

Best luggage trolley

Bad Schörgau, South Tyrol

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First impressions are set the very moment that guests arrive. For a sense of place when putting down our totes we're enamoured with the portage equipment at Hotel Bad Schörgau in the forested Sarntal Valley in South Tyrol, northern Italy. Made by designer Georg Muehlmann, the cart is built from solid Bavarian ash fashioned at right angles and comes with detachable coat clip and felt-covered base. — IC bad-schoergau.com



Best for bags

Nanamica

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Japanese brand Nanamica expresses its fondness for utility with its triple black selection, a trio of Cordura nylon and leather-trim bags. The only drawback? Choosing one of the stylish designs. — FW nanamica.com



Most bucolic escape

São Lourenço do Barrocal, Portugal

Surrounded by undulating plains and cork trees, São Lourenço do Barrocal lies in the heart of the Alentejo, Portugal's big-sky country and agricultural heartland. Close to fortified Roman towns, Moorish ruins and the vast Alqueva Lake, the hotel is part of a 200-year-old farming estate that is replete with vineyards and olive groves. Its whitewashed stone buildings with terracotta-tiled roofs have been carefully refurbished by Pritzker-winning architect Eduardo Souto de Moura, who has carved out rooms, cottages and a spa for guests in former stables and barns. An idyllic refuge. — IC barrocal.pt



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Best inner-city stay
 Chiltern Firehouse, London

Its bar may be a headline-grabbing watering hole and its restaurant beloved for business lunches but Monocle's near neighbour in Marylebone, Chiltern Firehouse, is also a hotel par excellence. The 26 rooms spread across three floors of this 19th-century Victorian red-brick building guarantee a quiet spot for a kip – regardless of what riotous party may be brewing downstairs. Capacious closets can hold gifts from nearby menswear shop Trunk and the minibar comes stocked with ready-to-pour cocktails that have been whisked at the downstairs bar. Room details that make the difference: the international plug sockets and tactile bakelite switches. — CHR chilternfirehouse.com



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Best smart travel jacket
 Descente Blanc, Pause

Men who want to look and travel smart should look no further than Japanese sportswear brand Descente (whose shop in Tokyo is a treat, see *issue 88*). This versatile jacket is made from a breathable, stretchy and comfortable fabric. Originally developed and employed for the brand's sportswear, the material makes the Descente Pause jacket light and packable but ensures it emerges crisp with the beautiful silhouette in shape and ready to impress. — JT descenteb Blanc.com



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Best for a drink in hand
 Tankards, at the Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong

There are some customer-loyalty programmes that are worth going the extra mile for. Hong Kong's Captain's Bar, located at the Mandarin Oriental hotel, has created a reward for continued custom. A silver tankard, sporting an engraving of your name, awaits those who choose to favour the upmarket watering hole. All beers here are served in a silver tankard but having your very own tucked away makes for a fine upgrade. The half-century-old space is certainly one worth coming back to – favoured for its nightly jazz performances and crowd of dapper regulars. — NSG mandarinoriental.com

Best for a refreshing spritz
 Colony 2139 fabric mist

Colony 2139 is the joint work of Japanese retail entrepreneur Ichiro Yamamoto and American Frank Delgadillo, founder of the creative agency Townes. Both share a love of mid-century furniture and functional design and have together created a lifestyle and clothing brand that encapsulates their tasteful aesthetic. We give the nod to their Japan-made rum-and-mandarin fabric mist. One spritz will perk up the weariest of well-travelled garments. — FW colony2139.com



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Most-anticipated touchdown
 The Bombardier C Series (CS100 & CS300)

Canadian aircraft builder Bombardier says it is nearly time for the first commercial flight of the Bombardier CS100. Come 2016, Swiss International Air Lines will be the first to use the jet, which the company says burns 20 per cent less fuel than comparable in-production aircraft. The long-awaited medium-haul airliner is aimed at competing with the small end of both Boeing and Airbus's product line. The programme has had some hiccups but all signs suggest that the final product will mean more direct, longer-haul connections for smaller cities. We're never one to complain about fewer stopovers. — TMA bombardier.com



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