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THE HOT LIST 2010

Our choice of the best new hotels in the world

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unknown beaches

SHANGHAI MAKEOVER

How the city is being
restored to its
colonial splendour

AMALFI COAST

Gorgeous places
to stay that won't
break the bank



HOT THE LIST 2010

This year's Hot List covers 31 countries from Austria to Uruguay. The 66 hotels in our final selection were chosen after months of research, starting with hundreds of suggestions from our correspondents across the globe. Despite the economic climate there was no shortage of very strong contenders, and we hope you agree that the final list is extraordinary in its range, from a former hospital to brand-new urban resorts and country retreats. Take your pick



Middle East, Africa & Indian Ocean

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Asia & Australasia

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THE HOT LIST 2010

UK, EUROPE
& THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION



CASTEL MONASTERO, Tuscany

The Tuscan walled-village-as-hotel comes of age with Castel Monastero, the first such idyll to feature the sort of luxury facilities and service associated with urban five-stars. Set in the vineyards and chestnut groves of the Ombrone Valley, east of Siena, the hotel occupies an 11th-century *borgo* (walled hamlet) which has been both castle and monastery in the past – hence the name. The hotel made much of

Gordon Ramsay's appointment as its culinary consultant, but head chef Alessandro Delfanti holds the fort, turning out refined versions of Tuscan classics. The 76 rooms and suites are scattered around the property in a series of colour-coded *contrade* (districts). Guests looking for a village vibe will choose one of the historic, wood-beamed rooms surrounding the castle courtyard; honeymooners

and those in search of seclusion may be tempted by one of the stand-alone cottages in the grounds, or the two-storey villa which comes with a butler. The warm, masculine decor is by Milan-based US designer Eric Egan, while the huge spa – with two indoor pools – uses products by the London company Urban Retreat. This is a very convincing packaging of the Tuscan dream, and just what

one would expect of its developer, Forte Village, the company behind the award-winning Sardinian seaside resort for families.

WHEN TO GO Summer, although the spa and heated outdoor pool make this a year-round option.

ROOM TO BOOK Roomy Classics and Deluxes with courtyard views can be good value out of season. 00 39 0577 570001; www.castelmonastero.com. Doubles from €385