

Your *next* Chapter

From timeless train journeys through the snow-dusted alps to life-changing adventures in Peru's Sacred Valley, there's no doubt that a Belmond escape is better than fiction. But for those who can't resist the allure of the written word, we've collected some of our favourite books to skip to the top of your reading list — each paired with their perfect reading spot.



1. WHITE NIGHTS Fyodor Dostoevsky

A light and tender short story in comparison to Dostoevsky's famed epics, *White Nights* is a literary treat dripping in classical romance. It follows the inner dialogue of a young man managing his own restlessness, relationships and vivid imagination against the backdrop of St Petersburg's ethereal summer beauty.

Best read at Belmond Grand Hotel Europe in St Petersburg. This iconic hotel on Nevsky Prospekt is an ideal place to feel the pulse of the city's past. For the most ardent Dostoevsky devotee, opt to stay in the historic suite named for the Russian writer.

2. EIGHT FEET IN THE ANDES Dervla Murphy

Set off on an unforgettable journey through Peru's Sacred Valley with the sharp-witted, no-nonsense Dervla Murphy. Accompanied by her 9 year-old daughter and their mule Juana, this rip-roaring true account of a woman's amazing pioneering spirit is sure to inspire your own adventure.

Best read at Belmond Hotel Rio Sagrado in Peru. Surrounded by the towering Andes and set to the soundtrack of the rumbling Urubamba River, this off-the-grid escape lets you breathe in the beauty of the Sacred Valley, as Dervla would have done.

3. W.B. YEATS (80TH ANNIVERSARY COLLECTION) W.B. Yeats, edited by Seamus Heaney

In a land famed for its romance and lyricism, it's high praise indeed to be dubbed Ireland's greatest poet. But Yeats' magical weaving of words and imagery is wholly irresistible. This special anniversary edition, curated by Nobel prize-winner Seamus Heaney, inspires readers to be "more resolutely and abundantly alive."

Best read aboard Belmond Grand Hibernian, a luxury train journey through Ireland. Travelling by rail is the perfect way to experience the rugged beauty and boundless grace of the Emerald Isles, and in Yeats' own words, "dance upon the mountains like a flame."

4. ITALIAN JOURNEY Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Part diary, part reminiscence, *Italian Journey* tracks Goethe's two-year journey to the land where the lemon trees grow. The holiday became a personal quest, filled with artistic and emotional enrichment. "Although I am still the same," the intellectual decided, "I believe I have changed to the bones."

Best read at Belmond Grand Hotel Timeo in Taormina, Sicily. Goethe arrived in Taormina after almost two months exploring Sicily and was still enraptured by the seaside town. The same sense of wonder can still be captured from the hotel's Literary Terrace, boasting some of the best views of Etna and beyond.

5. THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST & OTHER PLAYS Oscar Wilde

Wilde was the cause célèbre of 19th-century London and one of history's most iconic socialites. Through this collection of plays he uses his privileged insider position to critique the city's high society with boundless charm, razor wit and resounding sense of hilarity.

Best read at Belmond Cadogan Hotel in London. The new beating heart and social hub of creative Chelsea, nowhere else weaves together storied past and glittering present with such style.

6. RITUALS FOR EVERY DAY Nadia Narain and Katia Narain Phillips

Struggling to find your little moments of calm lately? Sisters Nadia and Katia are on hand to help you regain your mental balance in a way that's both accessible and practical. The series of rituals offer advice for every part of life — from a fresh start in the morning to dealing with goodbyes.

Best read at Belmond Cap Juluca in Anguilla. This dazzling Caribbean resort should be top priority for those looking to escape their everyday stresses. For something truly indulgent, head there in early July when Nadia and Katia will be hosting a comprehensive self care retreat.

7. A SHADOW FALLS: IN THE HEART OF JAVA Andrew Beatty

In this captivating travel memoir, Beatty takes us on his journey to the core of Balinese culture while living in a small East Java village for two years. Through a series of beautifully painted vignettes he explores the island's diversity, mysticism, open-heartedness and sensuality, while grappling with the struggles of modernism.

Best read at Belmond Jimbaran Puri in Bali. Hemmed between emerald jungle and sapphire sea, this is the ultimate retreat to step back and slip into the Balinese way of life.

8. AURA Carlos Fuentes

A contemporary classic from a famed Mexican writer, *Aura* follows Felipe Montero as he is pulled by destiny into a strange domestic job in Mexico City. What follows is a dream-like narrative that blends present and future; the irresistible draw of fate against the beautiful free-spirited life of the city.

Best read at Belmond Casa de Sierra Nevada in San Miguel de Allende. A collection of idyllic casas spread throughout the city that inspired Frieda Kahlo and Diego Rivera, there is no finer place to live out your own Mexican fairytale.