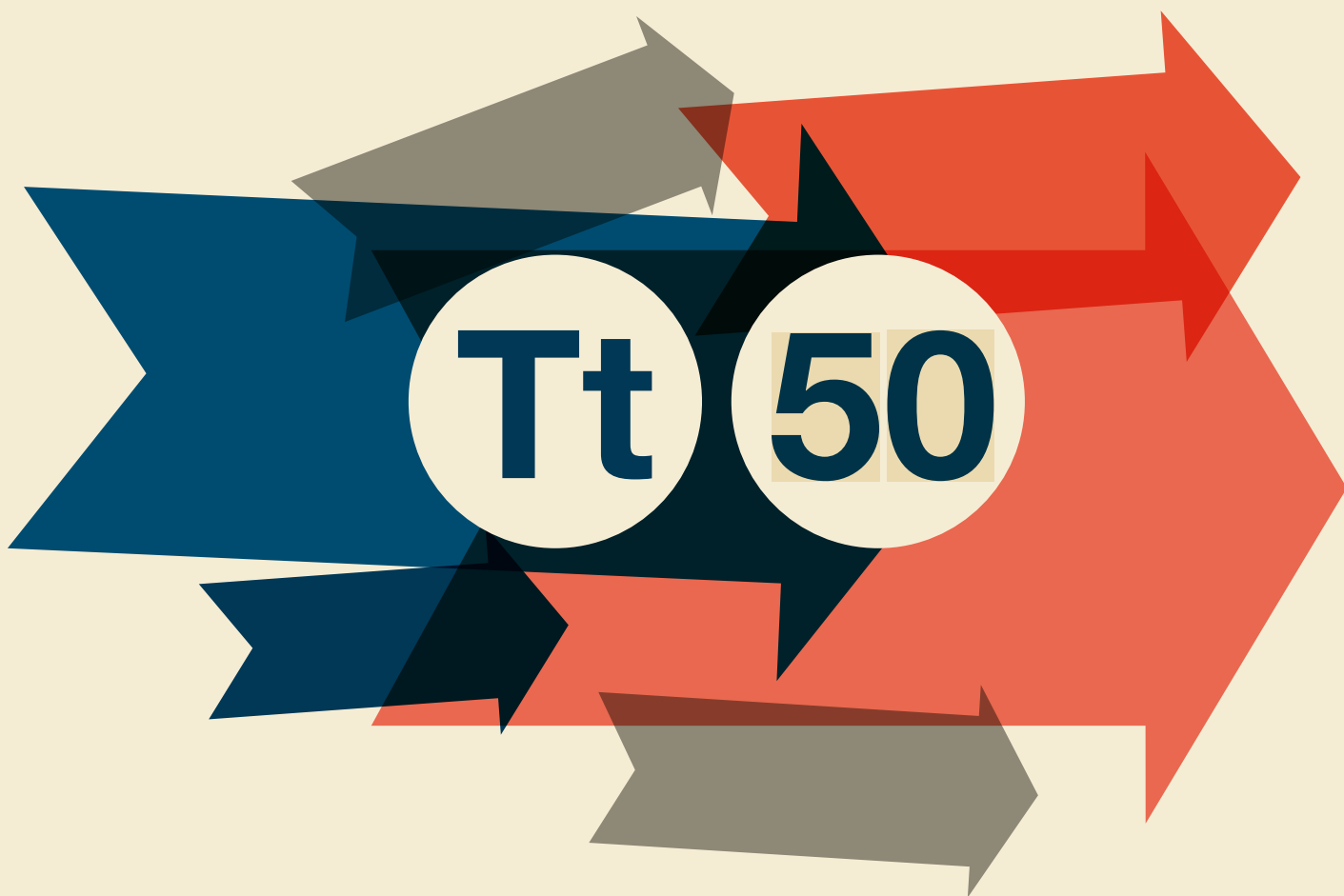




Travel Top 50

2016/17

All aboard for our fast-paced tour of the finest hotel openings, boats, planes and rolling stock setting the agenda in the world of travel and hospitality.



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- Editor:** *Josh Fehnert*
Senior designer: *Jay Yeo*
Deputy photo editor: *Shin Miura*
- Writers:** *Matt Alagiah (MAL), Chloë Ashby (CA), Jessica Bridger (JBR), Ivan Carvalho (IC), James Chambers (JCH), Melkon Charchoglyan (MCH), Guy De Launey (GDL), Josh Fehnert (JAF), Kenji Hall (KH), Tom Jeffreys (TJ), Jason Li (JZL), Christopher Lord (CL), Tristan McAllister (TMA), Charlie Monaghan (CMO), Debbie Pappyn (DEP), Laura Rysman (LR), Luke Saunders (LS), Gideon Scanlon (GS), Marie-Sophie Schwarzer (MSS), Junichi Toyofuku (JT), Jamie Waters (JSW), Fiona Wilson (FW), Zayana Zulkiflee (ZZ)*



I 8

Best buns Vyta, Florence

Florence's Santa Maria Novella train station, a 1935 masterpiece of Italian rationalist architecture, has recently turned its First Class waiting room into a bakery café that's open to all travellers. There Vyta, the seventh in this chain of small patisseries to operate exclusively in Italy's main stations, serves high-quality but affordable versions of Italian goodies – paninis, pizza, croissants, coffee and wine – in a bold and built-to-impress interior.

Inside it's all copper and green marble set against jade-coloured walls, all of which is offset by antique touches such as original 1930s photos and wood panelling. The result is truly first-class. — LR grandistazioni.it



I 7

First among firsts JAL and Lufthansa

The world looks brighter from seat 1A but even in the rarefied world of First Class travel some airlines do things better than the rest (though admittedly our two winners were inseparable in their merits): Japan Airlines (JAL) and Lufthansa.

JAL's suite offers privacy in a wood-grain pod with a generous seat, a 23-inch screen and a mattress from Japanese favourite Airweave. Lufthansa rates for its attention to detail, such as good linen and a two-metre-long flat bed. Travel from Frankfurt and there is a dedicated First Class terminal with valet parking; the limo transfer from the terminal straight to the plane doesn't hurt either. — FW lufthansa.com; jal.co.jp



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