

# Condé Nast Traveller

DECEMBER 2015 £4.10

**EPIC AUSTRALIA**  
AN EXTRAORDINARY  
OUTBACK ADVENTURE

*Miami*  
RETURN OF A CLASSIC

**FLORENCE**  
FRESH FINDS IN  
A HISTORIC CITY

+ THE MOST STYLISH  
SKI HOTELS FOR UNDER £150

THE BEST OF THAILAND  
ISLANDS - BEACHES - RETREATS

*The Heat Is On*



A vibrant tropical beach scene. In the foreground, clear turquoise water shows a person swimming. The middle ground features a white sandy beach with several thatched-roof huts and numerous beach umbrellas. The background is a dense line of palm trees under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

# DROP IT LIKE IT'S HOT

THE MOST KNOCK-OUT ADDRESSES ON THAILAND'S BEACHES

## BEST SPIRITUAL HIGH

Scattered through dense bird-filled jungle on the edge of a boulder-strewn beach, Thai wellness institution Kamalaya changed the spa scene when it opened 10 years ago. This results-driven holistic hotspot on the island of Koh Samui is built around an ancient monk's cave, and its therapists are some of the best in the world. Recharge your physical and emotional batteries on one of three different stress- and burnout-therapy programmes, which include invigorating yoga, Chinese acupuncture, Ayurvedic medicine and Thai massage. [www.kamalaya.com](http://www.kamalaya.com). Doubles from about £140.



## BEST TREEHOUSES

All eyes are on Phuket this month, when the fantastical Keemala finally opens its recycled wooden doors. The hotel looks like a cross between Avatar's Pandora and *The Hobbit's* Middle-earth, and you can choose to stay in mushroom-shaped clay cottages, billowing tented suites, bird's-nest villas or bamboo houses looped into the palm trees like massive Christmas baubles. Vegetables in the restaurants will come straight from the kitchen gardens and fruit will be plucked from the surrounding orchards. The spa has therapies including vibrational attunement and Tibetan singing bowls. Expectations couldn't be higher. [www.keemala.com](http://www.keemala.com). Doubles from about £355.

## BEST-SMELLING BOLTHOLE

Koh Samui meets colonial Indochina at The Scent Hotel on Bang Rak beach, where Provençal-style armchairs sit beside apothecary dressers. Choose your room fragrance on arrival. [www.thescenthotel.com](http://www.thescenthotel.com). Doubles from about £65.

