

## WISH LIST ♦ ROOMS WITH VIEWS

SUNRISE KEMPINSKI HOTEL



8

## AMAZING HOTELS

These grand architectural buildings are guaranteed to bring out your inner design geek

PAUL EWART

1 THE SILO  
CAPE TOWN

Despite being only a few months old, Cape Town's The Silo is already regarded as the place to stay in the South African port city.

Housed in a 1920s, 57m-high former grain silo on the hugely popular V&A Waterfront, the hotel has garnered serious column inches thanks to its super-luxe facilities and unique architecture.

Huge pillared, jewel-like panes of glass bulge out of the structure, transforming it into a giant, glowing lantern each evening. Its interior is equally impressive, with a gym, spa and killer rooftop swimming pool and restaurant.

Suites are decked out with lavish, crystal chandeliers and giant freestanding bathtubs positioned in

front of the aforementioned floor-to-ceiling windows, which take in views of Tabletop and Lion's Head Mountains in one direction and sweeping views of the harbour and ocean in the other.

THEHOTELPORTFOLIO.COM

2 HOTEL HOTEL  
CANBERRA

Admittedly Canberra and "hip" don't usually go hand-in-hand, but thanks to Hotel Hotel, the nation's capital has received a serious injection of cool.

Located in Nishi, a mixed-use building in Canberra's buzzing New Acton cultural precinct, the newly-opened hotel is the result of a collaboration between more than 50 designers, architects and artists. Standout features are undoubtedly

the entry stairs made from more than 2150 pieces of recycled timber, and the lobby, framed with raw timber and concrete beams.

In-house facilities include a courtyard cinema (yes, please), bike hire, art gallery and hair salon. All 68 rooms have been decorated individually by renowned local artists meaning that each is unique.

HOTELHOTEL.COM.AU

3 TSCHUGGEN GRAND HOTEL  
SWITZERLAND

A two-hour drive from Zurich in a beautiful alpine setting 1800m above sea level, Switzerland's Tschuggen Grand Hotel is an architectural marvel.

Designed by Mario Botta – best known for the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art – the hotel's

saal-like design blends into the surroundings.

During winter, there are ample ski slopes, toboggan descents and cross-country tracks and 40km of hiking routes, all of which are accessed via a private funicular, allowing ski-to-door access.

In summer, guests can take advantage of the hotel golf course (the highest in Europe) and inside the Tschuggen boasts the level of luxury you'd expect from a Leading Hotels of the World member, including gourmet restaurants and its plush Berggasse spa.

TSCHUGGEN.CH

4 MARINA BAY SANDS  
SINGAPORE

A modern landmark for the Singapore skyline, Marina Bay Sands

is a hybrid of 2560-room hotel, convention centre, casino and shopping and dining complex.

Designed by Boston-based architect, Moshe Safdie, the mammoth waterfront project cost more than \$5 billion and is built in accordance with the principles of feng shui.

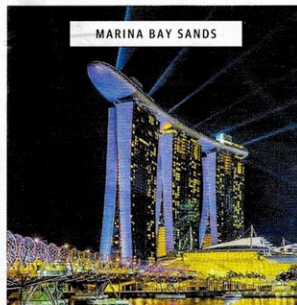
Three sloping, individual 55-storey towers are joined 200m above the city by the 1ha "skyspark" cantilever, which has gardens, a public observatory, jogging paths and impressive decks and infinity pool with sweeping 360-degree views.

Other invisible architectural features include kinetic elevators and cooling systems that use recycled rainwater.

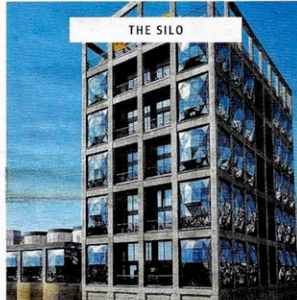
MARINABAYSANDS.COM

## WISH LIST ♦ ROOMS WITH VIEWS

MARINA BAY SANDS



THE SILO



SHANGRI-LA AT THE SHARD

5 SUNRISE KEMPINSKI HOTEL  
BEIJING

UFO or hotel? If your first glimpse of Kempinski's Sunrise Hotel on the shores of Yanqi Lake is at night, you'll be forgiven for being confused.

One hour outside of Beijing, on the shores of Yanqi Lake, the oval-shaped structure – featuring 10,000 glass panels illuminated each evening by hydro-electric powered lights – makes for a memorable fixture on the horizon.

Developed with a team of 60 designers (and more than 9300 construction workers), the striking building is intended to resemble the mouth of a fish from the front and a scallop from the side.

As well as being easy on the eye, a stay here could also potentially bring you good fortune. The Chinese

believe that its shape is a symbol of good luck and prosperity.

KEMPINSKI.COM

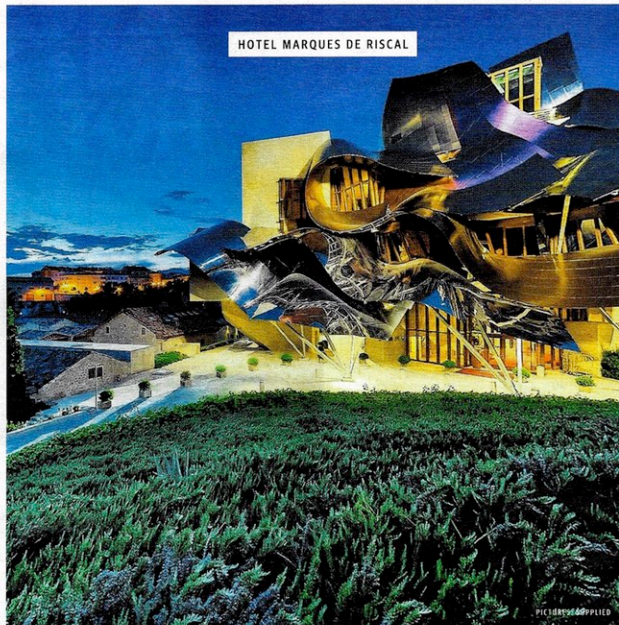
6 HOTEL MARQUES  
DE RISCAL  
ALAVA, SPAIN

In Spain's Basque country, a 150-year-old Rioja wine estate has undergone a transformation thanks to a fantastical, superstar architect.

The result is a fusion of award-winning winery and avant-garde architecture – architecture which belies its rural Spain setting.

Designed by Frank Gehry (best known for the Guggenheim in Bilbao) Hotel Marques de Riscal is a five-star property housing a spa, museum and wine shop, alongside 43 flamboyantly decorated rooms across two separate wings connected via a footbridge.

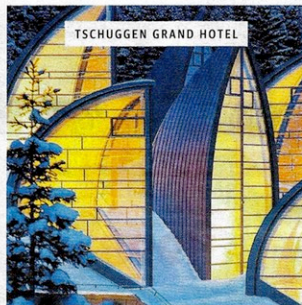
HOTEL MARQUES DE RISCAL



HOTEL HOTEL



TSCHUGGEN GRAND HOTEL



The swirling, multicoloured ribbon-like facade reflects the colours of the grapes, the wine and the signature gold mesh that's applied to all of the winery's bottles.

HOTEL-MARQUESDERISCAL.COM

7 THE HARRY SEIDLER HOUSE  
SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS, NSW

Set among 61ha of natural bush and built into a natural, rugged sandstone escarpment, The Harry Seidler House in NSW's Southern Highlands is an architectural gem.

Completed in 2000 by the late master architect, his signature use of concrete and curves can be seen in the building. Constructed almost entirely in glass and with suspended terrace overhanging a dramatic gorge, the open-plan interior is equally impressive with open fireplaces and

expansive viewing decks. Full-length glass walls have views overlooking the Wingecarribe River and outside, the gardens and entertaining areas lead to a central swimming pool.

A great base for exploring the surrounding restaurants, cafes, wineries and antique shops, the award-winning four-bedroom property is available for hire and is a must-stay for architecture buffs.

STAYZ.COM

8 SHANGRI-LA HOTEL AT  
THE SHARD  
LONDON

Its location in what has become one of the most notable additions to the London skyline in recent years has ensured Shangri-La's only UK property a place on this list.

SHANGRI-LA.COM

and the fourth-tallest in Europe (the hotel boasts the highest hotel rooms in Western Europe). The Shard was designed by architect, Renzo Piano, to resemble a spire-like sculpture emerging from the River Thames.

Made up of 11,000 glass panels and with an impressive 44 lifts, it takes a mere 26 seconds to travel from the hotel's 35th floor lobby to the main entrance. Occupying levels 34 to 52, the Shangri-La Hotel At The Shard is the city's first elevated luxury hotel to offer panoramic views of the city from its 202 rooms.

However, real jetsetters should check into one of the five-luxury suites that offer steam showers, Bose sound systems and jacuzzi baths, from which bathers can soak up the view of the capital in style.