

THE 5K CHALLENGE

What does \$5,000 a night buy these days? We stacked up some over-the-top suites around the world to see how they compare. One thing is standard: discretion. As one hotel rep quipped, "We can't talk about our guests until they're dead."

BY ANDREA COOPER



THE SUITE	THE AMENITIES	THE SPLURGE
<p>GSTAAD PALACE GSTAAD, SWITZERLAND <i>Tower Suite</i></p> <p>▪ 2,045 square feet ▪ from \$5,177 a night ▪ palace.ch</p>		<p>Just like Rapunzel, let down your hair in a room in a fairy-tale tower. The suite has two bedrooms, each with its own bathroom, and a walk-in closet for your snow gear. The three balconies all overlook the Bernese Alps, where you can head for ice climbing, a sleigh ride drawn by huskies, or, for diehard linksmen, snow golf. The bonus: Pets are welcome.</p>
<p>HILTON BORA BORA NUI RESORT & SPA BORA BORA <i>Presidential Overwater Villa</i></p> <p>▪ 3,229 square feet ▪ \$5,000 a night ▪ hilton.com/frenchpolynesia</p>		<p>The Hilton boasts the only two-story overwater bungalow in French Polynesia—one that features a window in the floor for tropical fish watching. Furnishings include Tahitian black pearl chandeliers and tapa cloths pounded from breadfruit trees. In the suite you can sweat out your troubles in the sauna or linger in a tub with a stunning ocean view.</p>
<p>THE BOULDERS CAREFREE, ARIZONA <i>The Villa Retreat</i></p> <p>▪ 5,000 square feet ▪ \$5,000 a night ▪ theboulders.com</p>		<p>At this Waldorf Astoria resort in the Sonoran Desert, the villa is actually five bedrooms split between two buildings. The interiors are inspired by Bali, and the terrace includes a pool, hot tub, barbecue, and firepit. It's been reported that Matt Lauer was golfing at the resort when he got the call that he would be the new host of the <i>Today</i> show, but no word on whether he splurged on the Villa Retreat to celebrate the good news.</p>
<p>ALVEAR PALACE HOTEL BUENOS AIRES <i>Royal Suite</i></p> <p>▪ 1,895 square feet ▪ \$4,530 a night ▪ alvearpalace.com</p>		<p>The Royal Suite, where Sophia Loren and George Soros are said to have stayed, is designed to look like a Paris apartment, but artwork by Argentinean painters and sculptors will remind you where you are. The rate includes daily fresh floral arrangements and fruit baskets, Hermès bath products, and butler service for such tasks as drawing your bath.</p>
<p>THE ATHENAEUM LONDON <i>Rooftop Suite</i></p> <p>▪ 1,100 square feet ▪ from \$3,070 a night ▪ athenaeumhotel.com</p>		<p>This suite has three bedrooms, two baths, and six plasma televisions, but what's really outstanding is the balcony spanning three rooms, which offers a view of St. Paul's, Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, and St. James' Park. The suite is priced below our \$5,000 minimum, but the extras are so fantastic that you'll get there in no time.</p>

