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TRAVEL

Where to Stay in 2015

From Marrakech to Miami, the best new hotels—and some reimagined favorites—for the new year.

BY ANN ABEL

Now that the travel world has truly shaken off the recession, hoteliers are no longer playing it safe. In 2015 big-name brands are branching out from what they do so famously: Mandarin Oriental, known for its outstanding city hotels, is opening a resort just outside Marrakech, while Aman Resorts, whose signature is peaceful sanctuaries in remote places, is coming to Tokyo. The indies are shaking things up, too, as with a pair of former &Beyond executives opening their own private camp in Kenya's Maasai Mara, and with Alan Faena, who is exporting his audacious namesake hotel in Buenos Aires to Miami. For travelers the new luxury frontiers are in South America, which is safer than ever, easily reached and ideal for soft adventure: Hacienda Bambusa is bringing elegance to Colombia's Coffee Triangle, and Alex Vik is expanding his empire to Chile. Here's what to check out when you check in next year.

BAHIA VIK, URUGUAY, AND VIÑA VIK, MILLAHUE, CHILE

With his first small luxury hotels in Uruguay, billionaire entrepreneur/art collector Alex Vik put the boho beach town of José Ignacio on the map. As with Vik's earlier resorts, his much-anticipated Bahia Vik, which opens in January, has a focus on art and architecture throughout the 11 uniquely designed bungalows (most have two or three bedrooms) and the 10 suites in the main building. And November saw the debut of Viña Vik Millahue in Chile's Alpaca wine valley. The Frank Gehry- and Richard Serra-inspired retreat overlooks 11,000 acres of vineyards with the Andes rising in the distance, and offers tastings of Vik's world-class wines and vinotherapy treatments in the spa.

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