

Top Locations to Ring in the New Year. 🍷

LAS VEGAS

Bellagio

Better than the real thing? While the city of Las Vegas stages fireworks for all, Bellagio guests may enjoy the light show dancing across 1000 fountains in a vast lake at the centre of this 120-acre all-in-one resort modeled after a village at Lake Como. Begin the evening with "O" by the famed Cirque du Soleil before partaking in one of the resort's several New Year's Eve dinner-and-dancing events. With its nigh 4000 rooms, new spa facilities, casinos, restaurants, discos and ballrooms, not to mention an art gallery, botanical garden and two wedding chapels, there is something for everyone to herald in the New Year.

Bellagio Las Vegas, www.bellagio.com



HONG KONG



The Peninsula Hong Kong

The Chinese celebrate the Lunar New Year in 2007 on January 29, but that hardly excludes the Western New Year's Eve celebrations a month earlier. In Hong Kong, roll in chauffeured Rolls' to the "Grande Dame of the Far East" that juts out into Victoria Bay – ensuring an unimpeded view of its spectacular fireworks show from the panorama windows of the Felix restaurant designed by Philippe Starck on the 28th Floor. Begin 2007 with an individually tailored rejuvenating treatment at the newly opened ESPA Spa.

The Peninsula Hong Kong, www.hongkong.peninsula.com

DUBAI



Kempinski Hotel Mall of the Emirates

For the best of both worlds, try Dubai's most recent addition, the 5-star deluxe Hotel Kempinski at the Mall of the Emirates. New Year's Eve festivities overlooking the Jumeirah skyline may be enjoyed without cold weather covering from the pool deck of the Hotel's Mosaic Bar. Or enjoy the "Fire and Ice Bash", an extravaganza of international culinary fusion and music at Sezzam Dining that boasts a panoramic view of the alpine mirage at the adjoining Ski Dubai. Retreat to one of the Kempinski's Swiss Chalet duplex suites to reenergize for a New Year's Day on the slopes.

Kempinski Hotel Mall of the Emirates, www.kempinski-dubai.com

MONTE CARLO

Hotel de Paris

Only a 7-minute helicopter ride from Nice airport brings you to Golden Square of Casino Plaza and the front door of Monte Carlo's oldest and finest hotel, the Hotel de Paris built in 1864. Celebrate New Year's Eve in one of the Hotel's 6 restaurants, including Alain Ducasse's famed Louis XV or an extravagant Gala Dinner in the Hotel's Main Hall while inhaling the fresh Mediterranean breeze at a bulwark of Monegasian luxury.

Hotel de Paris, www.montecarloresort.com



VIENNA



Imperial Ball at the Hofburg Palace
New Year's Eve launches the ball season in Vienna, so pack your dancing shoes and reserve a place at the Kaiserball in the Hofburg Palace. The Ceremony of the Guards and a welcome by Empress Sissi and Emperor Franz-Joseph begin the evening, which features a 4-course dinner, cocktails and dancing, topped off by a grand waltz and operetta show.

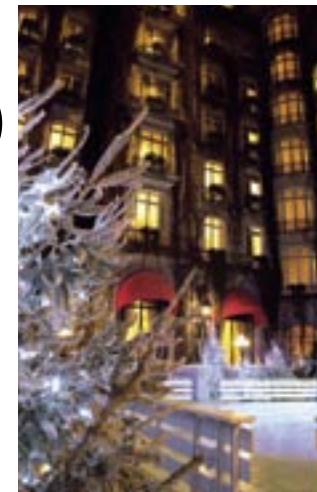
Hofburg Vienna, www.hofburg.com

PARIS

Plaza-Athénée

This New Year's Eve, skip the winter throngs in New York and head straight for the most exclusive address in Paris: the Plaza-Athénée is the only hotel in Paris with its own ice skating rink, erected in December and January in the hotel's inner courtyard. It is however advisable to bring a change of shoes to indulge in fine dining and dancing – before it's back to the courtyard for midnight fireworks.

Hotel Plaza Athénée Paris, www.plaza-athenee-paris.com



Shangri-La

After Rio, Sydney boasts the second largest New Year's Eve celebrations, and is one of the first cities to usher in the New Year because of its proximity to the International Date Line. From the Shangri-La Hotel's 36th floor Altitude Restaurant, enjoy a six-course champagne degustation and entertainment, while fireworks alight Darling Harbour against the backdrop of the majestic Harbour Bridge.

Shangri-la Hotel Sydney, www.shangri-la.com/sydney

ST. PETERSBURG



Tsar's Ball at Catherine Palace

Travel back in time via horse-drawn carriage to Tolstoy's Russia at the Tsar's Ball held at Catherine the Great's baroque "Tsarskoe Selo" in Pavlosk, located just outside Peter the Great's "Venice of the North". The multi-course gala dinner is accompanied by orchestral and folk music, ballet and opera sequences, with fireworks in the French gardens outside followed by jazz and dancing until dawn. A tailor-made package will arrange for flight, visa, ball and hotel at Petersburg's finest accommodations.

Tsar's Ball at Catherine Palace, www.exeterinternational.co.uk

TOKYO



The New York Grill at the Park Hyatt Tokyo

At 235 metres gaze through the windows of the tallest hotel in Japan as Shinjuku's LCD screens crowd to count down the minutes to 2007. Enjoy a seven-course dinner, champagne and caviar, and themed festivities at the Park Hyatt's 52nd Floor New York Grill – which long before its role in the film "Lost in Translation" has been the address for the best of Tokyo's non-Asian cuisine – not to mention its spectacular view of Mt Fuji. The New York Grill has undergone a complete makeover just in time for the holiday season.

Park Hyatt Hotel, www.tokyo.park.hyatt.com

SYDNEY