

SPECIAL REPORT: LIFE-CHANGING TRIPS THAT HELP THE WORLD

Condé Nast Traveler

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A \$25,000
DREAM
TRIP
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TRUTH IN TRAVEL

MAY 2008

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL

HOT LIST

Trump International Hotel & Tower, Chicago, Illinois

******* Restraint trumps gilt at this next-generation Trump project guided by Donald Jr., Ivanka, and Eric Trump. Spacious rooms—the smallest is 600 square feet—done in soothing gray and cream tones make you feel more resident than transient, aided by the condo-hotel's full kitchens with top-of-the-line Sub-Zero refrigerators, Wolf ovens, Miele cooktops, and Nespresso machines. Besting the high-style comforts are the views: The hotel occupies a prime riverside perch, taking in the Chicago River, Lake Michigan, and surrounding architectural jewels. Curved, east-facing, floor-to-ceiling windows look out on the Gothic Tribune Tower and the white terra-cotta-tiled Wrigley Building, the same view framed by the sixteenth-floor restaurant, Sixteen, where chef Frank Brunacci offers a ten-course "blind" tasting menu. The smartly dressed staff ensure that all guests are treated like VIPs—doors held, names used in greeting, DVDs not in the loaner library magically procured and waiting, with popcorn, in the room. Opened with just 50 rooms in January, en route to 339 when construction is complete later this year, the hotel is already drawing a status-conscious crowd spilling on \$25-per-bottle Swarovski-crystal-encrusted Bling H₂O, the top seller of the minibar's "water library." **When to go:** Year-round but especially in winter, when you can sightsee out your window despite the deep freeze outside. **Which room to book:** Suites ending in 00 have the best, east-facing views (312-588-8000; trumpchicagohotel.com; doubles, \$425-\$525).

2008

THE YEAR'S 136
TOP NEW HOTELS*

NEW HOTELS*

UNITED STATES

Grand Del Mar, Del Mar, Calif.
Solage Calistoga, Napa Valley, Calif.
Colony Palms Hotel, Palm Springs, Calif.
Ivy Hotel, San Diego, Calif.
Hotel Oceana, Santa Monica, Calif.
Arrabelle at Vail Square, Vail, Colo.
St. Regis, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
Angler's Boutique Resort, Miami, Fla.
Tides South Beach, Miami Beach, Fla.
Hotel Sax, Chicago, Ill.
Trump International Hotel & Tower, Chicago, Ill.
Liberty Hotel, Boston, Mass.
The Palazzo, Las Vegas, Nev.
Bowery Hotel, New York, N.Y.
Duane Street Hotel, New York, N.Y.
The Plaza, New York, N.Y.
Renaissance Providence Hotel, Providence, R.I.
Ritz-Carlton, Dallas, Tex.
Sky Lodge, Park City, Utah
Hotel Terra, Jackson Hole, Wyo.