

The new luxe

Say hello to the new breed of luxe hotels for the cool Instagram generation. From the #arty rooms and industrial-chic décor to sleek gadgets aplenty, you'll want to like them more than once



Step right in
to the coolest
luxe life

Whether you're a frequent business traveller, a holiday escape artist or a once-a-year sunseeker, your choice of hotel can really make or break your trip. And while once upon a time, reliable (but cookie-cutter) chain hotels were reassuring, we're all looking for something a little more experience-driven in an era that's fuelled by social media.

Here's our pick of seven cool boutique hotels that offer something besides a good night's sleep – from a chocolate deli to Philippe Starck bathrooms.



From left (opposite page): Mira Moon's entrance; sunset views from Luna2 Studiotel; fine dining at Macalister Mansion



SO Sofitel Bangkok's Park Lobby has some serious style cred

BEST FOR QUIRKY CHARM: Mira Moon, Hong Kong

Fly me to the moon... the Mira Moon that is. Mixing Chinese tradition with cutting-edge cool, this hotel has personality to spare. With a creative design based on the ancient myth of the Mid-Autumn moon goddess, unique touches abound – including bespoke peony wall mosaics in the bathrooms and flying rabbit lamps in the lobby – while rooms come kitted out with Handy smartphones, iPad minis and Apple AirPlay connectivity. The theme continues to the hotel's Supergiant restaurant, which serves Spanish-Chinese fusion cuisine, while the leafy lantern-lit Secret Garden terrace is the perfect hideaway in which to enjoy a cocktail.

Priced from HK\$1,700 (\$\$302) per night, plus 10% service charge.

BEST FOR FASHIONISTAS: SO Sofitel Singapore

Pack your Chanel 2.55 and a string of pearls for a high-fashion sleepover.

No less an icon than Karl Lagerfeld himself designed the Lion's Seal emblem that features prominently throughout this 132-room, 16-suite neo-classical property located right in the heart of Singapore's CBD. Beautifully restored under the watchful eye of renowned interior designer Isabelle Miaja, the "French heritage meets modern Singapore" space is comfortable, chic and sleek, with a raft of high-tech Apple gadgets in every room, including mini iPads to control entertainment and order room service. There's even a signature SO Sofitel scent in the luxurious, complimentary toiletries pack. Très chic.

Priced from S\$260++ per night.

BEST FOR CITY SLICKERS: SO Sofitel Bangkok

Another high-concept hotel with serious style cred, SO Sofitel Bangkok is themed around the elements of water, earth, wood, metal and fire, with each carrying its own distinct look and feel. The theme extends all the way up to the rooftop, with the poolside Water Club and fire-themed Red Oven restaurant offering guests plenty of space to kick back and soak in the atmosphere. Luxe-loving gourmands, take note: the hotel has an on-site craft chocolate deli, Chocoblab, while rooftop bar HI-SO's

private cabanas offer a sophisticated space for cocktails with a spectacular view. **Priced from THB5737 (\$\$229) per night.**

BEST FOR FUN-LOVING SPACE CADETS: Luna2 Studiotel Bali

Ever wish your hotel room came with a large sprinkling of fun? Step right this way into this witty, cool and downright cosmic space in fashionable Seminyak. Each of the hotel's 14 open-plan studios appears to be beamed in from the future, with Pop Art aplenty, vibrant accent colours and Philippe Starck bathtubs adding to the *Jetsons* vibe. >>



Away from your studio, the retro-inspired Pop! lounge bar is the perfect spot to sink a tippie before a movie at the Lunaplex.

Priced from US\$350 (\$S483) per night.

BEST FOR MINIMALIST CHIC: TUVE, Hong Kong

In a city filled with glitzy big-name chains, 66-room boutique hotel TUVE stands out from the crowd with a refreshingly sleek and simple style. Located in the quiet neighbourhood of Tin Hau, a short walk from bustling shopping haven Causeway Bay, TUVE's pared-back aesthetic is straight out of a design magazine, with raw materials like marble, oxidised metal and gold-speckled concrete taking centre-stage among its mostly monochromatic interiors.

All rooms come stocked with Fresh toiletries and feature a custom-designed 'Wunderbox', which opens to reveal a desk, chair and mini-bar. Clutter is so last season. **Priced from HK\$900 (\$S160) per night, plus 10% service charge.**

BEST FOR STREET ART LOVERS: Artotel Thamrin, Jakarta

Fancy discovering the next Banksy... in your hotel room? In a unique collaboration with eight emerging Indonesian artists, Artotel brings striking street style into your luxury studio suite. The many funky design details in every corner look like they've sprung straight from a Pinterest mood board. The hotel's restaurant ROCA – aka the Restaurant Of Contemporary

Art – is every bit as Instagramable, while regular DJ gigs, a rooftop bar and art exhibition space all add to the hip and buzzing vibe. Hop onto one of the hotel's purple bicycles to explore Jakarta further... the city is your canvas.

Priced from IDR845,000 (\$S89.50) per night.

BEST FOR DOWNTON ABBEY DREAMERS: Macalister Mansion, Penang

Hotels don't come much more exclusive than the Macalister Mansion, which boasts a grand total of only eight rooms and delivers colonial sophistication with a contemporary touch. Set in a beautifully restored 1900s manor, each unique room comes adorned with specially commissioned art. It's hard to choose a favourite but Room 4, with its spiral staircase and cosy turret, is the perfect place to live out fairytale fantasies. Meanwhile, Dining Room serves innovative fine dining in a chic yet whimsical interior, while the outdoor pool's swim-up bar is just the touch of modern luxury every lord or lady needs.

Priced from RM900 (\$S299) per night. ✈

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Stay here

SO Sofitel Singapore
35 Robinson Rd, Singapore, +65 6701 6800; sofitel.com

SO Sofitel Bangkok
2 North Sathorn Rd, Bangkok, Thailand, +66 2624 0000; sofitel.com

Luna2 Studiotel
Jl Sarinande No 20/22, Seminyak, Bali, Indonesia, +62 361 730 402; luna2.com

TUVE
16 Tsing Fung St, Tin Hau, Hong Kong, +852 3995 8899; tuve.hk

Mira Moon
388 Jaffe Rd, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong, +852 2643 8888; miramoonhotel.com

Artotel Thamrin – Jakarta
Jl Sunda No 3, Thamrin, Jakarta, Indonesia, +62 21 3192 5888; artotelindonesia.com

Macalister Mansion
228 Macalister Rd, George Town, Penang, Malaysia, +604 2283 888; macalistermansion.com

