

BloombergPursuits

Where to Go in 2018

The 22 destinations that will be especially hot this year—and the data you need to plan your trip.

Plenty of cities are always worth a visit. But when destinations are in the midst of an evolution—bursting with new, standard-setting hotels and restaurants, or chock-full of new cultural attractions—you can expect a spark of electricity in the air. The alchemy of being in the right place at the right time is exactly what transforms a good vacation into a great one.

With that in mind, we've scoured the globe for the most exciting openings and events in 2018 and boiled them down to 22 especially compelling destinations. And to make sure you can plan your trip for just the right time of year, we sourced hotel pricing insights from Google and seasonal recommendations from regional travel specialists that we know and trust. Take it from them: The cheapest and most expensive times to go are rarely the best and worst.

You've got the vacation days. Here's how to use them.

WASHINGTON

While the U.S. capital's biggest news is about topics other than food, the city has been nurturing one of the most thrilling restaurant scenes in the country. The \$2.5 billion, mile-long District Wharf opened in 2017, a live-work development that's bursting with good eats. Its crown jewel is chef Fabio Trabocchi's stylish Spanish restaurant Del Mar, which will soon be



A guest room at the Line Hotel in Washington. Photographer: Adrian Gaut

joined by the Union Market favorite, Rappahannock Oyster Bar, and an Italian restaurant-market hybrid from Nicholas Stefanelli. Of course, the Wharf isn't just for eating: It's also home to the 57,000-square-foot music venue the Anthem, which has hosted LCD Soundsystem and Bob Dylan since it opened in October, and a smart boutique hotel from Hilton's convivial new brand, Canopy.

Downtown, the showdown of hot restaurants will get wrapped in partisan politics. A high-profile spinoff of New York's Sushi Nakazawa is coming to the Trump Hotel this spring, and a vegetable-focused concept by up-and-coming chef Tim Ma will anchor

Eaton Workshop, a new hotel that does double-duty as activist safe space. You can avoid red-button issues entirely at the Line DC hotel. Set in a former church, it comes online in January with 220 airy, art-filled rooms and a slew of food and drink offerings by James Beard winner Spike Gjerde.

When to go: Catch the cherry blossoms from mid-March to mid-April (roughly!), or stick to the mild fall months.

When not to go: June through August. Washington was built on a swamp, a fact that's readily apparent in summer.

Whom to call: Paul Bennett of Context Travel.