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**THE GOLD LIST 2019**

OUR EDITORS' ALL-TIME FAVOURITE DESTINATIONS & PLACES TO STAY



**+ THE WORLD'S MOST  
EXTRAORDINARY  
TRAVEL EXPERIENCES**





# THE GOLD LIST 2019

THE EDITORS' ALL-TIME  
FAVOURITE HOTELS

PHOTOGRAPH: PATRICK CLINE

PLAYA GRANDE BEACH CLUB, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. FOR THE FULL GOLD LIST, VISIT [TRAVELLER.UK/GOLDLIST](http://TRAVELLER.UK/GOLDLIST)

LA MAMOUNIA  
MARRAKECH

Few hotels are as synonymous with their destination as La Mamounia. Frankly, if you don't end up overnighing in one of this former palace's tiled guest rooms, just behind the blush-coloured walls of the medina, it's almost as though you were never in Marrakech at all. That's because this opulent, more-is-absolutely-more pocket of palm trees, landscaped gardens and fountains, where sultry lobby spaces and bars are draped in silks and dark velvets, has come to embody all those reasons we travel to Marrakech in the first place. Inside its hammam, a mosaic of blue, red and pine-green tiles, are cheery therapists who offer clay body wraps (head down early for a pre-treatment dip). By the utterly enormous pool, a flurry of bow-tied waiters rush between the Brits and French and, with increasing frequency, Russians and Turks, lying about all day long, with bottles of Moroccan rosé and surprisingly well-mixed Old Fashioneds, moving equally as swiftly between the languages. In the incredible bedrooms, the sweeping Moorish curves on the balcony doors are emulated in the archway to the bathrooms, themselves a symphony of tilework and gold-framed mirrors. All of this is accompanied by the 5am call to prayer carrying in as softly as a fragrance of jasmine, from the nearby mosque. +212 5243 88600; [mamounia.com](http://mamounia.com). Doubles from about £350



DEPLAR FARM  
ICELAND

This isn't your typical farm. It's owned by Eleven Experience, the Colorado-based high-end adventure-travel outfit that is one of the most interesting of its kind in the world right now. It has two helipads, an indoor-outdoor, swim-through geo-thermally heated pool, a bar with a pool table and drumkit, and a dining room with floor-to-ceiling windows, modern art and sweeping views. In fact, there's really nothing typical about Deplar, among the mountains on Iceland's remote

Troll Peninsula, a place of severe beauty. It's got some of the best heli-skiing and fishing right at its doorstep. You can roll out of bed and chopper up to the top of a snow-covered volcano which, in all likelihood, no one has ever skied before, zipping through fields dotted with tiny horses that look like toys and finishing your run on the Arctic beach, where, if you do not mind the chill, you can simply kick off your skis and go fishing (then hightail it to the spa to recuperate in a flotation pod). It's the sort of trip that confers bragging rights back home, from a company that understands such hyper-adventurous yet modern-luxe impulses perfectly. It has an expanding empire of properties and boats in North America, the Caribbean and Europe devoted to these fast/slow, winter/summer outdoorsy pursuits. But Deplar Farm is a standout. The air is pure, the snow powdery and in the summertime the salmon-rich rivers flow clear, fast and free. +1 970 349 7761; [elevenexperience.com](http://elevenexperience.com).

Doubles from about £1,720 full board including transfers

