

FIVE-STAR INSPIRATION:

paradise found

TAKE A DIP INTO LUXE LIVING WITH POOL IDEAS
INSPIRED BY THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL HOTELS

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GUARANTEED TO KEEP you outside all summer long – with most of the neighbourhood, no doubt – a pool offers the perfect opportunity to create a holiday haven at home. It can be the focal point for alfresco entertaining, a place for family fun, a whole-body workout zone or simply an area that generates calm and reflection. We've trawled the globe's five-star resorts to source the most inspiring, stylish pools that would look equally at home in your backyard.

Bright white and rich tropical-green is the ideal accompaniment to a dark-tiled pool, but avoid pebbles if you are surrounded by trees and shrubs – you'll be forever picking leaves out of gaps

view to thrill

The stunning Cheval Blanc Randheli resort, conceived by luxury group LVMH and tucked away on the Noonu Atoll in the Maldives, boasts beautiful escapes such as this private Island Villa, complete with its own stretch of beach and inviting infinity pool. Sigh. **Style to steal:** Infinity-edge pools look fabulous and are especially impressive on a gently sloping site – pretty views will appear as if an extension of the pool. They work by having the water spill over the pool wall into a reservoir at the base from which it is eventually recirculated. They need to conform to the same safety regulations as other pools, so check with your local council. The downside? Infinity pools are much pricier to install and run than in-ground versions. >

PHOTOGRAPHY CHEVAL BLANC RANDHELI

CHEVAL BLANC RANDHELI, MALDIVES



lounge appeal

The Sarojin Thailand - in Khao Lak by the Andaman Sea - is a honeymooners' dream. Its amazing 625sqm azure pool boasts a spa as well as a trio of spectacular floating pavilions.

Style to steal: Comfy seating around the pool is a must, so adults can relax while kids make a splash. A pergola draped with filmy fabric frames a simple seating arrangement; just ensure there's nothing to obstruct your view of the pool. Look for outdoor-ready materials that will weather sunshine and splashes and can be left outside 24/7, or are easy to remove and wash.



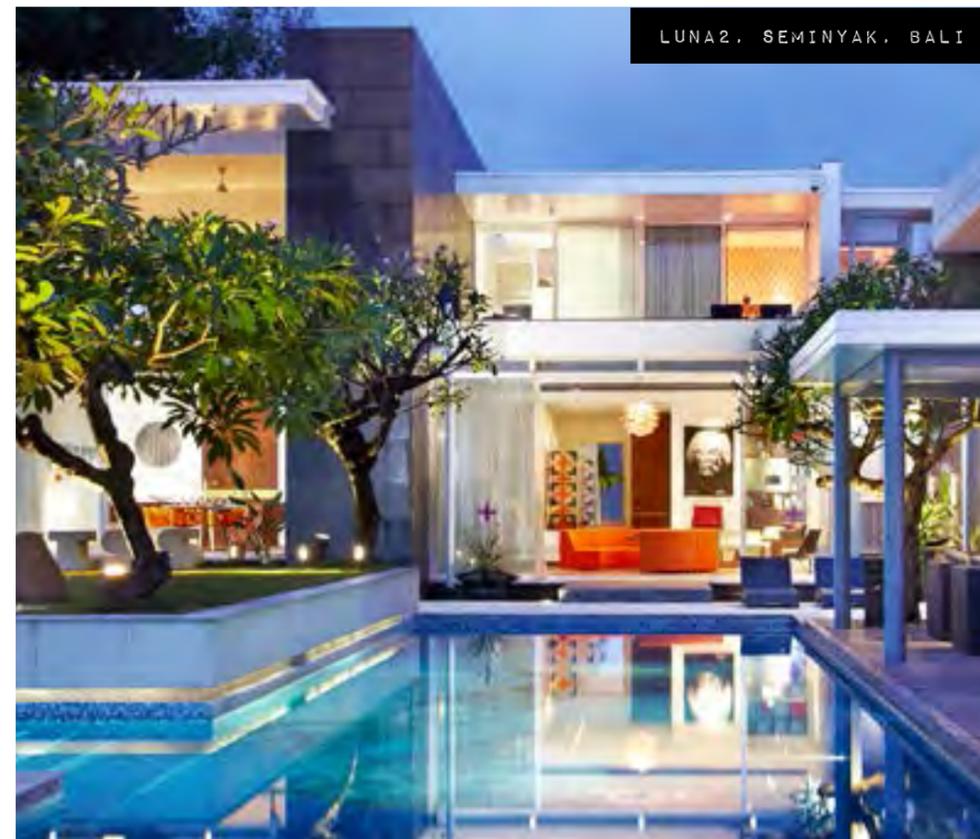
classic curves

Gallic flair is the cornerstone of the delightful Insólito Boutique Hotel & Spa, which combines a divine waterside location on Brazil's Búzios Peninsula with an art-filled interior, courtesy of its French owner. Its two spectacular pools, one freshwater and the other salt, provide guests with plenty to write home about.

Style to steal: Curved shapes are eye-catching and dramatic, and have a less formal look than angular ones. They can also allow you to fit in a larger pool; a free-form version could span the corner of a backyard, for example. White rendered finishes are more affordable than fully tiled interiors, and deliver glacial hues that conjure up coolness. A decking surround has a natural appeal: opt for hard-wearing composite decking or marine-grade timber with a protective coat of non-slip sealer.

Non-slip, stain-resistant surfaces are essential for poolside fun. Check with your tile supplier that the pavers you want for your pool surround meet slip resistance standards

PHOTOGRAPHY (OPPOSITE) THE SAROJIN HOTEL (THIS PAGE) DESIGN HOTELS



outdoor living

The exclusive five-star Luna2 Private Hotel, on the Seminyak beachfront, is short on bedrooms but long on style. An ice-cool modernist vibe defines its five bedrooms and bar, and extends to the carefully crafted exterior. The 20m pool, complete with waterside cabana, is lined with glittering Bisazza mosaic tiles.

Style to steal: A cabana waiting at the water's edge, with permanent shade, will extend your poolside time throughout the year. For a seamless look, take your colour cues from the pool. You'll need the go-ahead from council for built structures, and be aware that enclosed outdoor rooms - perfect hiding places for kids - will usually need to be located outside the pool barrier, so put that call to council on top of the to-do list. >