

Condé Nast Traveler

HOT LIST

THE BEST NEW HOTELS
IN THE WORLD

COASTAL BLISS

Three Seaside Destinations That Have It All

\$4.99US \$5.99FOR
05>



0 757358 3

@ACEHOTEL



WELL-TRAVELED

ROMAN ALONSO

*The co-founder of design firm Commune—
and the force behind the new Ace Downtown Los Angeles—
understands the alchemy of an “it” hotel.*

Trips logged so far this year?
Panama City, San Francisco, and New York—a few times each.

Airport dress code: slob or snob? Slobsnob.

To wheelie or not to wheelie? Filson all the way.

Preferred airlines?
Virgin America, Singapore Airlines, Lufthansa.

Best in-flight meal or snack?
The Mast Brothers chocolate with almonds that I carry on.

Tried-and-true jet lag cure?
A quarter of a Donormyl each night while I'm away.

Favorite hotels in the world?
American Trade Hotel in Panama City; Hotel Therme Vals; Ace Hotel Portland.

Best hotel bar or restaurant?
The Orchid Room at the Hotel Okura Tokyo.

Notable in-room amenity?
The noise-blocker porthole-window plug thing at New York's Maritime Hotel.

Favorite hotel gift shop?
The design shop at the Claska in Tokyo.

Places I go to again and again:
Paris, Berlin, Mexico City, Big Sur, Kauai.

I'm embarrassed that I haven't been to: Rome.

I hate to admit it, but I have no desire to go to: China.

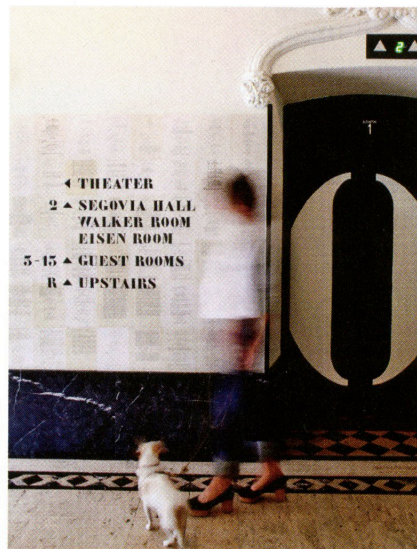
Next up on my must-go list:
Stockholm and Copenhagen.

The airplane of my dreams would have: My own john.

Best purchases abroad?
A bunch of original revolutionary posters from the 1960s that I found in Cuba . . . and a tattoo I got from Dr. Lakra in Oaxaca.

—Lindsay Talbot

HOT LIST 2014
BEST DESIGN HOTELS



PANAMA CITY, PANAMA

AMERICAN TRADE HOTEL

Panama City is having a moment this year, thanks to the centennial of its famed canal and the transformation of the 1917 neoclassical headquarters of the American Trade Developing Company, in the leafy UNESCO World Heritage neighborhood of Casco Viejo, into a hotel. The four-story, 50-room building fronting the Plaza Herrera has been given a Havana-inspired makeover (palm-print sofas, swags of tropical foliage) by the team behind the Ace hotels. Aside from the decor, there's lots to love, beginning with the rates, which are inexplicably lower than those of the high-rises across the bay. For quiet, I escaped to the rooftop pool (shown below); to feel part of the action, I headed down to the hotel's jazz club, where I found guests mingling with a crowd of well-heeled locals. And for the best views, get one of the small, stylish rooms on the fourth floor—you'll be able to see the ships gliding by.

—Nicholas Gill

507-211-2000; americantradehotel.com; doubles from \$249.

Clockwise from top left: Outside the entrance (the hotel is in the former United Artists building); sections of the lobby, like this area near the elevator, are papered in old scripts; bookcases line the walls above the check-in area; the coffee menu at the restaurant, LA Chapter; rooms are utilitarian but cozy, with custom-made Pendleton blankets; the shelves behind the reception desk are stocked with old vinyl.

LOS ANGELES

Ace Hotel

Downtown Los Angeles has been called the city's "next hot neighborhood" for at least a decade, but it took Ace Hotels' newest outpost, on a skyscraper-studded stretch of Broadway, to make good on that promise. The 1927 United Artists building retains its original neon marquee, but everything inside has been given a makeover by L.A. design team Commune, which also worked on Ace's Panama City property (see page 90 and, for an interview with one of the team's members, page 50). The result is an unabashed hipsters' playground, from the wall lined with vinyl records behind the check-in desk to LA Chapter's coffee bar serving Stumptown coffee across the hall. Each of the 182 high-ceilinged rooms is encased in concrete but made warm and personal with colorful Pendleton blankets and miniature prints from artist Mike Mills. My favorite place, though, was the rooftop, where I grabbed a Corona at the bar and lounged by the wading pool, the entire city sprawled out before me. —John Wogan

213-623-3233; acehotel.com; doubles from \$219.

