

SUITCASE
MAGAZINE

Small Hotels, Big Vibes: The 2026 Openings Worth Going 000 For

Seeking less cacophony in the coming year? From Iceland to Uganda, these are the new properties capturing travel's shift towards locality, cultural immersion and low-key luxury

There are plenty of big-name hotel openings slated for 2026, but amid the five-star fanfare, what's often missing is a true sense of place. As cities grow louder and more uniform (where doesn't have a Six Senses now?), we're finding ourselves drawn to properties pushing in the opposite direction: small-scale, design-led stays rooted in landscape, culture and idiosyncrasy. Chosen for restraint over ritz, tranquillity over trends, and character over cookie-cutter luxury, these are the new addresses to know about if you're craving nature, locality and slower, more meaningful travel.



FINCA BANYOLS, MALLORCA, SPAIN

A string of sharp openings has seen Mallorca redefined as an island with an undeniable “it” factor – and this 32-room retreat is here to cement that status. Opening in March, it unfolds across more than 100 hectares of olive and citrus groves in Alaró, with the Unesco-listed Serra de Tramuntana as its backdrop. Hand-hewn stone buildings, lofty beamed ceilings and a palette of creams and taupes

strike a rustic yet contemporary tone, while the gastronomy is rooted in place: flame-cooked plates at Aramesh, refined flavours at Tafona 1475 – set in a restored olive mill – and Mallorcan wines at the sleek Aurum bar. Even the honey and olive oil are harvested on site – and are set to find their way into the spa treatments, too. fincabanyols.com

