

choc-a-block—just imagine a Vegas pool party with a DJ at the decks but in fact that only adds to the charm. When taking a dip or lunching by the pool, the views of the palm trees and San Jacinto Mountains are to die for. Staying here is a full on, California Desert dream and just like everybody else, you'll be taking photos left and right and centre: the decor is magical and the California Desert light exceptional.

Families can go for the King Lounge that sleeps four with a king size bed and twin beds separated off by curtains. The other rooms all give onto patios with or without a chiminea. Commune Design's boho chic interior gives pride of place to natural materials, artisanal textiles, mid-century modern furniture and a palette informed by the colours of the desert.

As for food, the King's Highway restaurant plays the roadside diner card in a nod to the years when the premises were home to a typical American motel and they serve all the classic American dishes (Caesar salad, grilled chicken sandwich, mac & cheese). As the soundproofing in the rooms isn't always that good, it's better to ask for a room away from the two pools—just in case there's some wild party going down. Just pop on a vinyl on your room's record player, sit back and relax.



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## Nine Orchard

DESIGN: SOLID, STUDIO CASTELLANO  
NEW YORK | NEW YORK, USA  
116 ROOMS – FROM 505 € PER NIGHT  
NINEORCHARD.COM

One area of New York to keep your eye on is Dimes Square, a little pocket on the Lower East Side bordering on Chinatown—and it is here that Nine Orchard opened its doors last year. This little gem of a hotel is located in a Beaux-Arts building dating back to 1912, which was originally home to the Jarmulowsky Bank. Each of the 116 rooms spread over 13 floors features moulded ceilings, immense windows that let the natural light flood in and built-in speakers. Incidentally, the com-

fortable, chic and minimalist rooms are all numbered like New York apartments: a word to the wise, 5K offers views of the Chrysler Building and the Empire State Building.

Last but not least, the menus at the Corner Bar, the Swan Room (a cocktail bar situated under the lobby's incredibly high domed ceiling) and the Amado Grill all feature dishes by New York super chef Ignacio Mattos (Estela, Lodi etc), who used to live locally. Top that!



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## Little Cat Lodge

DESIGN: LOVE IS ENOUGH  
HILLSDALE | NEW YORK, USA  
14 ROOMS – FROM 275 € PER NIGHT  
LITTLECATLODGE.COM

Located in a small ski resort in Upstate New York, the Little Cat Lodge is the new name of a hundred-year old inn that has been renovated by the architects from Love Is Enough. It now has a mountain chalet vibe that even extends to the restaurant, which serves Alpine-inspired dishes. The former inn was bought by the famous New York restaurateur duo Matt Kliegman and Noah Bernamoff with the (excellent) idea of creating a cosy, wood-panelled getaway full of bespoke wooden furniture, vintage lounge chairs and plaids to snuggle up in. There's plenty to do here from skiing in the winter to hiking in the summer and the sauna all year round and, when the weather's warm, you can enjoy a dip in the pool, while admiring the views of Catamount Mountain. Staying here is undoubtedly a very stylish way of answering the call of the wild!



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## The James Bradley

DESIGN: SEBASTIAN ZUCHOWICKI  
BRADLEY BEACH | NEW JERSEY, USA  
17 ROOMS – FROM 175 € PER NIGHT  
THEJAMESBRADLEYBEACH.COM

Feeling nostalgic about his childhood holidays in Jersey Shore—and as the ideal place to stay didn't seem to exist—New York-based property developer George DiStefano decided to have his very own hotel. Travelling back and forth from New York, he finally found a small family-run bed and breakfast for sale less than 100 metres from Bradley Beach. The building dating back to the Victorian period required major renovation work, so DiStefano enlisted friend and interior designer Sebastian Zuchowicki. The result is a real gem of a hotel: The James Bradley.

Each of the 17 rooms are different and decorated in a classical style reminiscent of Italian homes in the Fifties. The two men sourced vintage furniture and objects from eBay, Etsy and flea markets as far away as France and also acquired abstract paintings to exhibit. They had some decorative elements made locally, one example being the sublimely simple wooden bedside tables and the stoneware lamps on them that have more of a design feel. Some of the items are for sale, so don't hesitate to ask if anything takes your fancy. The neutral-hued bed linen is also local as it is made by seamstresses in nearby Asbury Park. And the same goes for the snacks you can order from your room.

There's an almost obsessive attention to detail throughout and The James Bradley is somewhat out of place on this part of the coast that is better known for having been the setting of a very popular, eponymous, reality TV show. However, New Yorkers who have already been won over by the hotel don't hesitate to head south and enjoy this new weekend destination. What about you?

Photos: Stephen Kent Johnson; Chris Mottolini; William Laird

Photo: Laurent Fabre



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## Kea Retreat

C/O ENAT AND ZVIKI ESHET  
KEA | GREECE  
7 SUITES – 2,400 € FOR A 6-DAY RETREAT  
KEARETREAT.COM

**Family-owned Kea Retreat is hidden away on verdant Kea, a little-known Cycladic island not far from Athens. This paradisaical yoga retreat set down next to a remote Mediterranean beach is still a well-kept secret, but it's the perfect place to experience the magic of a Greek summer and switch off, while being pampered by Yoni and Uri Eshet.**

The rising sun warms the bushes of thyme whose intoxicating perfume floats in the summer air, while the gentle lapping of the waves drifts through the bedroom's half-open shutters conjuring up visions of a refreshing dip in the waters. Kea Retreat is a whole world of wellness by the sea that was created by

materials to create a calm and soothing atmosphere. The superb kitchen in the large house at the heart of the property looks more like an alchemist's laboratory and, should you be feeling peckish, there are always fruit and pastries on the dining room table. Outside on the veranda, a rattan sofa and chairs look out to sea and fabric lampshades dance in the breeze.

Instructors come from all over the world for the 6-day yoga retreats, each with a different approach and vision. For example, former contemporary dancer and friend of Yoni, Hagar Shachal, works with the healing power of movement. Yoga besides, Kea Retreat is a convivial place where, like in a Greek tavern, it isn't rare to get up and dance after dinner! *"Kea Retreat is the fruit of the marriage between Buddha and Zorba the Greek, a place that provides the body and mind with nourishment and where time seems to stand still as you while away your days swimming, doing yoga and eating delicious meals"*, says Yoni.

Yoni's younger brother Uri, who has worked in several leading Michelin-starred restaurants, delights guests with dishes whose recipes he guards jealously, such as a mi-cuit, olive branch grilled groper, served with a pepper plant leaf, green garlic oil and caper velouté. *"The soba noodles and Valonia oak acorns served with a courgette leaf, garam and mint flower broth is a dish I am particularly fond of, because it tells the story of Kea"*, he says.

Valonia oaks grow all over the island. In times gone by, their acorn cups were used for tanning leather and the acorns themselves ensured the islanders avoided famine. Marcie Mayer, a Californian who lives on Kea, has been trying to convince the locals of this tree's exceptional potential. She makes flour from its acorns and bakes delicious cookies that you can buy from Aristaos, a store selling the very best local products. Ioulida—the island's capital with its narrow winding streets and red roofed houses that rise like an amphitheatre around the main square—is just a few kilometres away. It was once home to the famous painter Alekos Fassianos and you can still find traces of his work there.

The best way to explore Kea is on foot. If you head south, you'll find a path along a valley that leads to the poetic remains of the ancient city of Karthaia. Greek summers are truly something wonderful, full of secret beaches and any number of marvels to discover!