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tion of far-flung artifacts: Jaffna wooden animals, Chinese celadon pots, Sri Lanka objets d'art from the Portuguese period, and Dutch door frames. An alfresco dining pavilion facing Galle Road offers up a bountiful menu that includes classic Sri Lankan black pork and cashew curry with *gotukola sambal* and sweet mango chutney. The efficient, all-male staff look out for guests around the clock, serving romantic breakfasts on the sprawling lawn, organizing visits to Bawa's nearby gardens at Lunuganga, and delivering mosquito coils to guests at sunset. **WHICH ROOM TO BOOK:** The two-bedroom Mohotti Suite, with elevated four-poster beds and a glass-encased living room, is one of the island's best-value indulgences (94-34-227-5311; doubles, \$251-\$311). 🍷 🍷 🍷

SWEDEN

Hotel Skeppsholmen, Stockholm

For the review, see page 199.

SWITZERLAND

Hotel Helvetia, Zurich

🔥 Perched on the banks of the Sihl River in the hip Kreis 4 neighborhood, the 16-room Hotel Helvetia has become a hub for the city's edgy art community, many of whose members have made the cozy street-level café-bar cum lobby their preferred hangout and also pack the hotel's candlelit restaurant, reached via a sturdy oak staircase, for the comfort food of Zurich native chef Françoise Wicki, a rising culinary star. The hotel, which occupies a circa 1900 apartment building, has fun living up to its tongue-in-cheek motto, "Home Sweet Helvetia," with a new take on Swiss cozy that runs to dove-gray wainscoting and gray-, cream-, and olive-striped wallpaper in most rooms, beds made up with plump duvets, and retro architect's lamps. The friendly young staff create a relaxed, homey atmosphere, and there's a great terrace overlooking the river for good-weather idling. **WHICH ROOM TO BOOK:** Fourth-floor doubles with river views (41-44-297-9999; doubles, \$205-\$326). 🍷 🍷

TANZANIA

Selous Project, Selous Game Reserve

🔥 Safari lodges have been locked in an amenities arms race of increasingly tricked-out SUVs and villas citadelled in a mess of marble bathrooms and infinity pools. With just four tents in a 300,000-acre protected wildlife reserve, the Selous Project is an ambitious new camp that harks back to the original Swahili meaning of the word *safari*: journey. Instead of passively watching animals from a jeep, you'll jump out to track them on foot, hiding in grassy outcrops to photograph elephants and hippos swimming in the river. Overnight portered safaris and fly-camping get you even closer to the rhythms of the reserve with mesh tents that allow you to fall asleep under a blanket of stars and awake with the first pink rays of sunrise. The main camp sits in the shade of a riverine forest on the banks of the Luwego, and the sizable tents were designed based on nineteenth-century British army specifications, with

elegant campaign furniture constructed from reclaimed hardwoods, flickering antique hurricane lamps, and handsome Egyptian rugs. Solar panels harnessing energy for the camp top shaded daybeds on stilts in the river. Even more important, the project is creating a model for sustainable tourism in Tanzania by converting an area that would otherwise be used for big game hunting, protecting the diversity that makes this one of Africa's last great untouched wilderness areas. **WHICH ROOM TO BOOK:** At just four tents, you can't go wrong, but those nervous about things that go bump (or roar) in the night might feel more at ease in the tent bordering the common area (255-767-755-537; \$750 per person per night, all inclusive). 🍷

Sayari Camp, Serengeti National Park

🔥 The northern Serengeti is the stage for the annual drama of migrating wildebeest herds crossing the crocodile-infested Mara River. Sayari, currently the region's only permanent tented camp, offers a degree of luxury unmatched by seasonal mobile safaris, including a large swimming pool, bar, library, lounge, and two tented dining areas atop a hill with views onto the Lamai Wedge, where the enormous herds gather. Each of the 15 suites has a tented roof, hardwood floors, and a private terrace; sliding-glass doors keep out insects and optimize views during the day, while zippered screens let in breezes and bush noises (howling hyenas and grunting hippos) but not mosquitoes at night. A resident spa therapist is on call for in-room treatments. Articulate guides display keen tracking skills on walking safaris and drives in open-air vehicles, and staff are happy to arrange alfresco candlelit dinners for couples seeking privacy. **WHICH ROOM TO BOOK:** Tent 15 has an outdoor rock bathtub, a four-poster bed, and the best view of the Lamai Wedge (27-21-418-0468; doubles, \$900-\$1,030, all-inclusive). 🍷

Sanctuary Swala, Tarangire National Park

🔥 A hauntingly beautiful landscape of winding rivers, ancient woodlands, swamps, and open savanna, Tarangire is home to all of the Big Five except rhino and, although plagued with biting tsetse flies, is one of the best places in Africa to observe elephants and lions. Here, Swala camp—newly swank after an update and relocated amid a stand of umbrella-shaped acacia tortilis trees—has 12 large tents on wooden platforms. All have private verandas, separate dressing areas, netted beds, and both indoor and outdoor showers; Wi-Fi is available in the reception area. You'll eat excellent modern African cuisine in the thatched open-air dining area that sits beneath a centuries-old baobab overlooking the water hole, which during the dry season attracts so many animals—including lions—that you may be tempted to skip the twice-daily game drives in the tsetse fly-vulnerable open vehicles. **WHICH ROOM TO BOOK:** No. 5, Kudu, has a daybed built into a living baobab (255-27-250-9817; doubles, \$880-\$1,320, all-inclusive, closed April and May). 🍷 🍷

Kilindi, Zanzibar

🔥 255-24-223-2473; doubles, \$1,500, including meals and laundry. 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

THAILAND

JW Marriott Resort, Khao Lak

🔥 66-76-584-888; doubles, \$110. 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷