

Condé Nast Traveler USA
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Edson Hill, Vermont
With its fireplaces and contemporary art collection, this 24-room manor house on 38 acres (ten minutes from Stowe Mountain) feels like staying at a (wealthy) friend's estate.

edsonhillmanor.com;
from \$300 ●



El Blok, Vieques, Puerto Rico
Brutalist architecture is set against a tropical backdrop at this 22-room hotel, where carved louvers transform the bright sun into artistic shadows.

elblok.com; from \$240 ●



Fontevraud L'Hôtel, Loire Valley
In a meticulous renovation, a famous twelfth-century French abbey has been converted into a 54-room property with sleek—yet soothing—interiors.

fontevraud.fr; from \$195 ●



Four Seasons Hotel The Westcliff, Johannesburg
Set on a gorgeous hillside, this 117-room luxury mainstay just had a top-to-bottom overhaul—time and money well spent.

fourseasons.com;
from \$350 ●



Four Seasons Resort Orlando at Walt Disney World Resort
Disney-goers finally have a truly stylish option, thanks to this 443-room resort. Kids love the waterslides and lazy river.

fourseasons.com;
from \$449 ●



Ham Yard Hotel, London
Firmdale Hotels' latest venture occupies an entire city block, with 91 airy, colorful rooms, a courtyard restaurant, and a subterranean bar and bowling alley.

firmdalehotels.com;
from \$555 ●



Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp, Namibia
This African game changer is a state-of-the-art camp with eight tented bedrooms and private plane access to Skeleton Coast National Park.

wilderness-safaris.com;
from \$900 ●



Hôtel Plaza Athénée, Paris
The signature red awnings are still there, but almost everything else at this 208-room classic was sumptuously updated in a \$268 million renovation.

dorchestercollection.com;
from \$840 ●



Hotel Sahrai, Fez, Morocco
The city's most impressive boutique hotel has 50 rooms, two pools, and a knockout Givenchy spa—the first in North Africa.

hotelsahrai.com;
from \$170 ●



Hotel SP34, Copenhagen
The 118 rooms at this Latin District hotel are like an adult's idea of a cool dorm: snug but cheerful, with modern fixtures and furnishings.

brochner-hotels.dk;
from \$310 ●



Iconic Santorini, Greece
This whitewashed 22-room retreat is set in a small village high above the Aegean. Its infinity pool, carved into the hillside, is epic.

iconicsantorini.com;
from \$685 ●



ITC Grand Bharat, Gurgaon, India
Right in the Golden Triangle, with easy access to Agra and Jaipur, the resort has 100 rooms and four monumental villas—all fit for a maharaja.

itchotels.in;
from \$305 ●



La Grande Maison, Bordeaux
Joël Robuchon's restaurant is the standout at this six-room hotel in France's celebrated Bordeaux wine region.

lagrandemaison-bordeaux.com;
from \$420 ●



La Réserve, Paris
Built in 1854 and just a block from the Champs-Élysées, this elegant mansion turned 40-room *bijou* hotel has been restored to its Belle Époque splendor.

lareserve-paris.com;
from \$840 ●



The Ludlow, New York
Tucked into a lively Lower East Side block, the 184-room brick high-rise puts a new twist on downtown industrial cool with lofty city views and soaking tubs.

ludlowhotel.com;
from \$225 ●

LA GRANDE MAISON,
BORDEAUX

You Might Fly All the Way to France Just for This Meal



It may sound extravagant to plan a trip around a single restaurant (especially if it's in a city with no direct flights from the U.S.). But what if the restaurant is in a five-star hotel? That's the concept behind Bordeaux's La Grande Maison,

a meticulously restored nineteenth-century mansion which is a collaboration between French wine mogul Bernard Magrez (owner of the legendary Château La Tour Carnet vineyard, one of his 40 wine estates around the world) and

the venerable Joël Robuchon, whose Michelin stars light up an empire of restaurants from New York to Singapore. Its six guest rooms are decorated with ornate Pierre Frey silk wallpaper, Hermès bath products, and touches of

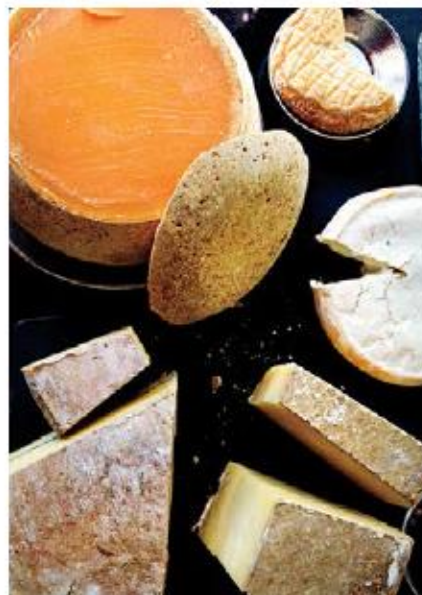
Organic lamb raised in Pouillac, about 30 miles away, is served with a lemongrass-infused broth.

Napoleon III style—a fitting end note to a dinner that lacks for nothing. The menu in the main dining room reads like a canon of Robuchon's greatest hits, including langoustine and truffle ravioli, chateaubriand with foie gras, and

heavenly seasonal fruit-filled pastries. The wine list is exceptional, even for Bordeaux, with more than 250 bottles of Grands Crus Classés de Bordeaux—the highest classification for wines of the region. And with Magrez's personal

art collection hanging on the walls (there's a Dan Hays painting and photographs by Valérie Belin), you can consider this trip money well spent—a decadent furthering of your aesthetic and sensory education. —**Rochelle Bilow**

Joël Robuchon on La Grande Maison's sideshow: *"I've introduced the tradition of découpage, which you don't see anymore at restaurants. The whole dining room looks on while the maitre d'hôtel cuts an entire piece of meat, like an énorme côte de boeuf on the bone."*



Clockwise from top left: A porter in La Grande Maison's lobby; the cheese trolley; head sommelier Renaud Roland at work; a table setting.

Photographs by Oddur Thorisson