

TRAVEL ⌚ 1 minute 📅 08 OCTOBER 2025

And the Winners Are: Four Standout Hotels Take Home MICHELIN's Latest Special Category Awards

They're here: the very first winners of the MICHELIN Architecture & Design, Wellness, Local Gateway, and Opening of the Year awards.

[Hotel Awards 2025](#)[Bangkok](#)[Estonia](#)[Editor's Pick](#)

Throughout the summer and fall of 2025, The MICHELIN Guide announced nominees for the very first hotel awards. Chosen by our Inspectors, the nominees for each award — Architecture & Design, Wellness, Local Gateway, and Opening of the Year — represent the very best across four aspects of hospitality. On Oct. 8, 2025, at an event attended by hoteliers across the world in Paris where the latest hotel Keys were revealed, the winners of each inaugural award were finally announced.



La Fiermontina Ocean, on Morocco's northwest coast outside Tangier.

MICHELIN Local Gateway Award

Celebrating hotels that facilitate the most remarkable and authentic local experiences for guests.

Winner: La Fiermontina Ocean — Larache, Morocco

On Morocco's spectacular northwest Atlantic coast, a hotel partnership with a local non-profit explores exactly what it means to integrate tourism and community.

▼ Explore the nominees:

- [Longitude 131](#)
- [Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa](#)
- [Zannier Sonop](#)
- [Post Ranch Inn](#)

La Fiermontina Ocean — Larache, Morocco

What it's all about: Meaningful cultural interaction in a spectacular seaside setting on Morocco's northwest Atlantic coast.

Nearly six hours by car from Marrakech, the closest major city to La Fiermontina Ocean is Tangier. Touch down and — after a seven-kilometer drive through an unpaved road lined with olive trees — you'll reach one of the most special properties in the world.

This underrated, beautiful corner of Morocco is hardly on the radar of popular tourism, but the gorgeous ocean villas and beach club speak to the marvels of the setting. Yet of particular note is the human, cultural element that comes from a hotel in partnership with a national non-profit organisation known for its work with migrants and refugees.

Following the mission of the Fondation Orient Occident, with which the hotel shares ownership, the hotel participates in a number of behind-the-scenes actions to build community. But such an ethos contributes to the guest-facing experience, too. Many of the resort's buildings are set in the small town of Dchier — including four traditional homes set in a green sea of olive trees and hills — a purposeful choice to facilitate guest and community interactions.

In addition to myriad local guides, treks and other adventures along the coast, one of the most celebrated experiences here is a breakfast in the home of a local family, a moment that encourages an often emotional, face-to-face interaction as well as direct financial contribution to the community.

▼ Defining features:

- Four traditional stone accommodations in the village of Dchier outside the main hotel complex.
- Collaboration with Fondation Orient Occident across environmental and community initiatives.
- Suites and villas with ocean views, rock carved gardens and private pools.
- A mix of Italian and Moroccan cuisine at Ocean Restaurant, open to guests and locals.
- Private beach club and water sports like surfing, stand-up paddle boarding and kayaking.