

LUXURY HOTELS

TOP OF THE WORLD



VOLUME 2

teNeues



Luxury Hotels

TOP OF THE WORLD VOL. II

Introduction

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Introduction

The color of the bathrobes at the Ritz in Paris could best be described as “a touch of peach.” The soft pastel hue flatters the complexion when guests look in the mirror in the morning. Attention to even the smallest detail is an essential component of luxury in a hotel. Being looked after in the most attentive of ways; personal service by highly trained staff; the dedication with which every wish is fulfilled, ideally before it’s even expressed—those are the things that make all the difference.

Luxury hotels don’t sell beds, they sell dreams. They provide the stage for a grand entry, or they offer a glamorous retreat designed to exclude the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Grand hotels are milestones in the cultural history of every major international metropolis; landmarks that shape its face. They invite us to travel back in time to bygone eras, like the legendary Raffles in Singapore or the Imperial in Delhi—properties that have preserved the special flair of the colonial age while offering guests every modern amenity imaginable. They let us get up close and personal with history, like the magnificent Paris palace hotels where Queen Marie Antoinette took piano lessons, Coco Chanel kept a suite for 30 years, and Ernest Hemingway was a regular. New hotels create their own history which makes them unique. The Peninsula in Shanghai, opened in 2010, was inspired by the Chinese harbor city’s glamorous times in the 1930s and 40s; the Aman at Summer Palace in Beijing draws on the generous hospitality the Chinese imperial court was famous for.

Luxury in hotels has a myriad different facets, ranging from the lavish opulence of grand hotels with their marble-and-gold-studded lobbies illuminated by priceless crystal chandeliers to the understated smartness of contemporary urban hideaways. These set new styles and showcase new trends. In Asia, extravagant simplicity is merging with the highest standards of quality in the selection and finish of materials. This allows the idea of perfect harmony, which is so deep-rooted in Far Eastern thinking, to take shape in architecture and design.

Authenticity, the charm of the out-of-the-ordinary, a genuine sense of place: these aspects are becoming increasingly important. In order to give her Crosby Street Hotel in New York a village feeling, London designer Kit Kemp built a rooftop garden where the chef de cuisine grows herbs and chickens lay eggs for breakfast—a true luxury in 21st century SoHo. Globe-trotting guests have more choices than ever before. Today, they can enjoy the stylish ambience of a traditional property like Hotel Sacher in Vienna; tomorrow, they can tackle the challenge superstar architect Jean Nouvel designed for guests of the Sofitel Vienna: rooms where even the smallest detail is in monochromatic gray.

This lavishly illustrated book showcases the entire spectrum of luxury hotels and invites you on a journey around the globe to the world’s most beautiful and spectacular hotels—from the megacities of South America and Asia, to the most historic grand hotels in Europe, to the most luxurious lodges in the wilderness of Africa.

Bärbel Holzberg

Thorngrove Manor

Adelaide, Australia

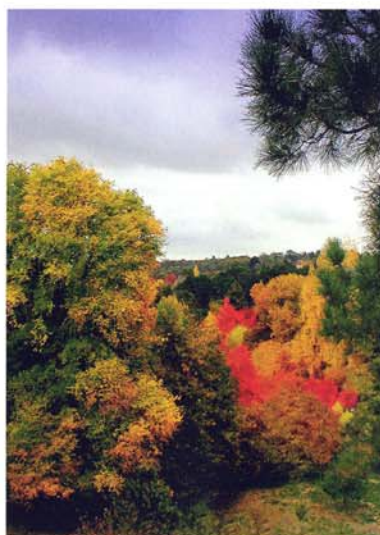
With its turrets, bays, and half-timbered construction, this estate outside of Adelaide looks like it belongs in a medieval fairytale even though it was only built in the mid-1980s. Kenneth Lehmann—the owner, architect, and host—has dedicated more than 25 years to this project, and it has become his life's work. Lehmann was inspired in part by the manor houses of British settlers who attempted to recreate the aristocratic lifestyle of their homeland in their new world: being eccentric, exotic, and a little bit crazy was well tolerated at that time in aristocratic circles.

Mit seinen Türmchen, Erkern und dem Fachwerk wirkt das Anwesen nahe Adelaide wie aus einer mittelalterlichen Märchenszenerie entsprungen und wurde doch erst Mitte der 80er Jahre erbaut. Genau genommen arbeitete Kenneth Lehmann, Besitzer, Architekt und Gastgeber, seit mehr als 25 Jahren an diesem Kunstwerk, das zu seiner Lebensaufgabe wurde. Eine der Inspirationsquellen sind die Herrenhäuser der britischen Siedler, die versuchten den aristokratischen Lebensstil der Heimat in ihre neue Welt zu transportieren: Exzentrisch, exotisch und ein bisschen verrückt zu sein, war damals in Adelskreisen wohl gelitten.

Avec ses petites tours, ses encorbellements et ses colombages, cette propriété située près d'Adélaïde semble sortie tout droit d'un conte du Moyen Âge. Elle a pourtant été bâtie au milieu des années 80. Il faut préciser que Kenneth Lehmann, propriétaire, architecte et maître de maison a travaillé à cette œuvre d'art durant plus de 25 ans et qu'elle est devenue la tâche de toute sa vie. Il s'est notamment inspiré des manoirs des colons britanniques qui ont tenté de rapporter le style de vie aristocratique de leur pays natal dans le nouveau monde : jadis, dans les cercles de la noblesse, excentricité, exotisme et folie légère étaient appréciés.

Con sus torreones, almenas y vigas vistas, la mansión cercana a Adelaide parece salida de un cuento de hadas medieval, pese haber sido construida a mediados de la década de 1980. Kenneth Lehmann, propietario, arquitecto y anfitrión, trabajó durante más de 25 años en esta obra de arte que se ha convertido en el objetivo de toda una vida. Una de sus principales fuentes de inspiración fueron las mansiones de los colonos británicos, que intentaron exportar al nuevo mundo el aristocrático estilo de la patria: en los círculos más selectos de la época, la excentricidad, el exotismo y una brizna de locura se consideraban de buen tono.

Con le sue torrette, i bovindi e la travatura a traliccio, questa struttura nei pressi di Adelaide sembra uscita da un libro delle fiabe del Medioevo, eppure è stata costruita solo a metà degli anni 80. In realtà Kenneth Lehmann, proprietario, architetto e gestore dell'hotel, ha lavorato per oltre 25 anni a quest'opera d'arte, scopo e senso della sua vita. Una delle fonti d'ispirazione furono le case padronali dei coloni inglesi, che volevano ricreare nel loro nuovo mondo lo stile di vita dell'aristocrazia del loro paese: evidentemente alla nobiltà di allora non mancava il gusto per l'eccentrico, l'esotico e il vagamente folle.



This five guest room estate in the wine-growing region of South Australia looks like a romantic wonderland.

Wie ein romantisches Wunderland mutet das Anwesen mit seinen fünf Gästezimmern im südaustralischen Weinland an.

Ce manoir de la région vinicole du sud de l'Australie doté de cinq chambres vous transporte au pays des merveilles.

Con sus cinco habitaciones para huéspedes, el establecimiento en los viñedos del sur de Australia se antoja a veces un romántico País de las Maravillas.

Come un romantico paese delle meraviglie, questa struttura con cinque camere spicca nel paesaggio di vigneti dell'Australia del sud.



Many of the pieces in the flamboyantly furnished rooms were collected on trips to Europe: the tapestries from France, and the wooden panels from a 19th-century church.

Von Reisen nach Europa stammen viele der Sammlerstücke in den flamboyant ausgestatteten Räumen, die Tapiserien aus Frankreich, Holzpaneele von einer Kirche aus dem 19. Jahrhundert.

Les pièces de collection présentes dans ce décor flamboyant proviennent de voyages en Europe — des tapisseries de France, des panneaux de bois provenant d'une église du XIX^e siècle.

Muchas de las piezas de coleccionista de la llamativa decoración de las habitaciones proceden de viajes por Europa: tapizados de Francia, paneles de una iglesia del siglo XIX.

Molti dei pezzi da collezione che arricchiscono le sontuose camere provengono da viaggi in Europa: le tappezzerie dalla Francia, i pannelli di legno da una chiesa ottocentesca.

