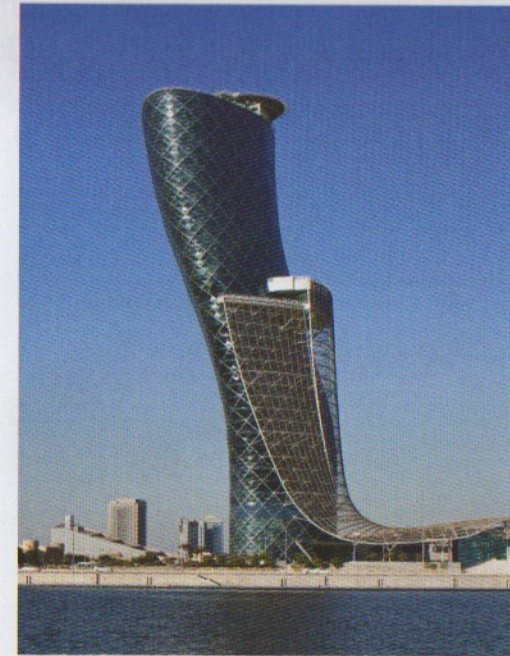


➤ For architectural dazzle on an iconic scale, look to

TORONTO, where **Trump International Hotel & Tower Toronto** (www.trumptorontohotel.com; from £315) has opened in Canada's second-tallest building. City views (a few look over Lake Ontario, too) from the 261 guest rooms deliver a panorama to compete with that offered by the new **Hyatt Capital Gate Abu Dhabi** (www.abudhabi.capitalgate.hyatt.com; from £182) in the **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**. This hotel occupies floors 18 to 33 of the Capital Gate building, which leans at a record-breaking 18 degrees (an angle four times more pronounced than the famous tower in Pisa). All 189 rooms have floor-to-ceiling windows, which create a sense of floating in mid-air.

➤ Not unlike the feeling one gets when looking out of the recently renovated **Lower Tower Suite at Lismore Castle** (www.lismorecastle.com) in **IRELAND**. Since 1753, the castle has been the Irish seat of the Devonshire family (prior to that Lismore belonged to Sir Walter Raleigh, the man who brought potatoes to Europe), built into a cliff face overlooking the River Blackwater and its salmon pools. While primarily a private

house, Lismore (which sequesters a phenomenal art collection) is, for a few weeks of the year, available for exclusive-use rental (from £4,500 per night, sleeps 27) beyond its long-established network of family and friends. Staff (butler Denis, driver Sean and chef Beth Ann) instil this County Waterford landmark with great warmth. It's matched in that respect by the robust Irish cooking at **O'Brien Chop House** (www.obrienchophouse.ie), a small restaurant in the village created by the former general manager of Babington House in Somerset. ♦



Above: the Hyatt Capital Gate Abu Dhabi leans at a record-breaking 18-degree angle.



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