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ROOM SERVICE

From Colombo to Toronto, these are our favourite hotels around the world right now.

[COLOMBO, ST. PHILLIP, TORONTO]



SHANGRI-LA, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

One of Colombo's newest hotels, the year-old Shangri-La Colombo presents unparalleled luxury in the capital's most prestigious location. Adding enthusiastically local touches to grand hotel lobbies is the Shangri-La signature. Its Colombo hotel feels palatial with high ceilings, a huge lotus chandelier and open windows, which all serves as a backdrop to decorative pieces of locally created Sri Lankan art.

The 500-suite hotel sits across from the Galle Face, Colombo's historic oceanside park, near the city's business district. Its location is convenient for discovering one of the fastest growing cities of south Asia (the hotel offers complimentary tuk tuk service), or stay in for the amenities from rooftop pool to luxe spa. *Rooms from \$225. [shangri-la.com](#)*

ABOVE: Local touches give the luxurious decor Shangri-La in Colombo, Sri Lanka a strong sense of place

COLOMBO'S COCKTAIL CAPITAL

Colombo is on the verge of a cocktail boom. Nearby Dutch Hospital District (a 15-minute walk) has quickly become ground zero for speakeasy bars. But you won't have to leave the hotel for some of the best tipples. Capital Bar & Grill is equal parts modern cocktail bar and whisky lounge inspired by Prohibition era dens and 1920s Paris. The menu is split into modernist takes on drinks and, of course, classic cocktails.



SPLENDID SUNSETS

While the hotel is decked to the brim with dining and drinking, you'll find the best feature on the 32nd floor. From dawn to dusk, the opulent lounge provides a refuge from the tropical heat – plus breathtaking panoramic views of the ocean, city and Beira Lake. The club requires a small supplementary fee, but for the traditional Sri Lankan breakfast menu, cocktail hour and sunset views, it's totally worth it.





THE ANNEX HOTEL, TORONTO

Toronto's newest boutique hotel aims to tap into the ever-thriving homestay market with its design-hotel-meets-Airbnb concept. The Annex takes its name from its faculty-and-fraternities neighbourhood, reflecting the property's emphasis on local experiences rather than typical hotel frills.

Set in a 100-year-old building down a quiet alley off Brunswick Avenue, the Annex has a stylish, urban aesthetic. The hotel takes an "everything-you-need-nothing-you-don't" approach to amenities, which means no elevators, phones, TVs, room service or fitness centre: Just 24 bright, loft-style rooms spread across three storeys. There's also no front desk, with guests instead receiving a text on the day of their check-in with their room number and a key code for access. *Rooms from \$200. theannex.com*

SMALL-SPACE SUSTENANCE

The Annex focused on developing a food-and-beverage programme designed to draw guests and non-guests alike. The stylish Lobby Bar serves light fare provided by the Tempered Room and Ripe Nutrition.

In the evening, a carefully curated drinks menu emphasizing natural, organic wines is served via a white marble bar. The small, eclectic food menu is (impressively) prepared in a tiny, one-counter kitchen using only a panini press and a toaster oven.

The hotel also offers a mini food-hall style space called the Annex Commons, which features outposts of Seven Lives Tacos and Big Trouble Pizza.

THE CRANE, BARBADOS

Far from the super wealthy, celeb-filled west coast of Barbados, the Crane is located at the more remote and serene southeast end of the island, in St. Philip. Hugging a rugged cliff top, the hotel is blessed with a refreshing ocean breeze that makes this spot the perfect place to sun yourself at any time of year. The Crane is the oldest continuously operating hotel in the Caribbean and, as a result, historic touches can be seen throughout the property – **the Carriage House** Bar and Grill is a nod to the structure's past life as the official stable a century ago. *Rooms from \$430. thecrane.com*

POOL FOR THE PEOPLE

Since many of the suites at the Crane offer private plunge pools for guests, the cascade pools – with their views of the Atlantic – often feel blissfully empty even in the middle of the day. The adults-only historic pool, with its classic Doric columns, is another great spot to enjoy the view in peace and quiet. ♦

The Carriage House: *This casual poolside spot offers views of the Atlantic Ocean with Caribbean BBQ meals offered Tuesdays and Saturdays.*

ABOVE: Breakfast at the Annex Hotel is served in the cool Lobby Bar and features fare provided by the Tempered Room and Ripe Nutrition

