

# The best hotels and resorts in the world: The Gold List 2023



*The Newt in Somerset. Photo credit Jenny Zarins*

## The Newt in Somerset – UK

To call [The Newt](#) a hotel is a bit like calling Buckingham Palace a house. With gardens worth a visit in their own right, an interactive museum, a corker of a [spa](#), plus a gelateria and bakery, it's so much more than 42 beautifully pitched rooms. It even offers bee safaris and honey tastings. You can see why there's been a buzz about this place since its 2019 opening in a corner of Somerset whose cool credentials were already on the rise thanks to the nearby Hauser & Wirth gallery. Now a reimagined Roman villa with an accompanying museum has been added to the 800-acre estate. Owner and South

African billionaire Koos Bekker and his wife, Karen Roos, have lavished no-expense-spared attention to detail on the villa. Roos calls her design “classical contemporary,” which includes some fun touches: tapestry wall trophies; a room in the colours of a croquet set; a Roman bust wearing a necklace of seashells. Bedrooms vary from contemporary country to Scandinavian simplicity. As at the couple’s South African hotel, Babylonstoren (see above), the gardens are the focal point, so it’s no surprise that the estate-to-plate food zings with freshness. More unexpected is the Story of Gardening museum, where you can visit gardens around the world by VR. The Newt makes its own cider – or “cyder,” as it calls it. A tad pretentious? You won’t think so when you taste the single varietal brew and see the 300 types of apple trees in the egg-shaped walled garden. *From about £433. Jane Knight*

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