

The Hotels Issue

TRAVEL + LEISURE

We're dreaming of COCKTAILS FOR ONE,
a little ITALIAN SUNLIGHT, a room with A VIEW,
and the chance to let hotels do what they do best—

TAKE CARE OF US.



When You're Ready to Go Big

If there's one thing pandemic lockdowns have taught us, it's that we're social animals. Whether you're making up for a missed birthday, celebrating an anniversary, or just reconnecting with family, these above-and-beyond hotels are the perfect settings for a memorable (vaccinated) reunion. Here, five members of T+L's A-List of travel advisors give their picks for whatever the occasion.

BY ANDREW SESSA



1.

1. If You're Planning to Toast Again

Sonoma County, California

"Set on 258 acres of vineyards and oak groves, the new **Montage Healdsburg** (montage.com; doubles from \$995) resort feels like a bucolic estate, though it's close to the town's central plaza," says Michelle Murré (michelle@azurinetravel.com). It's

well situated for a group of friends planning private tastings of top Pinot Noirs; plenty of Michelin-starred restaurants are close at hand, too.

2. If You're Nostalgic for Summers on the Lake

Saranac Lake, New York

"The **Point** (thepointresort.com; doubles from \$900 per person, all-inclusive) was built in the 1930s as a Rockefeller family retreat. Today, the resort has the vibe of a grown-up summer camp," says Barkley Hickox (barkley.hickox@localforeigner.com). "It's ideal for a group of couples who like to eat, drink, and revel in the great outdoors—as long as they're up for the twice-a-week black-tie dinners."

3. If You're Looking for Adventure

Banff, Alberta

"The 133-year-old, castle-like **Fairmont Banff Springs** (fairmont.com; doubles from \$370) is the kind of place that makes you stop and take a deep breath. The views of the Rockies couldn't be more impressive," says Jennifer Lobb (jj.traveldesign@gmail.com).

com). Guests can fish or hike in the surrounding forest with the hotel's handpicked guides or reconnect over a traditional high tea or a treasure hunt.

4. If You've Been Missing Family Time by the Sea

Watch Hill, Rhode Island

"You can't beat **Ocean**



3.



2.

FROM TOP: CHRISTIAN HOBAN/COURTESY OF MONTAGE HEALDSBURG; COURTESY OF THE POINT; BARKLEY HICKOX; COURTESY OF THE POINT

FROM TOP: CHIP RIEGEL/COURTESY OF OCEAN LODGE; CHRISTOPHER HANSON/COURTESY OF MASSIMO ALIZZI



House (oceanhouseri.com; doubles from \$860), the quintessential New England mansion hotel, which opened on a sprawling stretch of sand here in 1868. It looks like something from *The Great Gatsby*," says Jack Ezon (jack@embarkbeyond.com). Staff can arrange just about anything—boating, fishing, bike rides—though Ezon is a particular fan of gourmet picnics on the hotel's lawn.

5. If You're Meeting Friends for a Wild Weekend
New Orleans

"The tasteful, understated **Maison de la Luz** (maisondelaluz.com; doubles from \$400) feels like a personal city retreat. You get the intimate vibe of staying over at a friend's house—but with a concierge team to lead you to the best meals, shopping, and live shows," says Amina Dearmon (amina@perspectivetravel.com). The property's common areas are only for guests—unlike at a typical hotel—so there's plenty of room to catch up over coffee or cocktails from the honor bar before hitting the town.

