

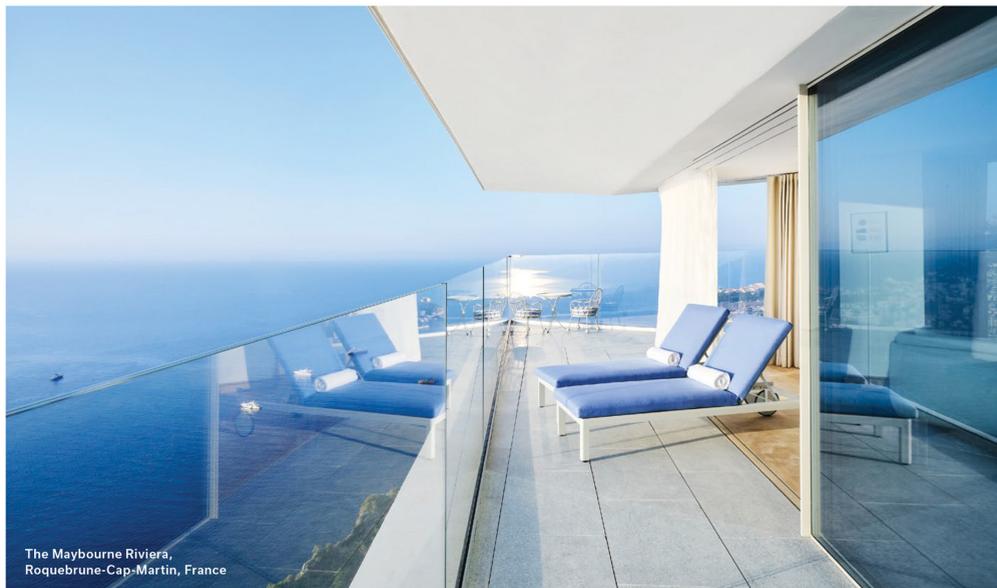
# ANDREW HARPER'S Hideaway Report

JANUARY 2022

SINCE 1979



Traveling the world in search of truly enchanting places



The Maybourne Riviera,  
Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, France

THE MAYBOURNE RIVIERA: RICHARD HAUGHTON

## EDITORS' CHOICE AWARDS 2022

Despite everything, 2021 was a surprisingly successful year. Our choice of international destinations may have been severely restricted, but thanks to the introduction of effective vaccines, we were at least able to travel freely within the United States. And we even managed to find our way back to Mexico, Costa Rica, Italy, France, Portugal and East Africa. Over the course of 12 months, we stayed in 87 hotels and resorts and dined at 69 restaurants, in addition to those at the properties we reviewed. Most important, a majority of the hotels that we visited seemed relatively close to normal. Some prices may have been preposterous, but at least restaurants and spas had reopened. When reaching a judgment,

we made some allowances, but, in general, we insisted on the highest standards and felt comfortable that our assessments would prove fair and reliable. Alas, it is impossible to know precisely what 2022 will bring. There seem to be grounds for qualified optimism. Certainly, the owners and employees of hotels and restaurants around the globe would be thrilled to see the return of the American traveler, to say nothing of the wildlife rangers and environmentalists for whom the tourist dollar is often their most important source of revenue. So let us hope, for all our sakes, that experiences in far-flung lands will once again become a regular and agreeable feature of life in the year that lies ahead. Bon voyage! — *Andrew Harper*

Andrew Harper 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 [memberservices@andrewharper.com](mailto:memberservices@andrewharper.com).



## Park Hyatt Aviara

CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA

Set on 200 acres, this 327-room seaside resort recently underwent a \$50 million renovation that transformed its accommodations, reimagined its public spaces and added a new restaurant. The spacious rooms and suites now come in a restful color palette of cream and gray with accents of blue and rose. And all have either private balconies or terraces that survey the palm-lined lawn or the Batiquitos Lagoon nature preserve. This family- and pet-friendly hotel offers something

for everyone: an 18-hole golf course designed by Arnold Palmer; six tennis courts; a Splash Pool Deck for kids, plus an adult pool surrounded by private cabanas; and a 15,000-square-foot spa. And there are now three dining options: the Pacific Point bar and restaurant; Ponto Lago, for Baja-inspired cuisine; and Ember & Rye, a steakhouse helmed by celebrity chef Richard Blais. Park Hyatt Aviara is a wonderful place to spread out for an extended stay.



## Hotel Esencia

PLAYA XPU-HA, MEXICO

A stay at this intimate hotel offers the chance to bask on a dazzling white-sand beach that lines a beautifully preserved stretch of the irresistible Riviera Maya. Originally the vacation villa of Italian duchess Rosa de Ferrari, this glamorous property encompasses 29 lodgings scattered across the grounds, two pools and three restaurants that offer creative cuisine highlighting freshly caught seafood. Our stand-alone Jungle Suite featured white-on-white interiors, two terraces and

a heated plunge pool. The suite's minimalist design formed a dramatic counterpoint to the lush canopied jungle surroundings. Meandering along a palm-lined footpath past sun-bathing iguanas and free-roaming peacocks, we had the sense of being a privileged guest at a magnificently exotic estate. The hotel's timeless and aristocratic atmosphere, secluded location and refined simplicity make Esencia one of the most exceptional properties in Mexico.