

DEPARTURES

Best of 2016: The 15 Most Important New Luxury Hotels

By Jen Murphy on December 08, 2016

From Malibu's redefinition of a wellness resort to a mini boom in Peru's Sacred Valley to the reopening of the iconic Ritz Paris, these new properties join the ranks of the very best hotels in the world.



The Dewberry, Charleston

Grand dame hotels like the Planters Inn, Wentworth Mansion, and the Francis Marion helped to define Charleston's signature Southern hospitality. In the last two years, a half dozen new hotels, including the Restoration, the Grand Bohemian, the Spectator, and the Vendue have redefined it for the 21st century. The new bar for boutique Southern luxury was set this August with the opening of the Dewberry. The ubiquitous antebellum vibe of the city's old-school luxury hotels was all about the past. The Dewberry, and other newcomers, still embrace the spirit of a bygone era but simultaneously showcase the city's present through minibars filled with artisan snacks, third-wave coffee shops, locavore restaurants, bike-share programs, and carefully curated boutiques. A meticulous eight-year renovation of a landmark building, the Dewberry evokes old Charleston with its original artwork, vintage furnishings, and a spa modeled after the original carriage house. Nods to the present include the Fieldshop, a boutique curated by Southern style bible Garden & Gun and a serious cocktail bar crowded with just as many locals as guests; next spring, a rooftop tiki bar will debut.