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5 New Standout Hotels in Los Angeles

Once upon a time, Hollywood was a company town. Now, Los Angeles has so much more to offer than box office smashes and boulevards of broken dreams. The Staples Center alone gets 20 million visitors a year, and international travelers alight to eat, shop, gallery-hop and explore overlooked neighborhoods that are buzzing with enterprise.

Santa Monica Proper



Unique Monthly Visitors: 29,984,446

A restored and renovated Spanish Colonial revival — built around 1928 and designed by Arthur E. Harvey — is the anchor for the sleek and sweeping new construction of this 271-room and suite hotel by the beach. (It will be joined this summer by [Downtown LA Proper](#), opening in another historic building.)

The interior designer [Kelly Wearstler](#) capitalized on the Spanish and Moorish elements with archways and inlays, smooth stone, knobby wood and lots of low-slung seating. Original art, including works by Morgan Peck, Tanya Aguiniga and Len Klikunas, is all around.



Guest rooms — some with balconies and abstract botanical wallpaper — get plenty of light from floor-to-ceiling windows, and the bathrooms are handsomely adorned with tile, marble, brass fixtures and Aesop toiletries.

The chefs Jessica Koslow and Gabriela Camara spearhead the ground-floor restaurant, Onda; the pink alcoves by the rooftop pool are full at happy hour; and the 3,000-square-foot ayurvedic spa offers a full menu, including Transcendental Meditation classes in partnership with the David Lynch Foundation.

[Santa Monica Proper](#); from \$450; [700 Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica, Calif., 90401](#).