggage carts at checkout are piled with bright orange Hermès shopping bags. **If only...** the rooms said Hong Kong in some way (the packets of oolong tea don't do it). **The room to book:** A Deluxe Harbour Room for the knockout view (852-2263-2263; ritzcarlton.com; doubles from \$618). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

Naked Stables Private Reserve, Paitou Town

AA The specs: Seventy eco-friendly villas and bungalows in a secluded valley two and a half hours by train from Shanghai. Bamboo forests, tea plantations, and tiny farming villages surround the 60-acre resort. **The look:** Out of Africa by way of Shanghai, with thatched roofs, cowhide rugs, and verdant hilltop views. A Chinese-led design team



POP OF COLOR

The restaurant here at the W Retreat & Spa in Seminyak, Bali. PAGE 100