

# MONOCLE

## 1 Agenda

- Putting children first
- Designing imaginary cities
- Michigan's popular push
- Lisbon's longevity lesson

## 2 Global views

- Five mayors worth meeting
- Fresh ideas for beating heat
- The urban clean-up crews
- A big night out in Bali

## 3 Inventory

- Hands-on sandwich recipes
- Hot property in the Algarve
- Breezy branding lessons
- Koh Samui's new crowd

## What it takes – how to build better cities

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX: *Our annual rundown of the top places to live*

A sunny outlook



Pooled resources



Warm welcomes

# Hot Streak!

# Quality of Life Special



A confident stance



Cooling tips

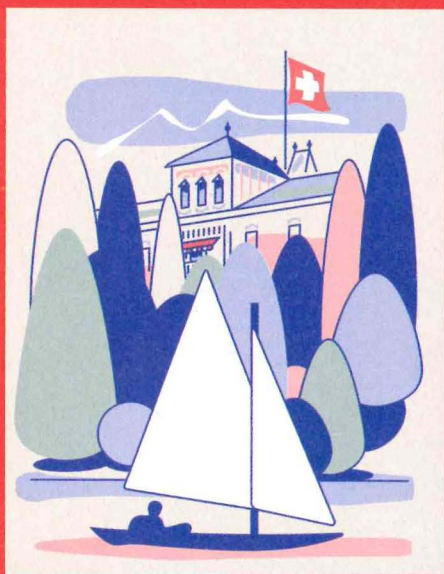
Plus: Three 'hoods to call home, a citizen manifesto and the Spanish firm making super street furniture.



Sturdy solutions

07  
 UK £8  
 USD \$15  
 DE/AT €12  
 CHF 14  
 DKK 129.95  
 FIN €12  
 BENELUX €12  
 JPY ¥2,200(+tax)  
 ES/IT €12  
 AUD \$17.00(inc)  
 SGD \$19.90(inc)  
 CAD \$20.00(inc)  
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Switzerland's finest Boutique & Design Hotels and Lodgings range from family-run hideaways to palatial mountain resorts. All guarantee plenty of local character and a cheerful greeting at the door, whether that's *bonjour*, *buongiorno*, *Grüezi* or *bun di*.



Before Switzerland Tourism and Hotellerie Suisse award the Boutique & Design Hotels and Lodgings stamp of approval, they ask three questions: Is this establishment inspiring? Is it refreshing? And is it individual? In practice, this means that the hotels in this selection can be trusted to be thoughtfully designed, efficiently run and reflective of the places that they are located in.

Switzerland  
Tourism  
×  
Monocle

### 1 The Omnia, Zermatt

This hotel's location is so distinctive that it needed its own address: On the Rock, 3920 Zermatt. With all the trimmings of a five-star hotel, this is one of the few modern interpretations of a classic Swiss mountain lodge that doesn't leave you yearning for the original. With a prime spot at the foot of the Matterhorn, it's no wonder that The Omnia has topped lists of Switzerland's best hotels.

### 2 Grand Hotel Belvedere, Wengen

Beaumier Hotels, the group behind some of the best boutique hotels in France, is opening its first location in Switzerland this autumn. Nestled in Wengen, a village high in the Lauterbrunnen Valley, Grand Hotel Belvedere is a historic establishment that is being given a warm and respectful refurbishment. At 1,270 metres above sea level and the foot of several of Switzerland's highest peaks, Wengen is ideal for getting off the beaten track. There are no cars allowed in the village, just the gentle sound of the Wengernalp Railway and the Bise and Föhn winds.

### 3 Grand Hôtel du Lac, Vevey

Set on a glimmering stretch of Lake Léman shoreline, Vevey is a strong contender for the hard-won title of most scenic town in Switzerland. Take it all at the Grand Hotel du Lac, a five-star art nouveau institution complete with opulent rooms, a sun terrace with views, and a well-manicured garden, all of which hardly appear to have changed since the hotel opened in 1868. It's best to book fast: the place fills up every summer with visitors to the Montreux Jazz Festival as well as during Images Vevey, Switzerland's main visual arts biennale.

### 4 Nomad, Basel

Nomad might be a regular haunt of art-world impresarios but it makes a point of addressing all guests with the informal *Du*. Located in a 1950s apartment building in Basel's former red-light district, the hotel opened in 2016 after an extensive renovation by local practice Buchner Bründler. The design is a masterclass in concrete, complemented inside by light wooden furnishings, black-tiled bathrooms and spindly Lumina lights.

**5**

## Hotel Schlüssel, Lucerne

Located in Lucerne's old town in the same square as the Franciscan church, Hotel Schlüssel is one of the city's oldest guesthouses. The medieval building's 10 rooms have been spruced up under new ownership. The Schlüssel's tavern, which first served guests in the 16th century, also reopened this summer as a top-notch *stube* that covers three floors of the old house.

**6**

## Marktgasse Hotel, Zürich

Marktgasse Hotel has occupied the same building in Zürich's old town since at least 1291. It doesn't get more central than this: located behind the town hall, guests are only a few minutes away from Lindenhof, the Grossmünster and the Kunsthalle Zürich. The hotel's interiors have preserved the building's features but the furnishings are fresh and modern. There are plenty of communal spaces, including a well-stocked library as well as a bar and two restaurants, including Andreas Caminada's Igniv, with its adventurous sharing plates.

**7**

## Relais Castello di Morcote, Vico Morcote

In the hills above Lake Lugano on the southernmost tip of Switzerland, Relais Castello di Morcote welcomes guests to a 7th-century patrician house. The estate is family-run and contains a vineyard, two restaurants and the 12-room boutique hotel. With crisp air, impeccable views, excellent wine and Italy across the lake, this getaway distils the very best of Ticino.

**8**

## Bellevue Parkhotel, Adelboden

Picture a Swiss hotel and it probably looks something like the Bellevue. With an off-white facade, wraparound balconies and a Swiss flag waving from the top, it stands proudly against the near-vertical mountain wall that rises behind it. This is a 120-year-old institution in Adelboden, one of the most beautiful valleys in the Bernese Oberland, where pristine mountain lakes and waterfalls inspire visitors to put their hiking boots (and swimsuits) to serious use. After a brisk day outdoors, the Bellevue helps guests recover in a choice of three saunas and a pool with a view.

**9**

## Grace La Margna, St Moritz

Named after the nearby Piz La Margna peak, this St Moritz hotel opened in 1907 to serve travellers arriving at the town's new railway station. It reopened last summer after a major renovation that upgraded the heritage-protected building and added a modern wing. It now has 74 rooms, three restaurants and all the amenities of a five-star stay. In summer, a mountain railway ticket is included if you stay at least two nights.

**10**

## International au Lac, Lugano

What distinguishes the International au Lac Historic Lakeside Hotel is its prime location on the promenade, in the heart of the historic town centre and its garden, a romantic oasis with a swimming pool and terrace with games. Many of the rooms have been renovated recently, giving them a modern refresh while still preserving the historic charm of the building, which since 1906 has been under the ownership of the same family, now in its fourth generation.

**Here are 10 of Monocle's favourite hotels from Switzerland Tourism's Boutique & Design Hotels and Lodgings collection, from a five-star St Moritz classic to a high-altitude new opening.**  
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