

Saturday 21 January 2017
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50 GREAT SPANISH HOTELS

Our expert selection

- ◆ Rural retreats ◆ Beachside beauties
- ◆ City stays ◆ Best budget options

8-page guide

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SPANISH HOTELS

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and a box of chocolates on arrival. The real highlight, though, is the two-Michelin-starred Moments restaurant, managed by the wildly talented chef Carme Ruscalleda and her son, Raul.

● Doubles from £355
telegraph.co.uk/tt-mobarcelona

The Cotton House, Barcelona

15 Interior designer Lázaro Rosa-Violán has worked his magic over the Cotton House, combining the grace of the original building with modern artworks and bold colours. The standard rooms are decently sized, immaculate and all-white, save the odd cotton-themed botanic print. Beds are huge, as are the shower cubicles (with rain shower). The Batuar restaurant serves updated Catalan dishes all day long, and also doubles as the breakfast room (you can take breakfast out on the terrace if the weather is good). The cocktail bar sits within the dining room, but if you're not eating, the loveliest place to drink is the library, still stacked high with original books.

● Doubles from £208
telegraph.co.uk/tt-cottonhouse

The Serras, Barcelona

16 The hotel sits right on the Passeig de Colom and overlooks the Port Vell, recently converted into a marina for luxury yachts. The standard rooms are smart and bright, with floor-to-ceiling windows and balconies. They feature vast and wonderfully comfortable beds (mattresses by appointment to Her Majesty the Queen, no less). The house restaurant, Informal, is overseen by Marc Gascons, who has a Michelin star at his restaurant near Girona. Dishes are mostly Catalan, though the open kitchen with ringside seating is a Japanese-influenced idea. Breakfast – excellent and plentiful – is also served here. The mezzanine lounge area is a cosy place for a post-dinner cocktail.

● Doubles from £255
telegraph.co.uk/tt-theserras

Basque Boutique, Bilbao

17 This pension keeps its roots front and centre, grounded without losing a sense of humour. Metal pipe tree limbs snake across the ceilings, radiating out from the reception area. Disdaining traditional and cold guesthouse lobbies, the one at

The rooftop restaurant at Balcón de Córdoba, right; and a bottle at Hotel Marques de Riscal, below, in the Rioja region



Basque Boutique resembles an adult playroom with whole-log tables, board games and a rack of clothes for dressing up. Lovely exposed-brick walls and wooden beams riff off local country homes, keeping the pension's design aspirations well rooted in local "terroir". The hotel has no food or drink offering, but guests step out the door and into the waiting arms of the old town's pintxo bars and restaurants.

● Doubles from £46
telegraph.co.uk/tt-basqueboutique

Balcón de Córdoba, Córdoba

18 A dazzling luxury boutique spot in Córdoba's historic core, Balcón de Córdoba is a splendid revamp of a 17th-century monastery, with calming flower-fringed patios, subtly sumptuous rooms and unbelievably beautiful rooftop-terrace views – all a stone's throw from the majestic Mezquita. Breakfast happens in the hushed main courtyard or just inside in comfy booths; it's a brilliant buffet (pastries, cheeses, cereals, fruit salad, fresh orange juice and so on) topped up with eggs of your choice. The in-house restaurant, Pairs Daeza, split between the patio and the roof terrace, delivers creative Andalusian-Mediterranean dishes alongside platters of local cheese, ham and cold meats.

● Doubles from £120
telegraph.co.uk/tt-balcondcordoba

Hotel Casa 1800, Granada

19 The hotel is situated in one of Granada's more inviting corners: in the lower Albayzín, just off the River Darro with easy access to sights (the Alhambra is almost

within touching distance on the hill opposite), shopping and tapas. The 19th-century *palacete* was once the headquarters of the Migueletes, a local militia-style police force. Rooms extend out from a typical central patio held in by painstakingly restored wooden balustrading and beams and decorated with swirling frescoes. There's a decent buffet breakfast and drinks and light bites are laid out in the library every afternoon. A nice touch.

● Doubles from £55
telegraph.co.uk/tt-casa1800

Hotel Casa Grande, Jerez

20 It is all about personal service at the Casa Grande. Monika, the owner, makes guests feel very comfortable and is on hand to sort out any requests and help make arrangements for visiting bodegas, seeing the dancing horses' show and anything else you may want to do. There are 15 pretty rooms of different sizes around the courtyard. Décor is classic and smart in pale tones. Some look on to the square and have balconies, others give on to the central patio. A few are up on the roof terrace and are more modern. Good buffet breakfasts.

● Doubles from £50
telegraph.co.uk/tt-casagrande

Hotel Marques de Riscal, Elciego, La Rioja

21 Frank Gehry's foray into hotel design is a real Rioja destination, cutting an epic figure against the famous vineyards. The modern steel and titanium exterior of the hotel is jaw-dropping. The contemporary aesthetic and attention to detail continues through the interior, with curved maple wood walls, leather furniture and marble

bathrooms. Every piece of furniture has a designer name attached, and you'll find yourself unable to stop taking photos. The hotel has two restaurants, one with a Michelin star.

● Doubles from £290
telegraph.co.uk/tt-marquesrisca

Parador de Leon, Leon

22 The magnificent building was originally a monastery and hospice for pilgrims walking to Santiago de Compostela and is a key point on the route. Its rich history is discernible throughout the property, which is full of artworks and antiques. The superior rooms and suites are in the original monastery and furnished with antiques – you will feel like you are in a period drama. There are sofas and throne-like chairs in the bar and lounge areas, in which to enjoy a drink with a sense of grandeur before and after dinner.

● Doubles from £70
telegraph.co.uk/tt-paradordeleon

Only You Hotel Atocha, Madrid

23 A massive 19th-century building on a landmark corner site has been given an industrial-style makeover, with exposed pipes, black and white stripes, boxing posters and artworks with a sporting theme. An undulating bookcase is the centrepiece of the lobby, where there are squashy leather armchairs all over the place to encourage lounging with a serious cocktail or two. Gentle jazz adds to the New York vibe. A buzzing bar, restaurant and café dominates the sprawling lobby. There's also a light-filled space up on the seventh floor – where there is sometimes a DJ at night – with a terrace offering spectacular views across the city.

● Doubles from £110
telegraph.co.uk/tt-atocha

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NH Collection Madrid Suecia

24 One of Madrid's classic hotels has been remodelled to create the five-star NH Collection Suecia,

