TRAVEL+ LEISURE

THE 100 BEST NEW HOTELS OF THE YEAR

By **Travel + Leisure Editors** | Published on April 15, 2026

To find the best new hotels of the year, *Travel + Leisure* editors and reporters considered nearly 250 properties across 40 countries. Each opened (or unveiled a significant renovation) between February 2025 and February 2026. Here, the 100 stays that impressed us most—including storied beach resorts, country estates, and flashy city hotels. *—Edited by Jess Feldman and Maya Kachroo-Levine*

A guest room with a fireplace at Belden House & Mews. Photo: Matt Dutile/Travel + Leisure

BELDEN HOUSE AND MEWS, LITCHFIELD, CONNECTICUT

In the spring of 2025, the sophisticated town of Litchfield, in Northwest Connecticut, welcomed its first luxury hotel in over 100 years. Chic but not pretentious, Belden House and Mews has blown a refreshing breeze of European style into the tiny enclave about two hours from New York City, that is also packed with hundreds of miles of hiking trails and classic landscapes. The 31-key hotel is discreetly situated along a row of statuesque white homes just minutes from the town's center, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Inside, the quintessential New England house built in 1888 has been transformed by the talents at Champalimaud Design, who have all but redefined contemporary hotel interiors worldwide, and whose founder Alexandra Champalimaud happens to live in town. Belden House respectfully maintains countless of the house's architectural details, such as fireplaces, chandeliers, sconces, and woodwork, while elevating it with great refinement—think custom wallcoverings, playful fabrics of stripes, and warm velvets—for modern connoisseurs. The public spaces are the original dining and living rooms, and each is drenched in sunrays that come through a wall of curving bay windows. The new 50-foot pool and manicured gardens pair well with the brick exterior. Food prepared by chef Tyler Heckman is inventive and delicious, and sourced from the many nearby farms and orchards, and of course, Connecticut's own Atlantic waters. The electric green bar is the most jaw-dropping space in the building, and the spa is a tiled masterpiece. The hotel is the perfect base for a long weekend in the New England Arcadia of Litchfield County: fresh air, fresh food, miles of unspoiled scenery, and history in every brick of every building—including, of course, Belden House itself. *Doubles from $500.* —Marcia DeSanctis

EXPLORE

Review: Belden House and Mews

Read More →