

QATAR HOTLIST 2022

OUR ROUND-UP OF THE BEST NEW, AND TIMELESS, ADDRESSES IN QATAR





THE RITZ-CARLTON SHARQ VILLAGE

BEST FOR ARABIAN DREAMS

Appropriately named, you'll feel like you are sauntering in an atmospheric Arabian village – albeit a very swanky, five-star one – while exploring the beautifully thought-out Ritz-Carlton. What sets this resort apart, aside from its naturally carved beach (a rarity in Doha with its manmade islands) and huge 23-treatment-room spa, is its unique layout; 14 villas, each with an elegant internal courtyard, house ornate, regionally-inspired accommodation with four-poster beds, soaking tubs, and woven brocade accents.

The royal theme continues with a not-to-be-missed afternoon tea at Al Jalsa, rich saffron-flecked Persian stalwarts at Parisa (book a terrace table for Doha Bay skyline views) and a sumptuous locally-accented buffet at Al Liwan. A short drive from the airport, the resort's bevy of discerning regulars love that it has a real sense of place: it wears its Middle Eastern mantle proudly, with architectural flourishes like wind towers, fountains, natural stone tones and towering palm trees immediately linking it with its location.

Doubles from about AED 1,135; ritzcarlton.com



W DOHA

BEST FOR DINING AND NIGHTLIFE

There's seemingly always a crowd outside W Doha as the buzz from revving supercars and the chatter of well-heeled groups create an exuberant atmosphere. The hotel has been at the epicentre of Doha's trendy nightlife and dining scene since it opened its doors as the luxury lifestyle brand's first outpost in the Middle East, regularly hosting DJ events, fashion shows and masterclasses. Commanding a spot in futuristic West Bay, the setting couldn't be more fitting: sparkling and cutting-edge, energetic yet elevated. From the moment you enter you'll feel like you're in a bustling New York City address – the brand was after all born in the Big Apple in 1998 – with its signature playful style echoed throughout, from the lobby to the modern rooms, suites and apartments. Two restaurants, Market and Spice Market, are overseen by three Michelin-starred chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten, while La Spiga by Paper Moon serves playful Italian and slick rooftop bar Wahm sees international DJs take to the decks. W Doha is also home to Qatar's outpost of Peruvian hotspot Coya – a favourite with the city's social set – and is soon to open Ruya, serving contemporary Anatolian cuisine. A Sisley Paris Spa; FIT, a state-of-the-art fitness facility; and WET, a glamorous temperature-controlled pool with underwater music, multi-coloured fibre-optic lighting and dramatic black mosaic tiles ensure the trendy hotel is equally functional. *Doubles from about AED 850; wdoha.com*



MANDARIN ORIENTAL DOHA

BEST FOR ITS LUX LOCATION

Perched amid the vibrant, artsy heart of the city, within walking distance of top attractions like the National Museum of Qatar and Museum of Islamic Art, this David Collins designed property masterfully incorporates a sense of place – gilt reliefs, latticework and daanshal beams showcase traditional Qatari architecture – while ensuring it also blends in seamlessly to its modern Downtown Doha setting. The anchor of luxurious Barahat Msheireb square, teaming with designer boutiques and chic restaurants, two of the Mandarin Oriental's biggest draws are its ability to house large families in one to four-bedroom apartments and its nine top-tier culinary spots, which will satiate every craving from the Cake Shop's decadent desserts to plump har gau at Cantonese Liang while regional celebrity chef Izu's eponymous Mediterranean outpost has secured hip hangout status. The Sabit Akkaya spa is another highlight with Middle Eastern tinged treatments like a Rose Healing Ritual and the Singing Sand Dunes retreat – a massage done on a bed with quartz-flecked sand – drawing from indigenous culture. If you want to splurge you'll opt to be pampered in one of the VIP suites or secure one of the prized cabanas to pose by the outdoor pool.

Doubles from about AED 1,715; mandarinoriental.com

QATAR HOT LIST

MARSA MALAZ KEMPINSKI THE PEARL

BEST FOR RESORT LIVING

Once you check in to this opulent Kempinski resort, with its prime positioning on The Pearl, you won't want to leave its private purpose-built island. And really, there is no reason to as you'll find everything you need within the walls of the 281-room property decked out in chic desert hues. From the nearly 500-foot-long soft sand private beach to the multitude of pools, seven restaurants and four lounges to the Clarins Spa – book ahead for the popular Signature Hammam – you'll be spoilt for choice when deciding how to while away your day. Jump on a buggy and get whisked off to indulge in Argentinian steak at Richard Sandoval's Toro Toro, head for the happening scene at Japanese Nozomi or book ahead for Spanish culinary go-to El Faro. Try to secure a room (which start at a super spacious 807 square feet) facing the Arabian Gulf – you'll find it difficult to tear your eyes away from the serene scene offered up from your private balcony.

Doubles from about AED 795; kempinski.com



THE RITZ-CARLTON DOHA

BEST FOR OLD-WORLD GRANDEUR

A private island resort steeped in old-world elegance. That's what The Ritz-Carlton brings to Doha, a hotel which opened its doors in 2001 and has since held a special place in the hearts of locals and travellers alike. The property, given a shiny new makeover in 2020, sits in the West Bay lagoon overlooking the glamorous yacht-filled Ritz Marina, benefitting from the rare position of feeling away from it all, while being right in the heart of it. The private island sits in the city's most fast-paced district and beside one of Qatar's most exciting up-and-coming commercial hubs, Lusail City, yet driving over the bridge you're greeted by nothing but ocean, beach and marina views. Expected from a brand so synonymous with luxury, the tone is set upon arrival, with the lobby home to one of the largest chandeliers in the Middle East, gold accents, marble floors and impressive floral displays. Guests can spend days lolling in the palm-fringed pool, complete with waterfall and swim-up bar, at the newly refurbished Ritz-Carlton Spa or dining sultry STK, French Brasserie Sel & Miel or waterside B-Lounge where weekend brunches are a perennially popular affair. The Ritz-Carlton Doha is a true bubble of peace in Doha's beating heart.

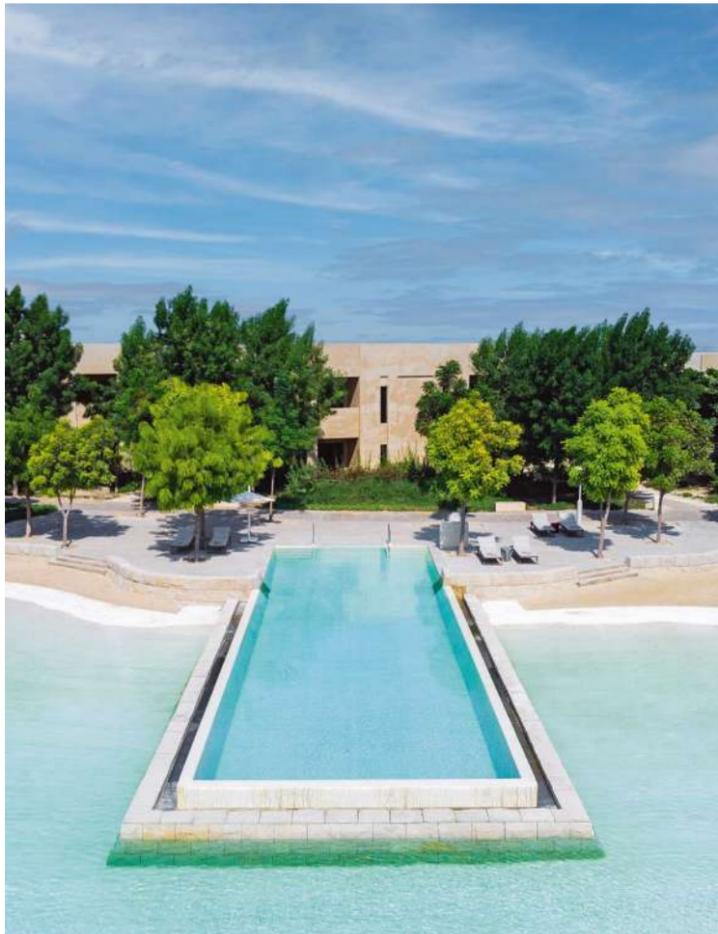
Doubles from about AED 1,100; ritzcarlton.com

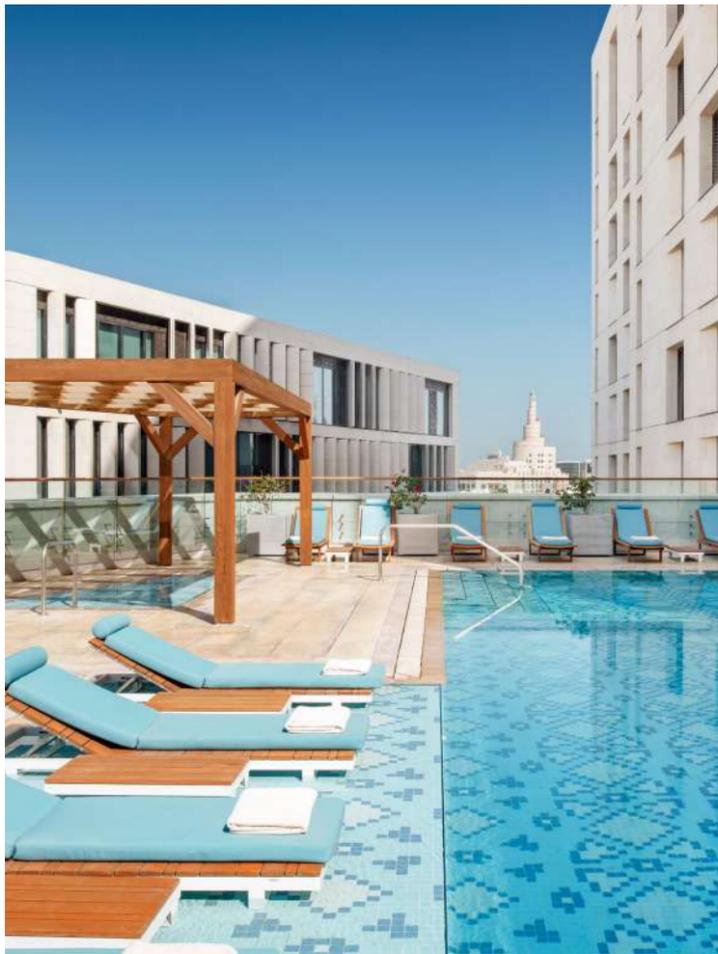


ZULAL WELLNESS RESORT BY CHIVA SOM

BEST FOR HOLISTIC HEALING

Its sister resort in royal Thai seaside spot Hua Hin is world-renowned for its advanced holistic health regimen but Zulal Wellness Resort ups the ante by not only embracing Chiva Som's ethos but further enhancing it by incorporating traditional Arab and Islamic medicine (TAIM). On the edge of the water in coastal Khasooma, a 90-minute drive north of Doha to a secluded enclave, the property is divided into family-friendly Zulal Discovery and the adult-only Zulal Serenity. And while it ticks all the boxes when it comes to luxurious hotels with swimming pools, restaurants and kids clubs, this verdant retreat's USP is its TAIM philosophy, which comes armed with a full brigade of advanced specialists able to implement it. From ayurvedic doctors to dermatologists, internists and nurses, they've got the personnel to ensure your system gets bio-hacked and reset with a customised programme. Dieticians tweak menus with no refined sugar, dairy or gluten – though you wouldn't realise anything was amiss once you tasted their take on dishes like rice-wrapped lobster ravioli, cashew crème brulee and moreish breads. Other hotels claim you'll emerge feeling like a new person – stick to their suggestions and Zulal can guarantee it. *Doubles from about AED 1,695; zulal.com*



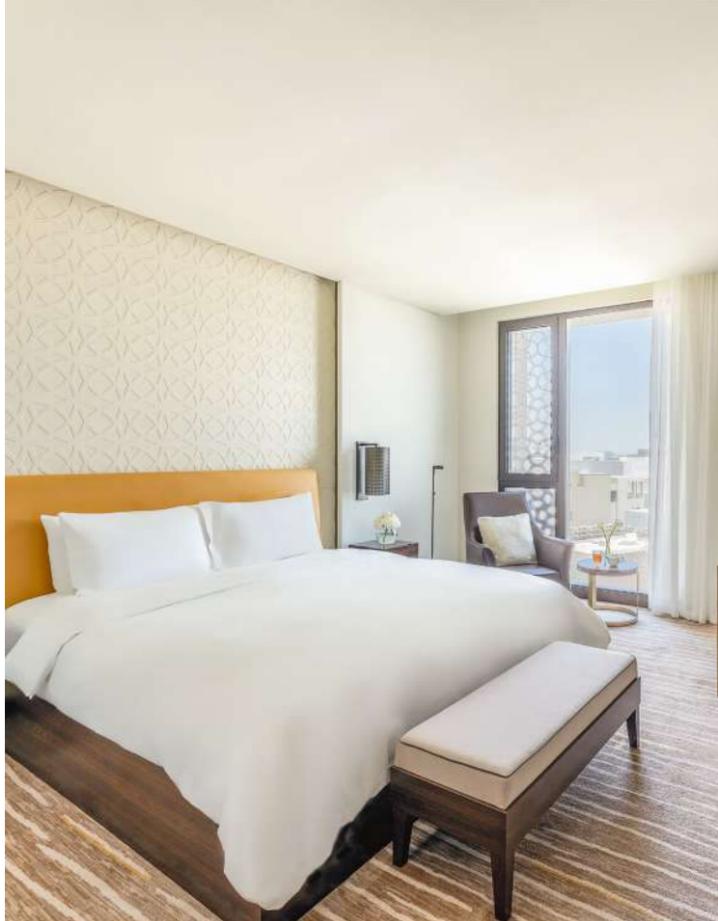
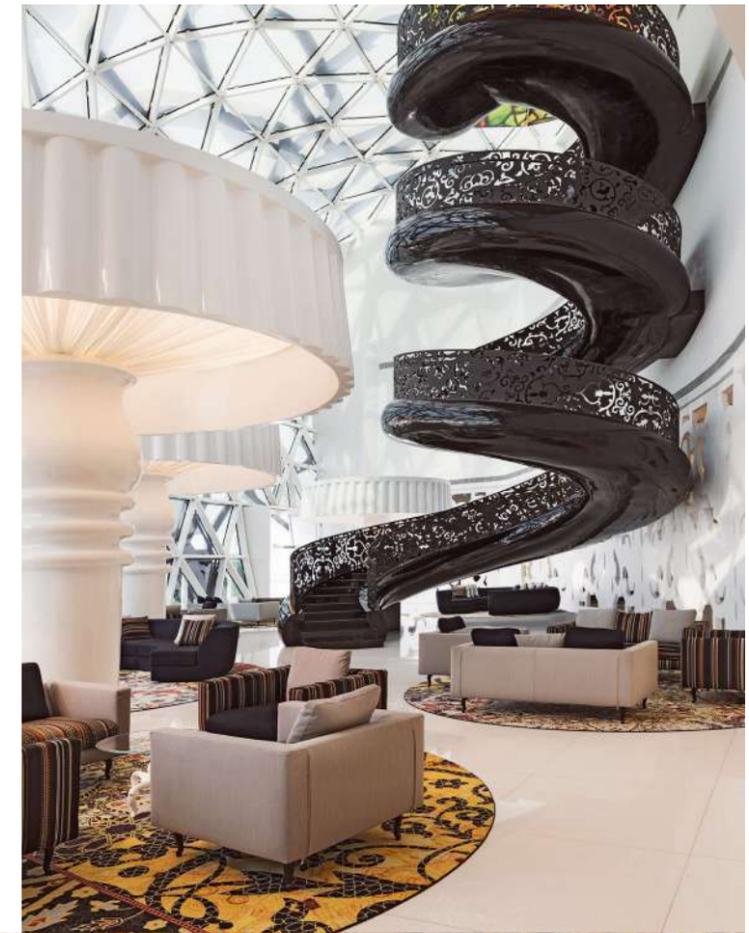


MONDRIAN DOHA

BEST FOR QUIRKY DESIGN

Step into Mondrian Doha and you'll feel like you've fallen into the pages of *Alice in Wonderland*, or, perhaps the fantastical mind of a madcap designer. No wonder, as the interiors were dreamt up by Dutch legend Marcel Wanders. Located on the edge of the West Bay Lagoon, the trendy hotel was brought to the region by uber-cool lifestyle brand Ennismore – of SLS, Hyde and 25hours fame – originating in Los Angeles and landing in the city in 2017 to huge excitement. Inside there's a masterful marriage of traditional and modernity, local and international. Each quirky room brings forth the unexpected: think checkerboard tiles, chandeliers and a stained glass dome in the pool area, plus a twisting black spiral staircase and glossy white pillars in the lobby. The hotel itself is housed in a building designed to represent Qatar's National bird, the falcon. Striking guest rooms and suites offer a new interpretation of the *Arabian Nights* tale, a rooftop bar offers panoramic city views and its upscale restaurants come with international acclaim; helmed by both Iron Chef Morimoto and Wolfgang Puck. Celebrating its fifth year in 2022, Mondrian Doha has not only cemented itself as one of the city's coolest and most fascinating hotels but raised the bar for all design hotels to come.

Doubles from about AED 740; mondriandoha.com

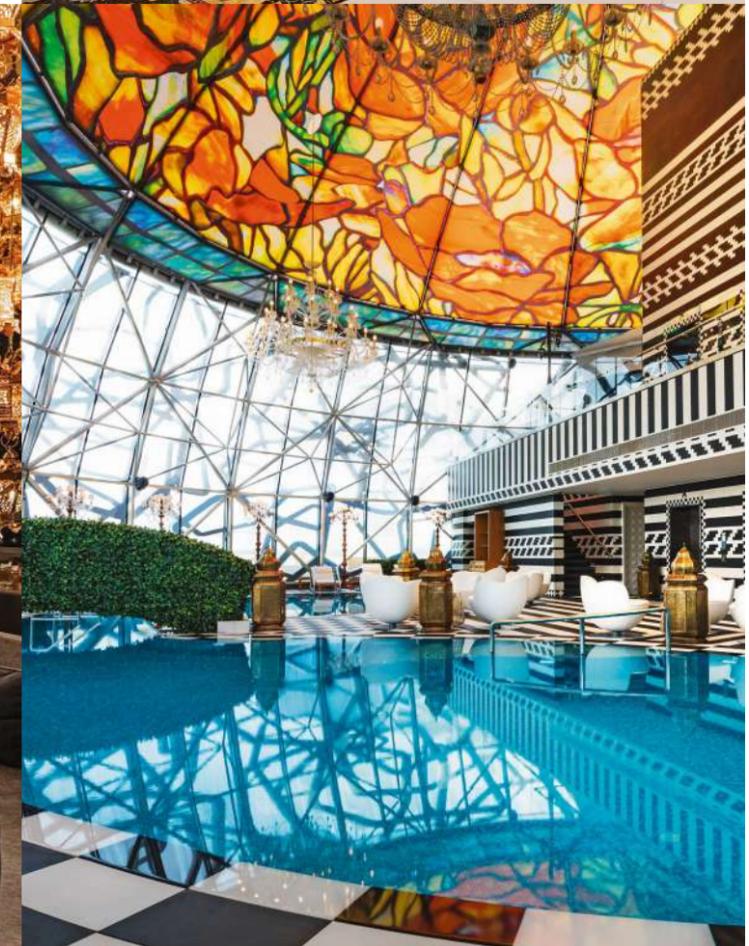


ALWADI DOHA – MGALLERY HOTEL COLLECTION

BEST FOR CULTURE LOVERS

Doha is a multifaceted city, its neighbourhoods each bringing a distinctly different vibe. West Bay is flashy futurism and towering skyscrapers, The Pearl has laid-back café culture and pastel-hued residences while new Msheireb Downtown Doha is the centre of culture, innovation and sustainability. Msheireb is a mini metropolis in itself, all low-rise alabaster buildings, coffee shops, museums, climate-controlled squares and creative hubs, and the location for stylish boutique hotel brand MGallery's approachable and contemporary Doha debut. Alwadi Doha – MGallery Hotel Collection has a distinctly cool lifestyle vibe, from the AtTEAtude lounge & majlis and rooftop bar with its extensive mixology menu to the super modern gym and serene spa. Head to the top floor pool for views over the roofs out to the Arabian Sea – you'll get the same vistas as at competitors charging much higher room rates – and enjoy a sundowner while you're there. Interiors throughout and in the 213 rooms and suites blend traditional Qatari and Arabic-inspired features with a colour palette inspired by desert dunes ensuring a calming, yet chic hotel experience.

Doubles from about AED 450; alwadihoteldoha.com



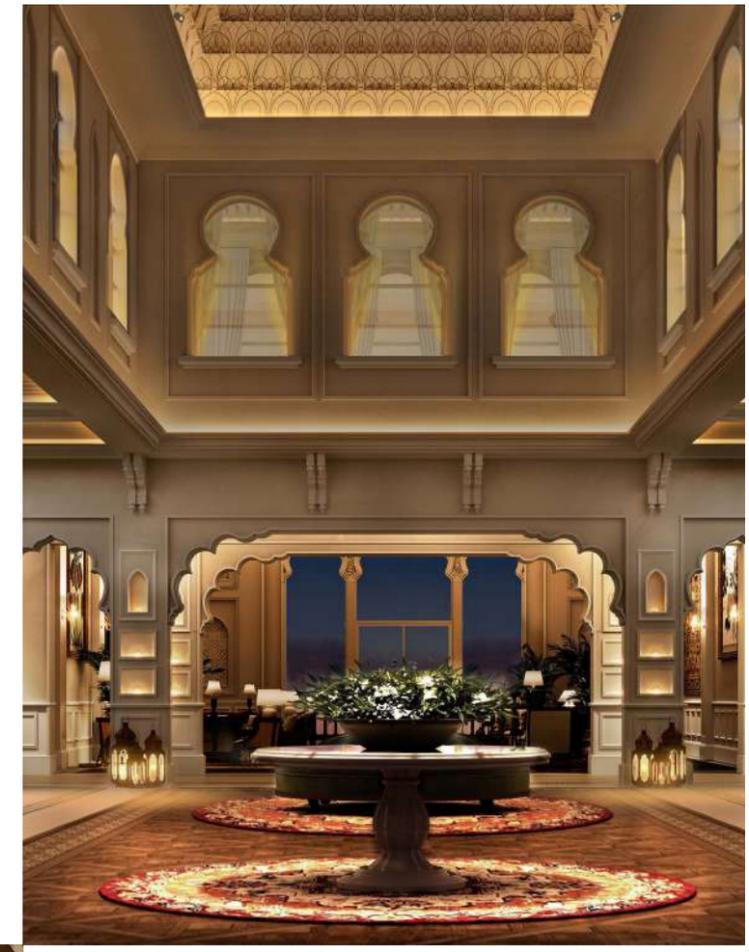


THE CHEDI KATARAHOTEL & RESORT

BEST FOR OTTOMAN INDULGENCE

Mughal elegance personified, this brand new Chedi – the third in the region – is creating a real buzz in the Qatari capital’s hospitality scene. Boutique in inspiration, given it has just 59 rooms and suites and 32 villas (hidden amid the landscaped gardens of Katara Hills), it’s set in an incredible 66,000-square-foot area, giving you an idea of the sheer sense of privacy and space that pervades. Fans of both desert and sea will be satiated with its setting in between both, with the central Lobby Lounge – your first glimpse inside the resort – setting the regal Ottoman-inspired tone with 10-metre ceilings, traditional artwork and a window framing uninterrupted views to the azure pool and Persian Gulf outside. The stand-alone beach club promises to be a prime destination in its own right, with the infinity pool a focal point, while its proximity to the soon-to-be-buzzing Katara Cultural Village in the northern part of Doha, ticking yet another important box.

Opens 1 November; ghmhotels.com

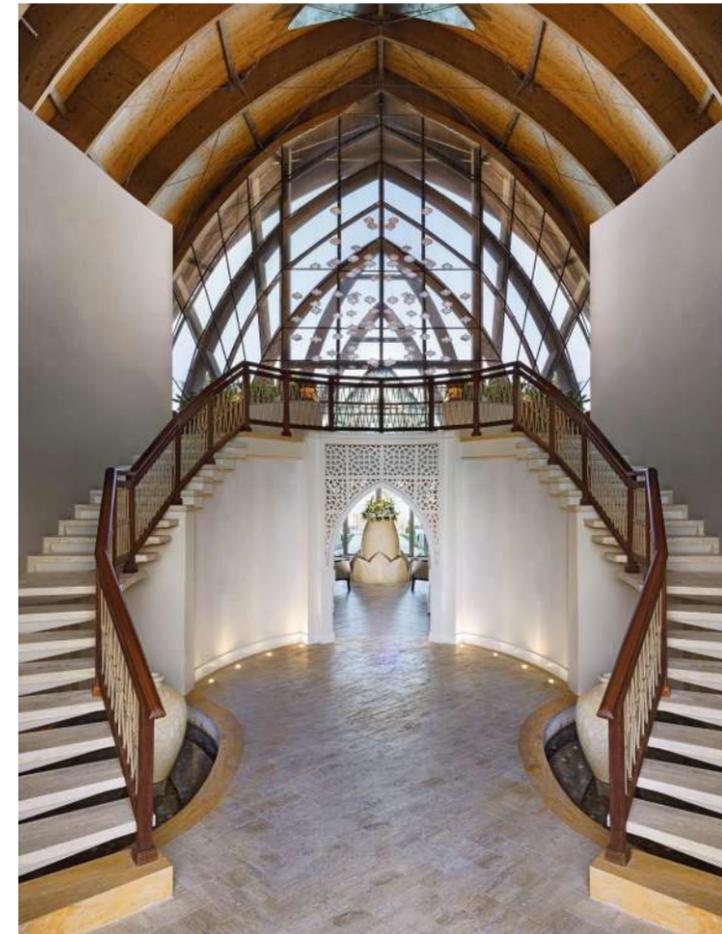


ANDAZ DOHA

BEST FOR COSMOPOLITAN BUZZ

Among the prestigious global brands to debut in Qatar this year is Andaz Doha, the fun, frivolous and fabulous lifestyle offering from global giant Hyatt. Much like its sister hotels in leading cities like New York City, Dubai and Amsterdam, woven into the fabric of the rich Qatari culture, Andaz Doha is quirky, modern and inviting, sitting in West Bay with views overlooking the Arabian Gulf. Embracing the brand’s DNA, it’s more than just a hotel, but a dining destination and social hub. The 256 rooms are contemporary and design-led, yet spacious and comfortable – highlights being traditional Al Sadu weaving patterned tapestries, iridescent orbs and kaleidoscopic shapes. The 32 suites and four royal suites up the ante, while the 56 premium residences are for longer, languid stays. Elsewhere, three distinctive and forward-thinking eateries take guests on a gastronomic journey. South African The Salt Road is an exploration of the earth’s oldest and most vital mineral, Mr & Mrs Hawker serves the flavours of Singapore from the city’s only enclosed outdoor terrace while Mumble Jungle delves into the sultry world of jazz with Afro-Cuban creations. Best of all, Andaz Doha has all the comforts of its grande dame competitors: a 25-metre outdoor pool, fitness centre and spa.

Doubles from about AED 970; andazdoha.com

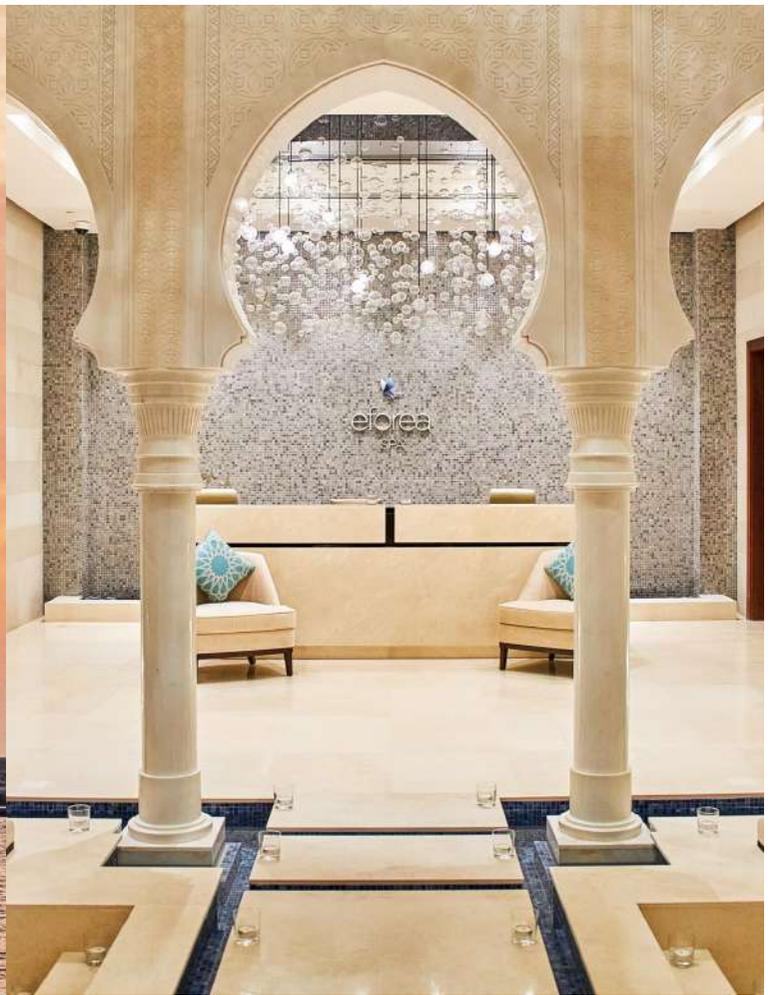
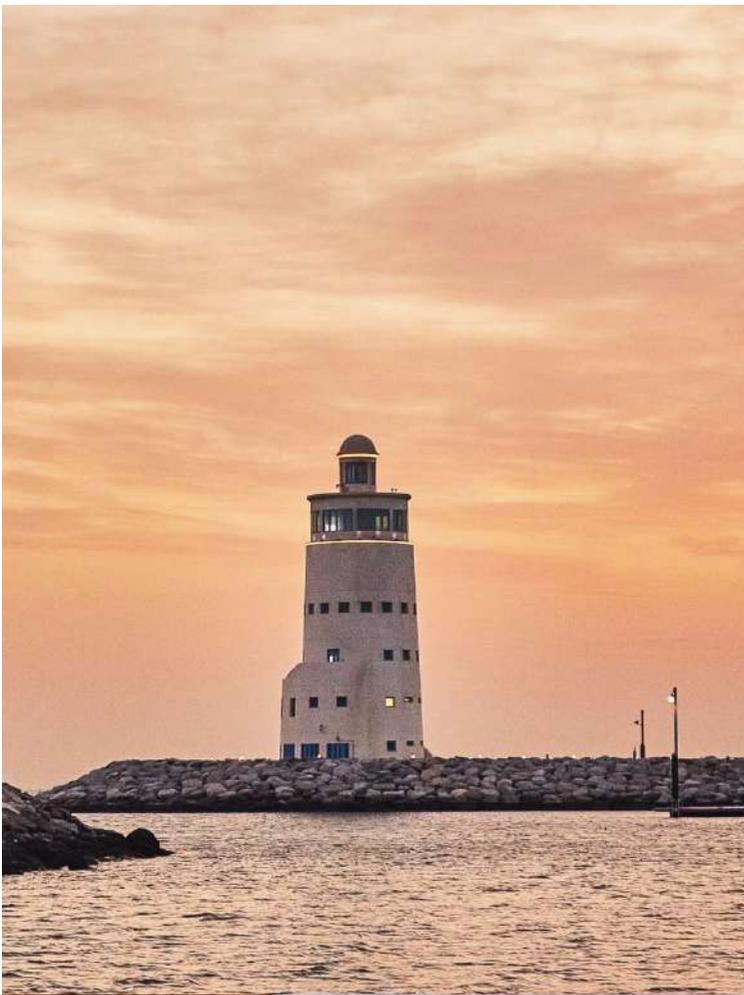


BANANA ISLAND RESORT DOHA BY ANANTARA

BEST FOR SPLENDID ISOLATION

Half an hour by catamaran from the mainland, with a prime location dotted with palm trees on the offshore Banana Island, this groundbreaking, alcohol-free 141-key resort by Anantara boasts many of the region’s firsts. The most exciting? Much sought-after, sprawling overwater villas. Tear yourself away from aquatic sightings – all rooms offer Instagram-friendly ocean views – to lounge on the pristine, crescent-shaped beach, savour perfectly al dente pasta at Riva restaurant or get restored at the Balance Wellness Centre where Zest’s organic juices will jump-start your healthy revival. Those who take pleasure in packing their breaks with activities can complete the diary with an array of outdoor water-based adventures like kayaking, snorkelling adventures, diving excursions, fishing or can learn to ride the waves in a special surf pool. More sedate options include catching a movie at the on-site cinema or going bowling. From the moment you step into the Al Shyoukh transfer terminal that transports you to the island, you are steeped in lily-adorned luxury that will make you feel like you’ve embarked on an exotic getaway.

Doubles from about AED 1,035; anantara.com



HILTON SALWA BEACH RESORT & VILLAS

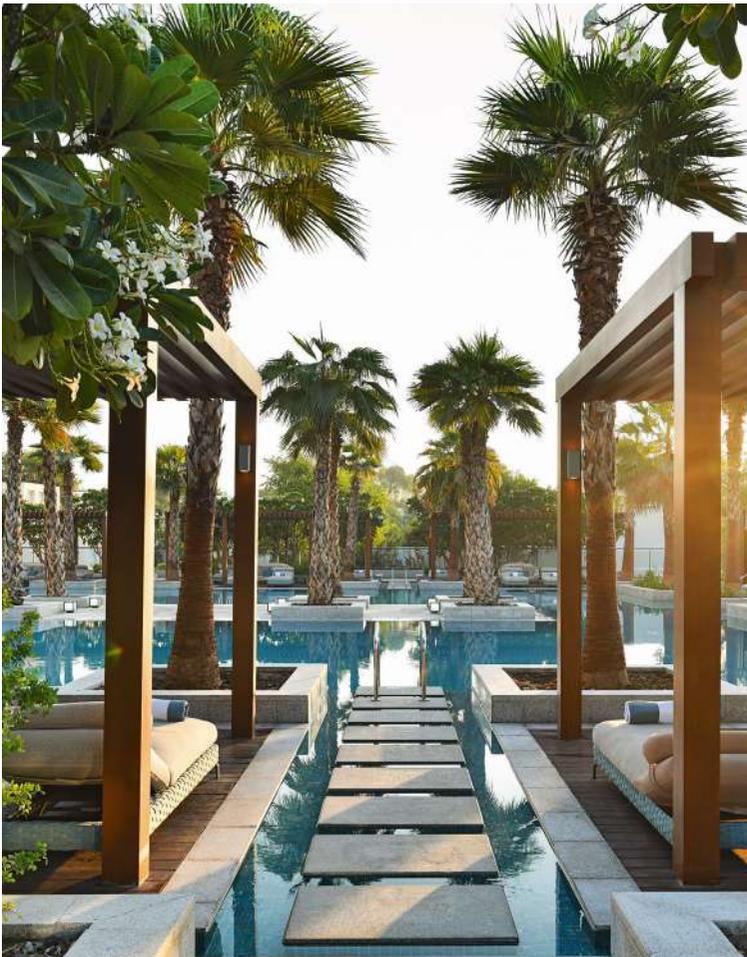
BEST FOR FAMILY FUN

While the spotlight is largely on Doha, away from the pulsating city lies a largely untouched coastline. On this coastline, just an hour's drive from the city, is where hotel giant Hilton has opened one of its newest and most dynamic beach resorts, Hilton Salwa Beach Resort & Villas. Occupying a 3.5km stretch of private sands 100km southwest of the capital, its 84 Beach Villas, some with four bedrooms, are awash in calming blues and whites, coming with private pools, rooftop terraces and direct beach access, while 31 Arabian Village townhouses come in rich jewel tones and offer views onto the manicured gardens. Over in the main hotel, there are 246 rooms and suites, and across the spread-out resort, 20 dining options satiate every guest's appetite. Try an evening under the stars at Arabic venue Levantine, sample the fruits of Italy at Dante or perhaps take afternoon tea, served with an Arabian twist, in the Nesma lounge. The highlight, however, is Kaia Beach Club, a slick Mediterranean-inspired outpost with breezy bites, beverages and live DJs. The aim here is to arrive and never need to leave, with an exhilarating waterpark with more than 28 rides, slides and attractions, a private marina for boat trips, watersport options and a sports academy with football, basketball and tennis courts. *Doubles from about AED 1,200; hilton.com*

BANYAN TREE DOHA AT LA CIGALE MUSHAIREB

BEST FOR CITY CENTRE RELAXATION

Jacques Garcia was the creative force behind Banyan Tree Doha's aesthetic and the renowned interiors expert's discerning stamp is clear from the outset. With 215 spacious serviced apartments and 126 rooms and suites, it's a substantial property in every sense with guests lauding its Doha Oasis complex location – complete with mall and theme park – as being just one of the perks of picking this as your Qatari base. You'll be wowed from the moment you step into the soaring atrium, decked out in sculptural metallic accents and choreographed lighting. The culinary clan make a bee-line to signature Thai eatery Saffron, one of five feasting options that also feature Indian and Italian cuisines. Visitors can toast their trip at the aptly named Vertigo rooftop lounge, that transforms into an alfresco space thanks to a snazzy retractable ceiling. The Rainforest oriental spa, showcasing Far Eastern treatments and hospitality, more than lives up to the Anantara pedigree too. Our top tip? It's worth upgrading to get access to the private Atlantic Club which adds yet another layer of spoiling (think delicious snacks and refreshments on demand in an intimate clubby atmosphere). And, if you're lucky, you'll check into a room on a high floor with a coveted corniche view. *Doubles from about AED 945; banyantree.com*



AL MESSILA, A LUXURY COLLECTION RESORT & SPA

BEST FOR PAMPERING GETAWAYS

You'll feel a million miles away from the hustle and bustle of the city at this serene spa oasis situated in Doha's Al Rayyan suburb, just twenty minutes from the city centre. Known for its state-of-the-art 14,000-square-metre wellness facilities – though paradoxically perhaps it also hosts eight restaurants, including noted Chef Pino Lavarra's Veritas – the luxury resort's aesthetics lure with picturesque waterways that trickle through the palatial Arabesque compound dotted with lush Mimosa, Acacia and Sidra trees. Contemporary interiors ensure the 152 rooms and villas – some with private pools – serve up all the creature comforts you'd expect from a five-star property. Guests come primarily to soak in the hydro-thermal health spa, divided into four Floral, Mystic, Oriental and Mineral zones, but then tend to elongate their trip when they realise just how tranquil a setting this really is. Unusually for a pampering haven, children are welcome and well-catered for thanks to The Little Explorers Kids' Club and a dedicated pool, making this an attractive proposition for families looking for a getaway too.

Doubles from about AED 1,185; marriott.com