

THE inn CROWD

Notable New Yorkers also dabble in hotels — here's where to check in

By **ANDREW SESSA**

SOME of New York's boldest-faced names lead semi-secret double lives. In addition to their day jobs as restaurateurs and record executives, actors and artists, interior designers and intrepid entrepreneurs, they moonlight as haute hoteliers, owning — and sometimes even operating — chic stays around the globe. Here, we've rounded up five of our favorites.

BEDFORD POST INN Bedford, New York →

WHEN you've enjoyed public adoration for decades, opening a country-house hotel hardly seems like next on the agenda. But that's exactly what Westchester resident and Hollywood A-lister **Richard Gere** (inset) did in 2009, launching this eight-room stay in a historic 18th-century home he'd saved from demolition. Together with his co-owner and fellow local Russell Hernandez, Gere recently turned over the Relais & Châteaux property's restaurant to chef



Michael Weschler



Michael White's Alt-amarea Group, which launched the local, seasonal Italian eatery Campagna there last fall. (From \$395; bedfordpostinn.com)

HOTEL TIVOLI Tivoli, New York →

HAVING long had a country house in the Hudson Valley hamlet of Tivoli, blue-chip artist **Brice Marden** and his wife, painter **Helen Marden** — who already own Golden Rock Inn (\$180; goldenrocknevis.com), in Nevis — reopened the town's former Madalin hotel as this 10-room spot last summer. They updated its old-timey B&B look completely, hanging their own artwork as well as those of their famous friends like Robert Rauschenberg, arranging well-chosen vintage and contemporary furniture and painting the moldings in a particular gray color mixed by Brice himself. Additional temptations include the Corner, a locavore-friendly restaurant seating 100. (From \$240; hoteltivoli.org)



Artists Helen and Brice Marden own the Hotel Tivoli in the Hudson Valley.



Ingalls Photography



Nihiwatu



← **NIHIWATU RESORT** Sumba, Indonesia

IN 2012, entrepreneur **Christopher Burch** (inset) — ex-Mr. Tory and founder of the now-defunct retailer C. Wonder — acquired this 580-acre surf sanctuary, which perches on the largely un-touristed Indonesian island of Sumba, 250 miles south of Bali. He's continued to donate its profits to a local community-supporting foundation, while also adding 11 new wood-and-thatch villas. That brings the total to 32, allowing that many more surf-centric guests to partake of Nihiwatu's killer break. Also killer? The views of the 1½-mile-long beach and the Indian Ocean beyond from every villa, each of which has its own pool. (From \$900 per person; nihiwatu.com)

↓ **TRIBAL HOTEL** Granada, Nicaragua

Jean-Marc Houmard (inset), the man behind some of Manhattan's most scene-setting restaurants, Indochine and Acme among them, opened this seven-room stay last May, partnering with his childhood friend Yvan Cussigh to add some global-nomad style to a colonial town on the shores of Lake Nicaragua. Designing every eclectic element of the place themselves — from mid-century modern-inspired furnishings crafted by local artisans to a pool whose mosaics reference the sidewalks fronting Rio's Copacabana Beach — the duo created a comfortable, casual, indoor-outdoor hangout that feels like a private home, the kind of place the Beautiful People who score seats at Houmard's restaurants would want to spend spring break. (From \$125; tribal-hotel.com)



Stephanie Smith

↑ **PLAYA GRANDE BEACH CLUB**

Río San Juan, Dominican Republic

WITH this nine-villa haven, which she opened last year, interior designer **Celerie Kemble** (inset) brings her quirky-cool, tradition-with-a-twist aesthetic to a stretch of white-sand beach on the DR's north coast, where she and her money-manager husband, Boykin Curry, have vacationed for years. Kemble has expertly played with a Dominican Victorian look for the resort's homey-feeling one- and three-bedroom bungalows and central clubhouse, plus pool and tennis court. It's all part of a lushly tropical, 2,000-acre development — co-owned by the Kemble-Boykins and a group of their high-profile friends that includes Mariska Hargitay, Richard Meier and Charlie Rose — where an Amanresort is also expected soon. (From \$800; playa-grandebeachclub.com)



Tribal Hotel

PLAYA GRANDE BEACH CLUB