

Wallpaper*

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WALLPAPER* AND FORTUNE MAGAZINE ANNOUNCE

BEST BUSINESSES HOTELS 2008

Nothing stimulates us less than a business trip to some soulless hotel with a trouser press and a back-alley view. Thankfully, we rarely encounter such horrors these days. We have collaborated with *Fortune* magazine to come up with a shortlist of 50 fantastic business hotels, which our judging panel will whittle down to ten deserving winners

THE JUDGES

MELISSA BIGGS BRADLEY

Founder, www.indagare.com

DAVID CUSH

CEO, Virgin America

SIMON DE PURY

Chairman, Phillips de Pury

KONSTANTIN GRČIĆ

Industrial, product and exhibition designer

BJORN HANSEN

Hotels analyst, PriceWaterhouseCoopers

BOB JEFFREY

CEO, J Walter Thompson

MASAKO KUMAKURA REDAELLI

Worldwide communications director, Boucheron

AMBRA MEDDA

Co-founder and director, Design Miami/Basel

DEBORAH MEYER

Vice president and chief marketing officer, Chrysler

DENNIS PAPHITIS

Founder and director, Aesop



Often on their own and in need of special services to accomplish their tasks, business travellers have come to expect a lot from their hotel of choice. These days, for the most part, they are getting it. As new hotels appear and old ones get contemporary makeovers, designers nearly always consider high technology a must. That being the case, the lines are blurring between what constitutes a business hotel and one aimed more at tourists. While big hotel chains (Hilton, Hyatt, Marriott, Four Seasons) still dominate the high-end business sector, there are plenty of independent and boutique hotels going after the same clientele.

According to Travel Smith Research, a leading lodging industry data provider, the most important thing to the business traveller is location. The hotel doesn't always need to be near a convention centre, but will probably be selected according to convenience of a meeting location. Often that's in the hotel itself, in which case it should be easy to find and well equipped.

Many business travellers work from their room, making a desk with good lighting and the ability to plug a number of devices into one place imperative. Furniture, such as chairs, should be functional. Good conference capabilities, such as speaker phones and secretarial services upon request, are a must. And nothing will spoil a business trip faster than computer problems with no one around to solve them. Top business hotels now have e-concierges available around the clock. At the very least, there should be an engineer on hand, or even computers available to rent if something goes askew. Wireless internet service in rooms is a must. Some hotels are still charging for this service, but most are moving in the right direction of making it complimentary with the room price.

Like other travellers, those on business are becoming more sophisticated and now appreciate a unique experience. A beautiful contemporary design or a hotel that plays on its history will typically be chosen over a dull box of a room, particularly for those travelling outside their own country. Additionally, since they are often on their own, business travellers look for excellent public areas, such as a good restaurant or a lively bar. High end in-room entertainment systems, an exciting room service menu and, since meetings often take place into the evening, a comprehensive room service wine list makes in-room entertaining even better.

Together with *Fortune* magazine, we have shortlisted the best new or newly renovated hotels that meet some or all of the requirements most important to those travelling specifically on business.

THE SHORTLIST

NORTH AMERICA

United States

- 01 Atlanta, Twelve Centennial Park
www.twelvecentennialpark.com
- 02 Boston, InterContinental
www.intercontinental.com
- 03 Boston, The Liberty
www.libertyhotel.com
- 04 Chicago, Trump International
www.trumpchicago.com
- 05 Dallas, The Ritz-Carlton
www.ritzcarlton.com
- 06 Dallas, The Stoneleigh
www.stoneleighhotel.com
- 07 Denver, The Ritz-Carlton
www.ritzcarlton.com
- 08 Greensboro, Proximity
www.proximityhotel.com
- 09 Houston, Zaza
www.hotelzaza.com
- 10 Los Angeles, Thompson Beverly Hills
www.thompsonhotels.com
- 11 Miami, The Tides
www.tidesouthbeach.com
- 12 Miami, Gansevoort South
www.gansevoortsouth.com
- 13 New Orleans, Maison Orleans (Club Level)
www.ritzcarlton.com
- 14 New York, Royalton
www.royaltonhotel.com
- 15 New York, Gild Hall
www.thompsonhotels.com
- 16 New York, The Plaza
www.theplaza.com
- 17 San Diego, The Keating
www.thekeating.com
- 18 San Francisco, InterContinental
www.intercontinental.com
- 19 Scottsdale, Firesky
www.fireskyresort.com

Canada

- 20 Toronto, The Hazelton
www.thehazeltonhotel.com
- 21 Montreal, Opus
www.opushotel.com

SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Argentina

- 22 Buenos Aires, NH Lancaster
www.nh-hotels.com

Brazil

- 23 Rio de Janeiro, Fasano
www.fasano.com.br
- 24 São Paulo, WTC
www.wtchotel.com.br

Puerto Rico

- 25 San Juan, Condado Plaza
www.condadoplaza.com

AFRICA/ MIDDLE EAST

Egypt

- 26 Alexandria, Four Seasons
www.fourseasons.com

United Arab Emirates

- 27 Abu Dhabi, Shangri-La
www.shangri-la.com

EUROPE

France

- 28 Paris, Le Meurice
www.lemeurice.com

Germany

- 29 Berlin, Hotel de Rome
www.hotelderome.com
- 30 Hamburg, Mövenpick
www.wasserturm-schanzenpark.de
- 31 Frankfurt, Goldman 25 Hours
www.25hours-hotels.com

Hungary

- 32 Budapest, Lánchíd 19
www.lanchid19hotel.hu

Italy

- 33 Rome, St George
www.stgeorgehotel.it
- 34 Milan, The Chedi
www.thechedmilan.com

Norway

- 35 Oslo, Grims Grenka
www.grimsgrrenka.no

Russia

- 36 Moscow, The Ritz-Carlton
www.ritzcarlton.com

Spain

- 37 Madrid, Hospes
www.hospes.es
- 38 Malaga, Barceló Málaga
www.barcelo.com

Switzerland

- 39 Geneva, Le Richemond
www.lelichemond.com
- 40 Montreux, Fairmont Le Montreux Palace
www.fairmont.com

Ukraine

- 41 Kiev, Hyatt Regency
www.hyatt.com

United Kingdom

- 42 London, Haymarket
www.firmdale.com

ASIA

India

- 43 Navi Mumbai, The Park
www.theparkhotels.com
- 44 Mumbai, Four Seasons
www.fourseasons.com

China

- 45 Beijing, The Valley Wing at Shangri-La
www.shangri-la.com
- 46 Shanghai, JIA
www.jiashanghai.com
- 47 Shanghai, Hyatt on the Bund
www.hyatt.com
- 48 Guangzhou, Shangri-La
www.shangri-la.com

Japan

- 49 Tokyo, The Peninsula
www.peninsula.com
- 50 Osaka, Dojima
www.dojima-hotel.com



For full reviews and contact details for each hotel in the shortlisted 50, visit www.wallpaper.com

SEE WALLPAPER'S SEPTEMBER ISSUE FOR A FULL REPORT ON THE WINNING HOTELS