

# Condé Nast Traveller

SPECIAL  
DOUBLE  
ISSUE

JULY/AUGUST 2017

## THE HOT LIST 2017

THIS YEAR'S BEST NEW HOTELS, BEACH CLUBS, BARS & RESTAURANTS

FREE  
NIGHT  
AT LONDON'S  
SMARTEST  
HOTEL

**BALI ON THE INSIDE**  
THE REAL ISLAND STYLE

EXCLUSIVE FIRST LOOK

THE MOST TALKED-ABOUT  
INDIAN OCEAN HIDEAWAY

URBAN FIXES

BERLIN  
PALM SPRINGS  
TOKYO  
MEXICO CITY  
ATHENS

# THE HOT LIST 2017

OUR PICK OF THE BEST NEW HOTELS, BARS, RESTAURANTS  
& BEACH CLUBS TO HAVE OPENED IN THE PAST YEAR



&BEYOND MATETSI RIVER LODGE, ZIMBABWE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
**AVIS**



## ITALY IL SERENO, LAKE COMO

Hotels have always played a leading role on Como. It's a feature of the lake's tremendous attractiveness. But they are usually conversions of venerable country seats and palaces, so the construction of something entirely new was always going to raise suspenseful eyebrows. Built on a promontory jutting into the lake, all 30 bedrooms are clad in carved walnut timber, like a rationalist-inspired Swiss chalet. It's a bold look, but one that reflects the atmosphere of Lake Como itself, with all its surrounding mountains that spring abruptly from the water's edge, some to altitudes of 600 metres. The design combines travertine stone with floating, copper-piped staircases; moveable screens on balconies – each room has a view – transform bedrooms into an inside-outside den. A beautiful pool sits close to a private stretch of beach, by a pontoon bobbing with Il Sereno-owned Rivas. Surging vastly upwards beyond the bar is a flower-studded vertical garden by French botanist Patrick Blanc.

In the restaurant (part of it is built over the water) chef Andrea Berton serves modern Italian food such as saffron risotto and *lavarello alla plancha*, a welcome respite from the plates swimming in *flambé* of the more traditional hotels nearby. **FLASH POINT** It's worth rising early for breakfast: all that glass exquisitely complements the burnished mirror of the lake surface, particularly before 9am. +39 031 5477 800; [serenohotels.com](http://serenohotels.com). Doubles from about £635