
TRAVEL TOP 50 2018/19

The best sky captains, finest service, snappiest connections and most tempting pit-stops, as selected by Monocle

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The warmest welcome in the Bavarian Alps A lively hotel bar in São Paulo Union Station's outstanding retail revamp The airport magazine you'll want to pick up The best breakfast to get you out of bed Our Portuguese customer service guru A mouthwatering rest-stop in Switzerland A suitcase for any and every journey A railway-rider's dream Lebanon's chicest short-stay set-up Peerless airport design in Wyoming The sharpest airline uniforms courtesy of Alberta Ferretti Brooklyn's coolest minibar The speediest airport-hotel link An appealing beachside revamp The most picturesque rail journey to Venice Singapore Airlines' comfiest Business Class seats Our Swiss hostess with the mostest The craftiest hotel partnerships The most readable in-air magazine Air France's winning playlist Where to stay with your four-legged friend A rundown of the world's best airports The most luxurious limousine to climb into The leading leisure carrier An airport lounge you won't want to leave The most stylish arrival The best hotel brew The hotel group that's making waves Parisian hotel amenities you'll want to stash away The captain we'd want behind the wheel A peerless new powerboat A prison turned pension The greenest airport extension The best small-business investment

Long flights demand the best – so here it is



34. OUTSTANDING RETAIL REVAMP

Union Station Toronto



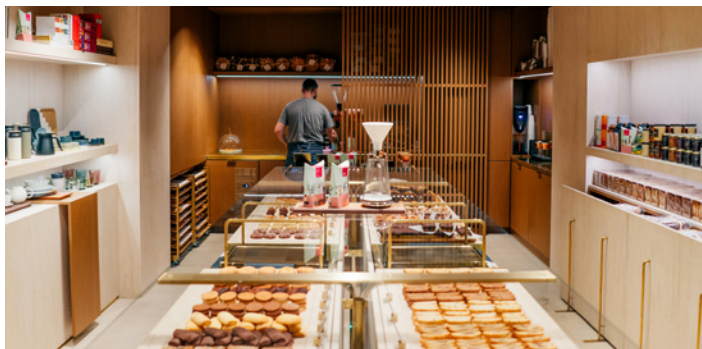
Enter the revamped retail complex (in the works since 2009) at Toronto's Union Station, the country's busiest transit hub, and you'll be struck by the absence of cookie-cutter chains. Instead, the city's best independent retailers, including Pilot Coffee Roasters and Greenhouse Juice Co, line the Front Street Promenade. Their shopfronts are inspired by the station's beaux arts Great Hall dating from 1927. "Placing brands that are truly born and bred in Toronto is like an homage to the city and a much better articulation of its identity," says Anthony Green, co-founder of Greenhouse Juice Co. — [wk torontounion.ca](http://www.torontounion.ca)



35. COMFIEST BUSINESS CLASS SEAT

Singapore Airlines Singapore

Naturally, the world's longest flight calls for comfortable seats and on Singapore Airlines' Airbus A350-900 ultra-long-range craft connecting Singapore with New York, only the best are available. The plane is divided into Premium Economy and Business Class, making the most of its extra-wide body, higher ceilings and larger windows. Business Class travellers will find the 19-hour journey – which launches this October – to go by faster than expected, ensconced within hand-stitched leather cocoons that recline into a bed. There's also plenty of storage space for devices, reading material and carry-on baggage, making it easy to stay organised in-flight. — [zz singaporeair.com](http://www.singaporeair.com)



PHOTOGRAPHER: IAN PATTERSON

MONOCLE

The Escapist – go further

DISCO DIAL: The Med's hit radio stations **DRIVING FORCES:** *Chauffeurs' secret manoeuvres* **FASHION ON SEA:** Putting some glitz into Biarritz **GATE GIFTS:** *The best airport design buys* **LUGGAGE WARS:** Brands doing battle at the carousel



Top gun



Room at the top



Top tan

The Travel Top 50

The inns and airlines, chefs and chiefs, designers and dogs who can make everything from beach break to business dash a sunny success.



Top dogs

New format!



Top table



Top up?

SGD \$29.95 (w/gst)
USD \$20.00 (w/gst)
AUD \$26.95 (w/gst)

ITA €19
ESP €18
CHF 25
GER €19

0.2 ▶ UK £10
USD \$18
GER €19



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+ **DESTINATIONS:** The chicest spot on the **ATHENIAN RIVIERA**. Why the city of Mérida is Tulum minus the seaweed. Plucky **SIARGAO** pushes for clean tourism. Why all the signs point to **TUCSON**. Plus a dusty **MOROCCAN** road trip.

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GREATEST PRE-JOURNEY PIT-STOP

Union Station Food Court and Front Street Promenade

Toronto

The renovation of Toronto's Union Station began a decade ago and, while it's not over yet, there's plenty to see. The Front Street Promenade – vintage-inspired shopfronts housing independent retailers – was quickly embraced.

The latest opening is a food court where national chains sit alongside born-and-bred Torontonian restaurants, such as the family-owned Italian Scaccia. Union Station is only set to get better with the unveiling of its fresh market. It's been a long time coming but the station is becoming a place to alight in its own right. — WK torontoniuion.ca



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TOP WAY TO GO HIGH SPEED ON LAND

Gran Class, Hayabusa Shinkansen

Japan

East Japan Railway's Gran Class is the First Class carriage of the Hayabusa Shinkansen, which whizzes from Tokyo to Shin-Hakodate-Hokuto in Hokkaido. The leather armchairs can be reclined and come with a desk light and folding table. You're likely to drop off as soon as you set off but don't miss the meals, including Japanese wine selected by a sommelier from the Tokyo Station Hotel. — FW jreast-shinkansen.com/granclass



PHOTOGRAPHER: Ian Patterson



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MOST CONSISTENT CARRIERS

Lufthansa & Finnair

Germany & Finland

These two flag-carriers can't be outdone when it comes to service, identity and moving forward in a fast-changing industry. For one thing, Finnair knows how to celebrate its Nordic roots: from introducing the Finnish tradition of Kahvikutsut – coffee served with a selection of Finnish treats – on its long-haul Business-Class flights to its Marimekko design elements. Comfort is just as important for the Vantaa-based airline, which will be adding Premium Economy to its long-haul services from 2020.

Lufthansa is also renowned for constantly improving its service. After updating its logo and livery last year (without losing the familiar crane on the tail), the German airline is now investing in modern, fuel-efficient and low-noise aircraft. Its new Boeing 777-9 will provide a smart and timeless Business Class section with flat-bed seats measuring 220cm, and every passenger will be able to control the inflight entertainment system from their own tablet or smartphone. While there are lots of updates they would mean nothing without Lufthansa's trusty and seamless service. — DEP finnair.com; lufthansa.com

Travel Top 50