

Hideaway Report[®]

JANUARY 2019

SINCE 1979

Traveling the world in search of truly enchanting places

View from our plunge pool at
Nihl Sumba, Sumba Island, Indonesia,
our 2019 Hideaway of the Year

EDITORS' CHOICE AWARDS 2019

In 2018, Hideaway Report editors flew more than 190,000 miles, visited 27 countries and stayed in 112 hotels, of which 58 were recommended. The highlights of the year are reflected in this special Editors' Choice issue.

Each January, we have the pleasure of recalling our travel experiences over the previous 12 months and drawing attention to a number of particularly memorable hotels and resorts. To be considered for our annual Editors' Choice Awards, properties

must be relatively small in size, possess strong personalities and demonstrate a consistent devotion to personal service. Once, sophisticated hideaways existed chiefly in North America and Western Europe. But today superior levels of comfort, stylish design, polished service and refined cuisine can be found on every continent. In 2019, we will continue our enviable task of circling the globe in order to seek out the very best that the world of travel has to offer.

Hideaway Report editors travel anonymously and pay full rate for all lodging, meals and related expenses.

Since the launch of the Hideaway Report in 1979, featured hotels and restaurants have been selected on a completely independent basis.

For comments and inquiries, please email membersuccess@hideawayreport.com.



GRAN HOTEL INGLÉS

Madrid, Spain

LOCATED IN THE CHARMING Barrio de las Letras neighborhood, the 48-room Gran Hotel Inglés opened as a hotel in 1886. It has been completely renovated and now has stunning art deco-inspired interiors by New York's Rockwell Group. The public spaces feel like those of a private club and include a library with a woodburning fireplace and a restaurant, LOBO 8, where chef Willy Moya serves delicious contemporary Spanish dishes such as chilled almond ajo-blanco soup with prickly pear sorbet, and

pork cheeks cooked in sherry. Our thoughtfully designed Premium Room came with oak parquet floors, velvet-upholstered chairs at a white-marble pedestal table and a contemporary chandelier. Those willing to throw financial caution to the wind may opt for the top-floor suite, with its private terrace and Jacuzzi. A first-rate spa uses French Anne Semonin products. The Gran Hotel Inglés is an excellent choice for travelers who like small properties with a unique personality and a strong sense of place.

HACIENDA ALTAGRACIA: PHOTOS BY HIDEAWAY REPORT EDITOR



HACIENDA ALTAGRACIA

Santa Teresa de Cajón de Pérez Zeledón, Costa Rica

ALTHOUGH IT IS MANAGED by Auberge Resorts, Hacienda AltaGracia belongs to Alberto J. Esquivel, a horse enthusiast, who originally envisioned the 865-acre estate as a personal retreat. It is now a 50-room hotel, but hidden on a remote mountainside, it still feels private and exclusive. Our Deluxe King Suite was spacious, with a mission-style bed, sisal area rugs and a wooden ceiling. During our stay, we ate extremely well. I particularly enjoyed perfectly cooked lamb loin with butter-braised leeks

and house-made tortellini, served in the chic main restaurant, Ambar. Auberge is known for its spas, and Hacienda AltaGracia's is true to the brand. The property isn't an especially convenient base for sightseeing, but on-site we enjoyed a jungle hike, a scenic hillside horseback ride and an exhilarating trip in an ultralight airplane. On our last morning, as we sat on Ambar's terrace, clouds clustered in the valleys below, and for a while the resort seemed to be floating above the verdant countryside.