

ESCAPE

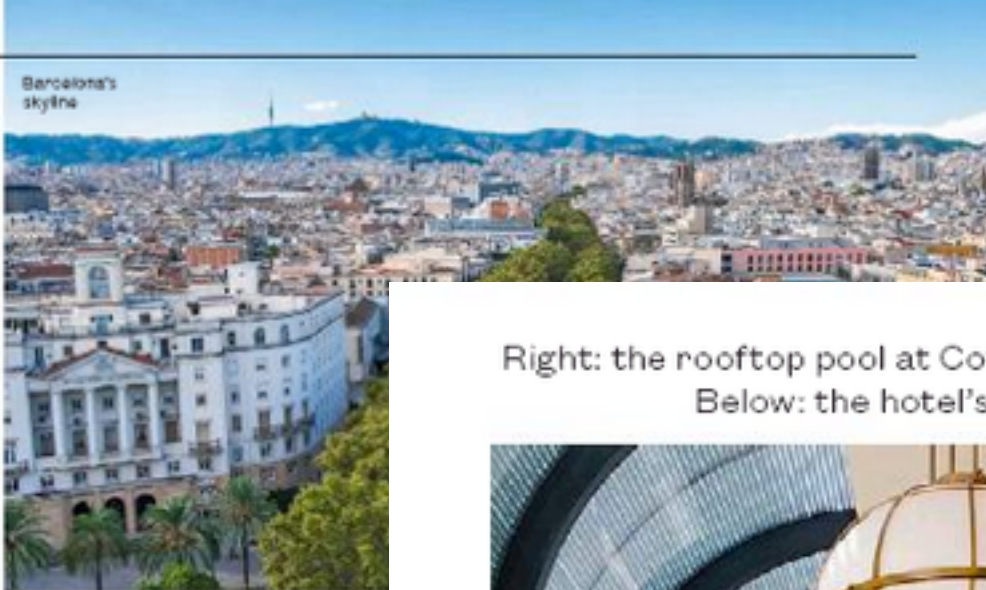
EDITED BY DIPAL ACHARYA

WHAT TO SEE

Dedicated to one of the city's most revered artists, **FUNDACIÓ JOAN MIRÓ** (left) is a light-filled shrine to the artist's surrealist vision. Situated in leafy **PARC DE MONTJUÏC**, the museum has the greatest single collection of Miró's work: the show-stopping tapestries in his trademark primary colours are a highlight as is the rooftop sculpture garden. Finish your time in the park with a stroll through **JARDINS DE LARIBAL** (below), a beautiful collection of water features and terraces.



Barcelona's skyline



OH, BARCE

Barcelona is a city of vermouth-fuelle and even later drinks — go beyond the city centre and spend your days wandering through the neighbourhood of El Poblenou, filled with pioneering Hangar and La Escocesa, and your next destination hotel that's breathing fresh air in the Eixample district. *Niamh O'Keefe* chooses

WHERE TO SHOP

Housed in an old button factory in the Sant Antoni neighbourhood, **LLIBRERIA CALDERS** (left) is a quaint bookshop combining a well-edited selection of tomes with a strong line-up of readings and recitals. **BON VENT** provides a refreshing change from the usual souvenir stores that line the main shopping street of Las Ramblas. This lovely concept store in the Born district sells Mediterranean-inspired products including candles, ceramics and espadrilles.



MAM ITES in the Raval district. Your faves: a superb cooked rib and g... **CASA CAL** architect's. Chef Ma... artistic as the rice with beautiful

Alamy

Right: the rooftop pool at Cotton House.
Below: the hotel's dining area



WHERE TO STAY

Perfect for a Barcelona mini-break, **COTTON HOUSE**, an Autograph Collection hotel, is grand yet unpretentious. The interiors reference the building's previous incarnation as the headquarters of the city's Cotton Producers Guild, with cotton-themed artwork and vases full of cotton flowers. Bedrooms have balconies shaded by plantation shutters and bathrooms are stocked with Ortigia products. Don't miss breakfast on the garden terrace, or a dip in the small but perfectly formed rooftop pool, which has amazing views of **LA SAGRADA FAMILIA**. Rooms from £250 per night (hotelcottonhouse.com).

Right: the rooftop pool at Cotton House.
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drink served over plenty of ice with a splash of soda, at the outdoor patio at **BAR CALDERS** (left). If a G&T is more your style, head to the candlelit surroundings of **JOXBAR**, where more than 100 varieties of gin are on offer (joxbar.com).