

TRENDING NOW

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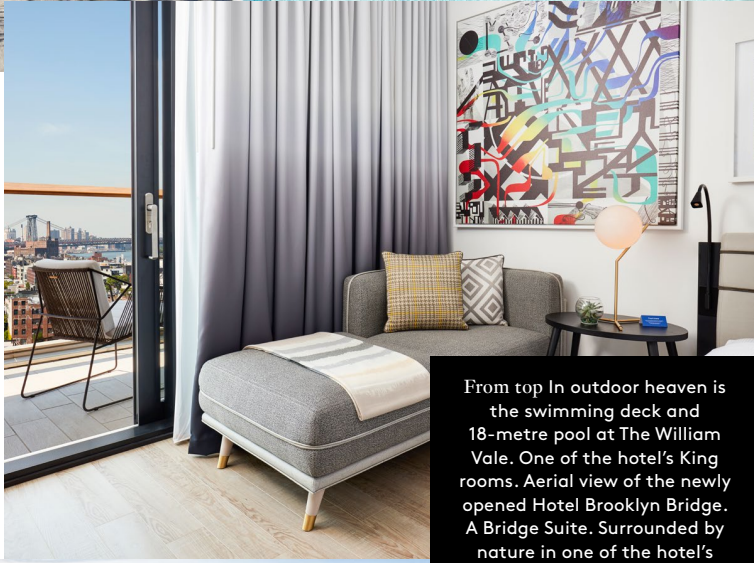
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There's plenty to love about these new hotels, both in and out of Manhattan. And the room count is growing.

Words CARLI PHILIPS



From top In outdoor heaven is the swimming deck and 18-metre pool at The William Vale. One of the hotel's King rooms. Aerial view of the newly opened Hotel Brooklyn Bridge. A Bridge Suite. Surrounded by nature in one of the hotel's private living spaces.



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THE WILLIAM VALE

This 22-storey hotel set out to be everything Brooklyn is typically not. Sure, 'dairy dips' (aka ice-creams) are served out of a retrofitted 1974 Airstream trailer, but there's no 'industrial chic', according to architecture firm Albo Liberis. In fact, with its green, open spaces (including a publicly accessible, elevated park), it's been coined an 'urban resort development'.

There are a number of room categories, but major diplomacy where it matters because all have glassy balconies with panoramas over Manhattan and Brooklyn. Conceived by Studio Munge, the interiors adopt a contemporary modernist vibe with injections of colour in the furnishings and original art that run through the property. With rain showers, amenities by L'Occitane en Provence and linen by Frette, it's tempting to stay in. But then you'd be missing out on Westlight, the rooftop terrace and bar with views so good you'll feel closer to God.

Helmed by renowned chef Andrew Carmellini, it's easy to get carried away with the bites menu when tuna tartare puffs and warm apple hand pies are up for grabs. Also up top is the longest outdoor hotel pool in New York, so take some time to dip and drink. The William Vale is part of a crop of trendy new hotels shaking up the hipster hood, where, until recently, the only place to rest your head was an Airbnb or friend's mattress. Now there's no need to schlep back over the bridge after your craft beer and band. thewilliamvale.com

1 HOTEL BROOKLYN BRIDGE

This new hotel group is almost too good to be true. The "nature-inspired lifestyle brand" vows to deliver sustainability, community, mindfulness and luxury to its Brooklyn Bridge outpost. That makes many promises, but they come good on them. The location isn't too shabby either. The 10-storey development sits at Pier 1, south of the iconic bridge in Brooklyn Heights, with unencumbered skyline views.

There is a lot of eco-consciousness: locally made furnishings, triple-filtered rain showers, reclaimed timber floors, hemp-blend mattresses and rechargeable Tesla vehicles. However, it's not at the sacrifice of comfort. In the heart of the concrete jungle, it's refreshing for nature to be such a focus in all 194 rooms and public spaces. Windows are floor-to-ceiling and there's greenery, lots of it, peaking at the lush 370-square-metre rooftop retreat. The rooms feature Natal mahogany and other materials that can be traced back to their source, such as original pine beams from what was the Domino Sugar Factory. On a micro level, there's rotating design and culinary partnerships with Brooklyn creatives. Local designer Danielle Trofe and Harrison Green studio are incorporating native plants, greenery and reclaimed materials for dynamic art sculptures and a massive living, green lobby wall.

When you want to chill, there's the restorative spa and a screening room. Also check the in-house calendar for some of the activities on offer: rooftop yoga, indie films, artist workshops and even Dark Sky parties to welcome in the new moon. 1hotels.com/brooklyn-bridge

