



# Condé Nast Traveller

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SPECIAL  
ISSUE

## THE GOLD STANDARD

OUR ALL-TIME FAVOURITE HOTELS,  
RESTAURANTS, BARS AND BEACH CLUBS



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ADVENTURES IN  
MOROCCO

# THE GOLD STANDARD 2013

OUR ALL-TIME FAVOURITE HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, BARS AND BEACH CLUBS



## Southern Ocean Lodge Kangaroo Island, Australia

This low-slung, limestone eco-resort looks as though it has strapped itself to a tussocky ridge for protection from the blustery winds and storms coming off the Southern Ocean. And indeed the design is all about mastering the elements in this gloriously isolated location, known as the Galápagos of Australia for its abundant wildlife (you can picnic with koalas, kangaroos, sea lions and fairy penguins). The lodge's 21 split-level suites are linked by a glass corridor that sweeps down from the Great Room in a slow, descending curve. The look is brazenly contemporary – whites, polished granites, light woods, glass everywhere, plunge pools, even hand-stitched English-leather loo-roll holders. There are also heated floors, glass-walled bathrooms and computer-controlled blinds. But it is in the sensational, light-flooded Great Room, with its restaurant, bar and terrace, that this place really sings. Tables in the raised dining area are laid with the purest Danish linen (the daily-changing menu might include crab salad, queen snapper or mushroom risotto); an arc-shaped shelving system filled with books surrounds a conversation area; a complimentary self-service wine cellar is open 24 hours; and scattered everywhere are sleek, unfussy sofas and deep armchairs littered with cushions, some of them clustered around a ceiling-mounted, swivelling French fireplace. And the service? As sharp as the wind. 00 61 2 9918 4355; [www.southernoceanlodge.com.au](http://www.southernoceanlodge.com.au). Doubles from A\$1,980 (about £1,290)

## The Upper House Hong Kong

When every place with a knock-off Eames recliner is claiming design-hotel status, the real thing is something to treasure. Enter through a pleated stone curtain fashioned by Thomas Heatherwick (he of the 2012 Olympics cauldron petals) then it's up, up, up, on an escalator into the hushed heart of this sanctuary. Occupying the top 10 floors of a skyscraper high above the harbour, The Upper House is described by its architect Andre Fu as a 'poetic, upward journey' into peace. Natural materials of light oak and limestone, polished bamboo, marble and velvet lend a barely-there minimalism to the interiors, but there's a superior intelligence at work behind the scenes. The in-room check-in avoids chaotic arrivals and there's a TV hidden in the bathroom mirror, but why bother watching it when there are CinemaScope views from the bathtub? Climb to the 49th floor and cross the atrium bridge for more sensational views and modern, market-fresh food (wild king salmon; seared lamb roulade) at dressy Café Gray Deluxe. Like an interlocking wooden Chinese puzzle, each element of your experience here is designed to slide home with smooth precision. 00 852 2918 1838; [www.upperhouse.com](http://www.upperhouse.com). Doubles from HK\$4,950 (about £400)

