

MAR 13, 2025 11:47 AM CET

## Hôtel de la Plage

Cap Ferret, France

by **Cynthia Rosenfeld**

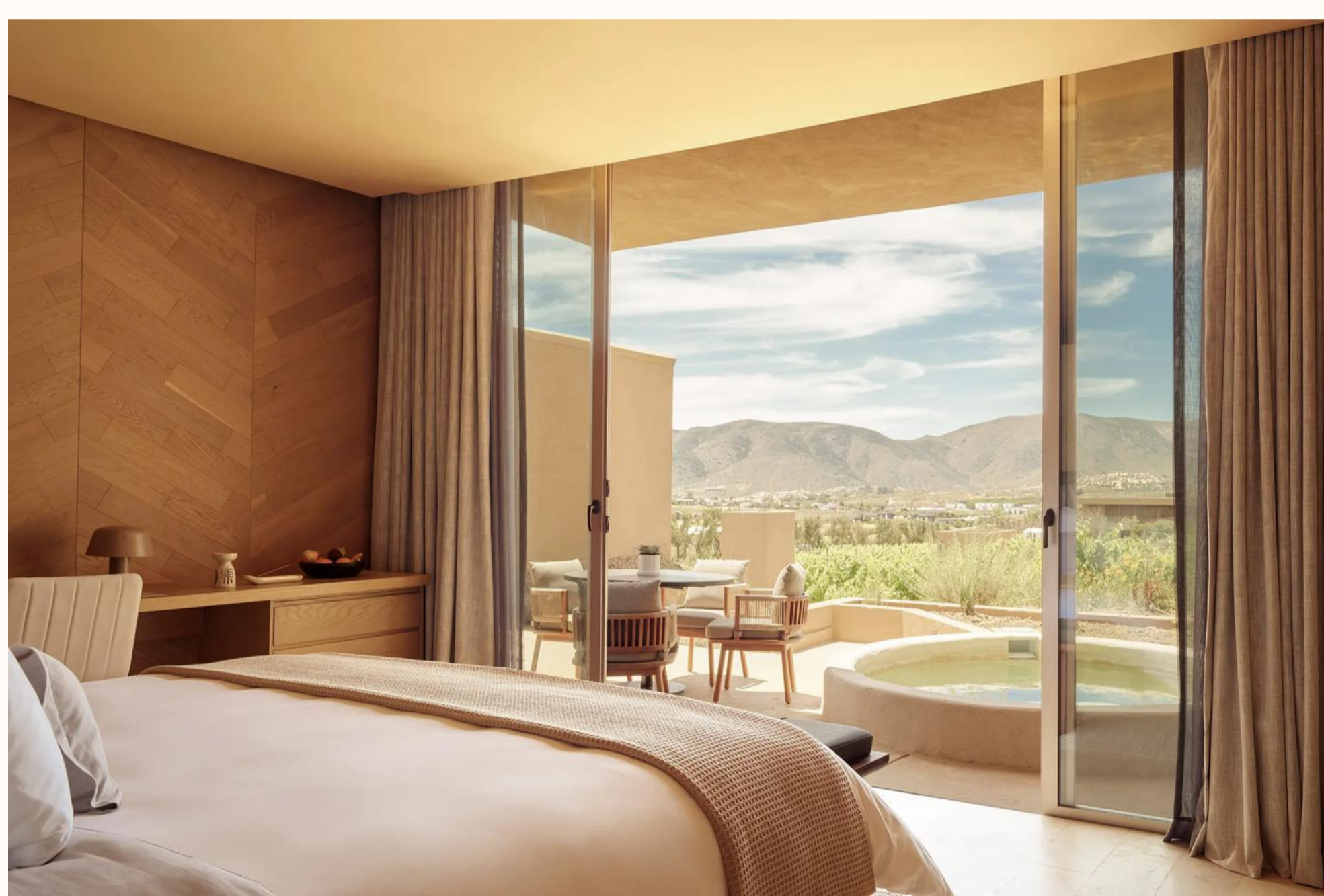
Courtesy Hôtel de la Plage

Cap Ferret is the skinny peninsula between the Bay of Arcachon and the Atlantic Ocean on France's southwest coast, known, if at all, for La Dune du Pilat, Europe's highest sand dune. Often confused with glitzy Cap Ferrat along La Côte d'Azur, this low-key beach community long favored by the French bourgeois drew Bordeaux restaurateurs Nicolas Lascombes and Stessy Faber, who faithfully restored an 1860 cream-and-red-lacquered woodworkers' dormitory turned waterfront inn that reopened last May as [Hôtel de la Plage](#), one of a handful of stylish new establishments pulling back the curtains on this charming coast of tiny oyster farms and broad surf beaches. The dozen cozy, well-priced rooms channel the basin's candy-colored homes in pumpkin and seafoam, and eschew minibars, televisions, and—in true French fashion—air conditioning, to encourage walks in the pine forest and lingering on the outdoor terrace where the menu platforms southwest France, with veal chops from Périgord, clams from the nearby Saubesty family, and oysters raised by villagers Bart and Marien.

MAR 24, 2025 10:08 AM CET

## Banyan Tree Veya Valle de Guadalupe

Ensenada, Mexico

by **Annie Daly**

Courtesy Banyan Group

Valle de Guadalupe, Mexico's trendy wine region in the northern Baja peninsula just 90 minutes from the U.S. border, has long been a draw for in-the-know oenophiles—but now a new crop of luxury hotels and wineries is upping its appeal. The crown jewel? [Banyan Tree Veya Valle de Guadalupe](#), a modern 30-villa hilltop retreat that opened last July. With sweeping views of the vineyards below, the hotel has its own private winery, Pictograma, dedicated solely to the Grenache grape, and produces its own line of reds, whites, rosés, and a sparkling house blend. The property also offers several restaurants, bars, and a pastry shop that celebrate the area's cuisine, and wellness amenities including a desert spring hydrotherapy room, yoga and herbal therapy classes, a botanical garden, and a traditional Mexican *temazcal* (sweat lodge). Best of all, each villa comes with its own private plunge pool for late-night stargazing with a glass of red.

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## Mbano Manor Hotel

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

by **Sucheta Rawal**

Courtesy Mbano Manor Hotel

About 700 feet from Zambezi National Park and less than a 10-minute drive to Mosi-oa-Tunya, a.k.a. Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, [Mbano Manor Hotel](#) is the first luxury boutique hotel in the city of Victoria Falls owned by a Black female Zimbabwean.

"Most investors could not believe that a Black woman could open a five-star-style lodging," says proprietor

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