Forbes

Dreamy Suites: 10 Favorite Hotels Of 2022

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I know the difference between expensive travel and the truly luxurious

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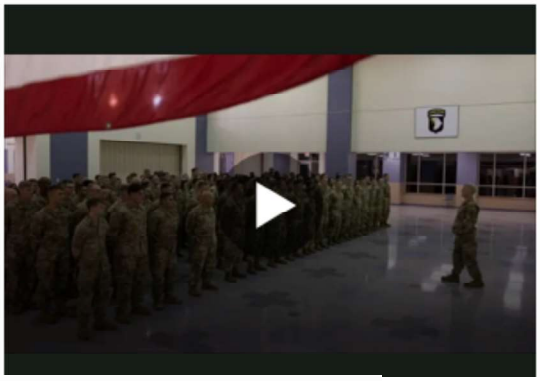

Sextantio COURTESY OF THE HOTEL

Sextantio Grotte della Civita, Matera, Italy

One of my favorite types of accommodation in Italy is the albergo diffuso, in which a would-be abandoned village gets new life as a village-like hotel. When you stop taking comforts for granted and assuming that all the niceties were always just there, the feats of hospitality become apparent. That reaches another level in Sextantio's project in Materia, a village in the southern Italian region of Basilicata that was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its hundreds of cave dwellings, some of which were used as homes until the 20th century. It's a messy history but in part a beautiful rebirth, in the form of this 18-room hotel, where the caves feel romantic and atmospheric but have niceties like hot showers, plush beds and under-floor heating.