

TATLER

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“101 Top Hotels in the World 2018.”



101 HOTELS WILD

**& BEYOND PHINDA
ROCK LODGE**
PHINDA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE,
SOUTH AFRICA

AndBeyond's Phinda in Zululand made sustainability look sexy while most of the competition was still putting bedtime mints on pillows. They are WAY ahead of the curve, which means that much of the 70,500-acre reserve was returned to the ancestral owners in a landmark deal, and (in high-security cahoons with Great Plains Conservation) they regularly ship under-threat rhinos to Botswana for safekeeping. To match these conservation credentials, Rock Lodge (one of several in Phinda) has come back with a bang after first opening 20 years ago, with buckets of sultry, grown-up appeal. There's a rooftop terrace for night-time dining, a drinks trolley stocked with gins and you can spy on elephants and giraffes from your raw-timber bed. No kids allowed, which is a blessing, really. *Double, from £1,085, full board, including transfers and safari activities (andbeyond.com; 00 27 11 809 4300).* **AND ANOTHER THING** Ask to accompany the conservation team on a rhino-notching or elephant-collaring operation. It's transformative.



SUJAN SHER BAGH
RANTHAMBORE, INDIA

Yes, it's a camp, but unless you're Indian royalty this is more magical than any you've ever seen. Each of Sher Bagh's Twenties-inspired canvas tents is kitted out with vintage campaign furniture, rainfall showers and a stack of leather-bound animal guides to help you tell your great-crested grebe from your wagtail. Dinner is served by the fire amid a glittering constellation of candle lanterns; later, lying in your four-poster listening to the jungle in surround sound is pure joy. But this all just gilding the lily – you're here to glimpse one of India's elusive tigers. Ranthambore National Park and its cats have been a part of owner Jaisal Singh's life since he was a few weeks old; to be in with a whisker of a chance, there are no better hands to be in. Join the dawn safari and breakfast back at camp is a great time to talk loudly about your safari success – even if you didn't get lucky, there's sport to be had. *Double, from £535, full board (sujanluxury.com; 00 91 11 4617 2700).* **AND ANOTHER THING** You're sure to pass through Jaipur, so visit Bar Palladio – probably the most beautiful spot for a cocktail in all India.