

ULTIMATE UPGRADE

Inside our favorite splurge-worthy suites.

RENEWAL REPORT

Three high-profile hotels emerge from makeovers ranging from mini to massive.

1. Marking its centennial as San Sebastián's grande dame, the 136-room **Hotel Maria Cristina** unveiled an 18-months-in-the-making renovation. The \$25 million project restored the art nouveau building's lofty ceiling, moldings, and marble pillars and floors, adding tinted walls and silvery curtains. Maintaining the standards for which San Sebastián is celebrated, it introduced an outpost of Madrid's haute Chinese, Yang and serves traditional Basque *pintxos*, or cocktails at Dry San Sebastián, its Hollywood-style bar. *Doubles from \$225, including breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit.*

2. The 128-suite **Rosewood Mayakoba** in Playa del Carmen, with 18 new family-friendly connecting rooms, offers either the white-sand beach or mangrove-fresh seafood.

A newly designated staff storyteller offers stargazing and stories on the beach for the kids while parents dine at one of the four remodeled restaurants. *Doubles from \$750, including breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit.*

3. From tennis court resurfacing and a new restaurant to 100 rooms refreshed with beamed ceilings, indoor and outdoor fireplaces, and patio whirlpools, little was left untouched in the nine-month remodel of **Rancho Valencia** near San Diego. The 45-acre, 49-casita resort also gained a fitness center and 1,000-square-foot yoga pavilion. Veladora, its new Mediterranean restaurant, highlights locally grown produce and offers what's sure to become the hotel's most popular aperitif, Prosecco on draft. *Doubles from \$675, including breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit.*



Clockwise from top left: A bedroom at Hotel Maria Cristina, Rosewood Mayakoba's beachfront suite terrace and main pool, and Rancho Valencia's Veladora restaurant.