

This Month's
**BEST
FASHION
DROPS**

**16 Hotels
with Soul**

PLUS

**WE SALUTE
RALPH
FIENNES**

**HARMONY
KORINE'S
WILD
NEW FILM**

**BAD BUNNY
IN PUERTO
RICO**

*Always
Be
yourself*

**The Unlikely
Rise of Rapper**

J. Cole



**The
Fix**

A look from
the inside out
at the Sunset
Tower Hotel
in Hollywood.

Travel

The Hotels We Return to Again and Again

The 16 hotels that we—
and several of our most
stylish friends—consider
homes away from home.

→
Dwarika's
Hotel in
Kathmandu,
Nepal.



SOME HOTELS DO THE TRICK for a night. Some we visit for only the most special occasions. And then there are those, like the hotels presented here, that set up camp in our psyches after a stay, the ones we find ourselves drawn to again and again and daydreaming about most of the time that we're not there. They're not necessarily the most luxurious. And not the merely once-in-a-lifetime. But rather the places where we feel our very best—and most taken care of. You know the kind. We know a few, too. And then we asked a bunch of well-traveled Friends of GQ for their picks as well. Our first question for them: Where do you check in when you want to go home?

1

GQ APPROVED
L.A.'s Gold Standard: The Sunset Tower

Yes, the Chateau Marmont is still a favorite among a harder-partying set, but ask any moviemaker who craves a little privacy, relaxation, and Old Hollywood class for their L.A. home away from home, and they've got one answer. Check out the photo

on the opening page:
The California light's not bad, either.

2

How Diplo Does Kathmandu

The world-traversing DJ zones out with his kids in the courtyard of Dwarika's Hotel, at the foot of the Himalayas.

DIPLO: "Dwarika's Hotel, in Kathmandu, Nepal, is the most classic and culturally preserved hotel I've ever been to. For me, no hotel speaks to its location better than this one. It's owned by my now friend Vijay and his family. The building is all brick, and each window fixture, door, and piece of hardware is an antique that Vijay's grandfather collected over the years. The carvings on every entryway or windowsill are so intricate and so well preserved. You can look at one side of the courtyard for hours, observing all the little details. Anytime I return to Kathmandu, it's no question that's where I stay. I took my kids out there with me the last time I went."

3

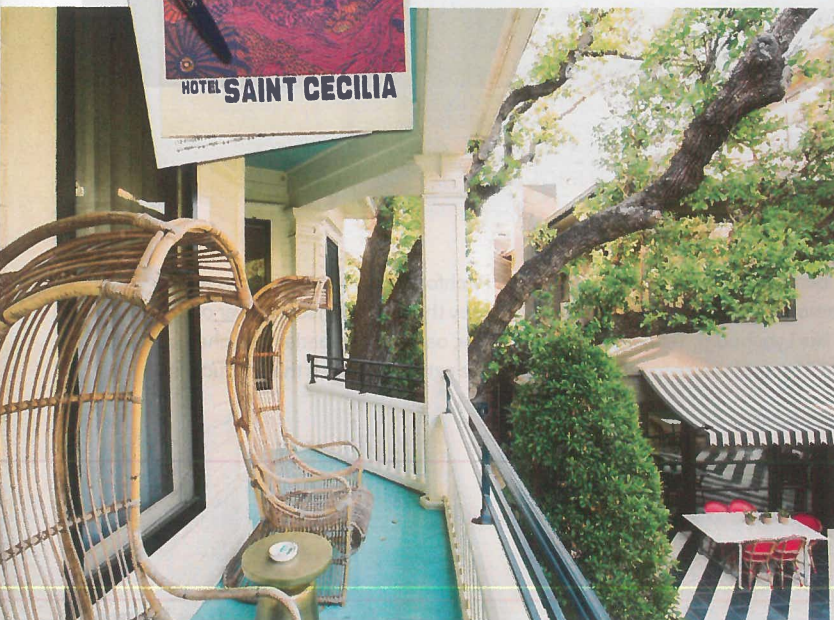
GQ APPROVED
Hotel Saint Cecilia Keeps Austin Chill

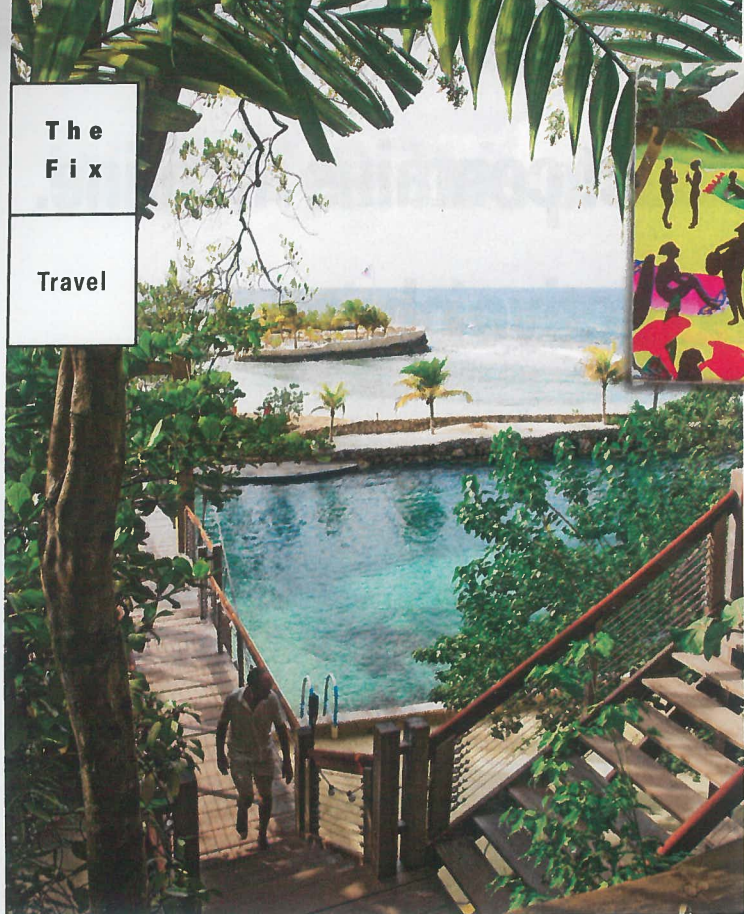
An attention-starved hotel opens every week in Austin, but this 14-room enclave, tucked behind a line of tall hedges, is still the hideaway of choice.

A couple of years back, stuck in the recurring fog of grief that attends the anniversary of the day someone close to you died, I sat alone in the courtyard of Hotel Saint Cecilia, under some ridiculous ancient tree, and felt profoundly at home. Which is weird, because it was profoundly not my home, nor anyone's, but rather a tiny hotel—a compound, really—and I had no relationship to Austin, or even to Texas.

It's funny to describe this now, because I haven't been back, though I have returned in my mind, on a number of occasions, at will or sometimes by accident, to the shade of that tree, to that warm day. I sat there for hours. I read a book. I hardly checked my phone.

↓
The Saint Cecilia in Austin is less hotel, more cozy private compound off South Congress.





← A look at the lagoon at the GoldenEye resort on the north coast of Jamaica.

they've converted a shepherd hut into a little sort of overnight place, so you can have your own little party and then ski back down to the chalet. For me, they're incredibly special. And I've never seen a better mini-bar in any of my travels."

12

Dr. Woo's Hotel-Within-a-High-Rise in Hong Kong

The tattoo artist of choice for every famous person with ink is a self-professed bathroom snob, and The Upper House delivers.

DR. WOO: "I think it's the nicest, coolest hotel in Hong Kong. It's on the middle floors of a high-rise—the rooms start on the 38th floor. Hong Kong is this super-modern city nestled into a jungle, so you get

beautiful views. At night, it's got a great bar. I have meetings there all the time. I've stayed there more times than I can count. Like, when I go, they say, 'Welcome home.' They're like family to me. One of the best bathrooms, too. Even for the regular standard rooms, they have this tub, surrounded by windows. I'm a bathroom snob, man. I think bathrooms make or break a hotel room. Sometimes I think the bathroom is more cozy than the room itself."

13

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Ian Fleming Built GoldenEye. Chris Blackwell Made It Famous.

Commune with legends living (Grace Jones, Hillary Clinton) and dead (Fleming and his

long-gone pals) at this retreat on the north coast of Jamaica, where Fleming wrote all 14 of his Bond books.

GoldenEye's origin story is almost as good as the resort itself: Once the home of the man who wrote the Bond novels, the property was purchased in the '70s by record mogul Chris Blackwell (the founder of Island Records) and has played host to not just Blackwell but also his legendary circle of friends. Blackwell began adding cottages on the property, and slowly—almost by force of nature—his personal retreat became a hotel. That a trip to GoldenEye today retains the same carefree Caribbean ease

of Fleming's day, or from before when Blackwell opened it up to strangers, borders on the absurd. How, one wonders, can this all still be so good—how, as the world changes around us, is GoldenEye so unbothered by time? Don't worry about it. These are questions for after you leave. —M.B.

14

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The Best Way to See Tokyo Is from a Pool at the Top of a Tower

The Aman Tokyo was the high-AF-end Aman Group's first property in a major city. The skyline views are staggering, and its

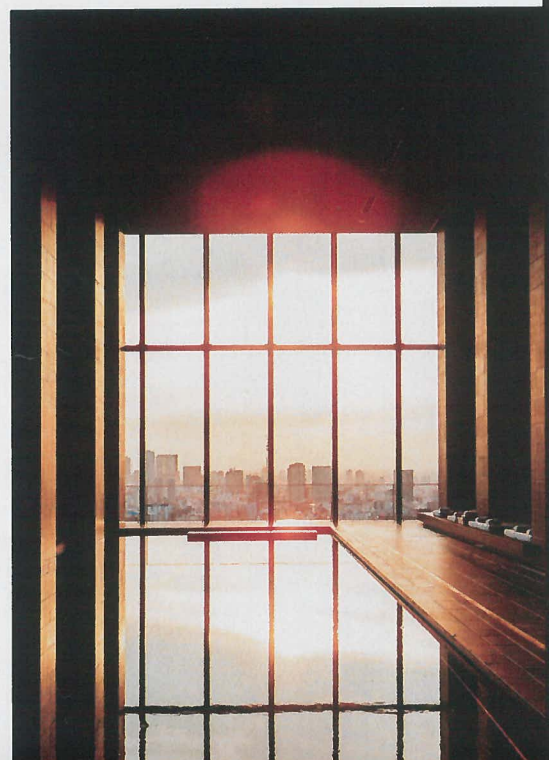
spa is your best shot at rapidly recovering from jet lag. There are certainly cheaper ways to do Tokyo, but none quite as instantly transformative. Turns out Aman's good at cities, too.

15

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Hotel San Cristóbal Is Quickly Collecting Regulars

Mexico has experienced an absurd tourist boom over the past decade, with places like Tulum cycling from under-discovered to overcrowded at record speed. Which is why



→ The high-altitude spa at the Aman Tokyo: the best cure we know for jet lag.