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Our favourite new openings of the p



Urban cool

Hipsters are flocking to the new Hotel Zetta in San Francisco. But don't worry, you won't be turned away at the door if you're not quite cool enough!

Its location is great, close to historic Union Square, with its boutiques, bars, restaurants and museums, and it's also an easy springboard for the city's usual suspects, including the island prison at Alcatraz and Fisherman's Wharf.

Rooms are sophisticated, with designer touches and lots of gadgetry, including Illy espresso machines and interactive 'smart' TVs. Escape the technology at the Play Room, with its good old-fashioned pool table and shuffleboard. There's a choice of dining options, including The Cavalier, a classy British brasserie to make you feel right at home.

Prices £192 per night for a double room. Info www.viceroyhotelgroup.com/zetta.



Rustic chic

The modern country look can be tough to pull off – introducing designer style yet retaining a cosy, traditional feel. The new Corran Resort & Spa, in the Welsh seaside town of Laugharne, nails it.

It's a higgledy-piggledy kind of place, the rooms spread across the main house and old farm buildings. There's a snug lounge with woodburner, a restaurant serving top-notch



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food and quirky bedrooms with lovely en suite bathrooms.

Poet Dylan Thomas lived in a boathouse (above) overlooking the Taf Estuary nearby and the coming year is a great time to visit as there will be events celebrating the centenary of his birth.

Prices Doubles from £150 per night, including breakfast. Info www.thecorran.com. For Dylan Thomas centenary events visit www.dylanthomas100.org.



Eco beauty

Oh wow, we want to be there right now! The Kurà Design Villas in wildly beautiful Costa Rica have been created by two locals with the environment in mind – using lots of natural materials and energy and water-saving measures. Whether that attracts you or not, the design of the place certainly will.

Plunge into the saltwater infinity pool and relax in the Sky Lounge with 360-degree views over the rainforest by day and starry skies by night. Feast on local cuisine or get out and about visiting pristine beaches, snorkelling or whale watching.

Prices £288 per night for a Junior Suite Villa, sleeping two, including breakfast. Info www.kuracostarica.com.



Great value

In Europe's great cities it's easy to spend a lot on a hotel and end up feeling ripped off. So it's refreshing when you find one such as the Hotel Indigo Barcelona, Plaza Catalunya.

It's in the heart of the city, a mere stumble from great bars and restaurants and from Barcelona's most famous and lively street – Las Ramblas – yet the rooms are quiet, modern

and clean and the beds super comfy. Which is good, as you'll look forward to falling into them every night after gawping at Gaudí architecture, shopping, climbing Montjuïc Mountain and browsing around the vast number of museums and art galleries.

Prices Doubles from £126 per night. Info www.hotelindigo.com/barcelona.



Family friendly

All we want for Christmas is to stay at the dreamy new Maalifushi by Como hotel, which opens this month on the unspoilt Thaa Atoll in the Maldives.

Book the Maalifushi Family Adventure and you could all be hotfooting it to your own desert island for a Robinson Crusoe picnic and embarking on a snorkelling expedition. Accommodation includes garden and beach villas or, if you really want a treat, opt for an over-water bungalow with private pool and direct access to the lagoon. Now we're starting to dribble...

Prices Maalifushi Family Adventure from £4212 for two adults and two children, including transfers, five nights' accommodation with breakfast, lunch and dinner, picnic and snorkelling as above, plus some watersports and daily yoga and Pilates. Info www.comohotels.com/maalifushi.

