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July 2011
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Condé Nast Traveller

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Where to stay

Bed hopping with Allegra Hicks

HOTEL CONFIDENTIAL The fashion and interiors designer tells Lisa Grainger where she likes to unpack her case



AMAN NEW DELHI

'Like most Amans, this one is outrageously chic. The rooms have pools – even on the ninth, 10th floors – and its Ambassador cars are cool. At Amangalla in Sri Lanka, the staff are incredible. I asked a waiter about some spices I liked, and the next day he brought me some from the market.' www.amanresorts.com. Doubles from US\$610

THE AUGUSTINE, PRAGUE

'The Augustine is so charming, particularly in winter. It used to be a monastery, and you can still enter the chapel through a little passage off the hotel. Some of the monks still live there; their beer is sold in the cellar bar. The rooms are very quiet, with lovely bathrooms; mine had views of the castle, which was so romantic. And the food is great.' www.theaugustine.com. Doubles from €297



'If you want grand Paris, you go to the Ritz. If you want quiet luxury, you go to Pavillon de la Reine'



LE SIRENUSE, POSITANO

'This is like someone's incredibly beautiful private house: intimate and filled with lovely old furniture. You can feel its history. But it's very polished, too: it is a proper old-fashioned hotel, with amazing service, good food and lovely rooms. And it has a great little shop, if you need clothes...' www.sirenuse.it. Doubles from €385



ALBERGO DELLA REGINA ISABELLA, ISCHIA

'This isn't a hotel trying to be a spa or a spa trying to be a hotel; it is both. You can lie about and eat like a pig or enjoy healthy food and therapeutic mud treatments. The design is very 1950s, very Italian. It's by the sea, and in May, when the water is cold, they fill the pool with seawater and heat it up.' www.reginaisabella.it. Doubles from €220



PAVILLON DE LA REINE, PARIS

'It's on the most beautiful square in the world and one of the most romantic: a little hideaway in Paris where one goes to quietly luxuriate in 17th-century elegance. The concierge can do anything. It has a garden. And it does perfect breakfasts: fruit salad, organic yoghurt, good green tea, warm bread.' www.pavillon-de-la-reine.com. Doubles from €330



PALAZZO BELMONTE, CASTELLABATE

'The Belmonte is in the Magna Graecia area, south of Naples, and it's a one-off: a grand 17th-century palazzo, made of four houses, right by the sea. The area is packed in August, so it's a June sort of place. Ideally you would go to Capri and stay in Positano for two days, then drive along the coast and stay here for another two.' www.palazzobelmonte.com. Doubles from €186

NO, GRAZIE! 'I hate motorway hotels. I'd rather drive one more hour than stay somewhere where the bedcovers are so disgusting you don't want to touch them, even to remove them, and the bathrooms look like they have been made from one piece of plastic. Cool, perhaps, as locations for Vincent Gallo films, but not to stay in.'