To suggest / recommend

These words are very similar in meaning but there is a subtle difference between them.

"**suggest**" = giving someone an idea in general. Making someone aware that it is a possibility:

> I **suggest** that you wear a nice suit tomorrow. The boss is visiting the office.
> If you want to cook delicious dishes, I **suggest** that you buy fresh ingredients.
> My brother **suggested** pizza for dinner tonight. What do you think?

"**recommend**" = telling someone that a certain choice or option is the best one. I'm saying that I feel you should do it:

> I **recommend** you try the chocolate cake. It's the best thing on the menu.
> Julio **recommended** Spain for our vacation. He said it was the best country he's ever been to.
> The shop assistant **recommended** this book for people who are interested in Asian culture.

You can also say:
- Can I make a suggestion / recommendation?
- Why don't you…?
- Have you tried….?
- Maybe we could….?
- How about….?
- I have an idea….?