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Advice
for the
Young at
Heart

FINDING VALUE IN
UNUSUAL EXPERIENCES

WE
COULD
BE
HEROES

WRAP YOUR HEAD
AROUND CREATIVE
BENEFACTING

Water
Bearer

UNDERSTAND THE HYPE
BEHIND ALKALINE WATER

Julia
Roitfeld

FEMME FATALE BY
CONVICTION AND TALENT

FOREIGN
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World *Travel* Experience





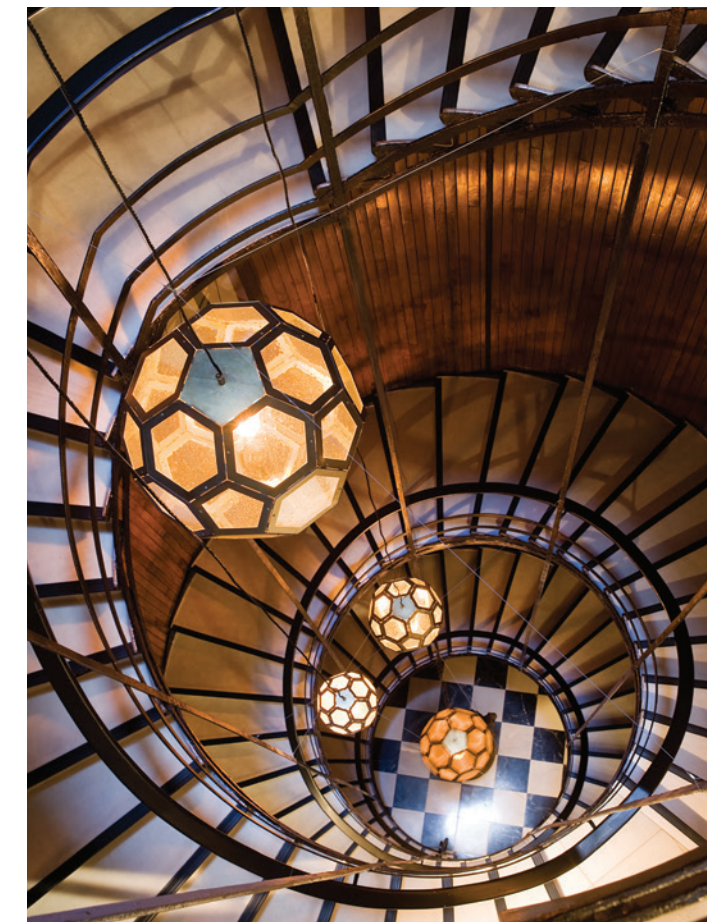
IMAGE COURTESY

My Sweet Barcelona

WITHOUT FLAGS OR PATRONAGE OF LARGE CHAINS, THE COTTON HOUSE HOTEL OF BARCELONA, IN SPAIN, TAKES A BOLD SOLO FLIGHT AND SURPRISES EVEN THE MOST CURIOUS TRAVELERS WITH ITS AUTHENTIC WAYS. AWARDED FIVE STARS FOR ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES, IT IS EVIDENT THAT ITS FREEDOM SUITS THE ESTABLISHMENT VERY WELL - AND ALL INDICATED THIS WILL ALWAYS HOLD TRUE

Opened early this year, the Cotton House in Barcelona offers guests a trip back in time as it occupies a building dating back to the 19th century, where the Fundación Textile Utrerana operated - important center of textile production in Catalonia back then. The renowned designer Lazarus Rosa-Violan was responsible for the revitalization of the area, opting to keep (and highlight) some of the original details of the building's architecture. From that industrial time remained the imposing marble staircase, wood panelling and various frescoes - the rooms on the first floor, as well as the sumptuous hall, are the most neoclassical areas. Modern references, though, were not forgotten in the architectural design: the careful choice of contemporary and sophisticated furniture in all its environments is a good example of it. Guests can choose among 83 suites, all with decor inspired by the cultivation of cotton, with a natural palette of colors that mimic the plant: the predominance of white, a little black and sepia tones. The intention is to refer to the sensations of softness, comfort and delicacy commonly associated with cotton. The sheets and pillowcases are, of course, made of Egyptian cotton and the toiletries in the rooms are 100% natural, all produced in the Mediterranean

region. The Weave suites are 47 sq. meters, with a view to the Gran Via, one of the most important streets in Barcelona. The Ottomans and Damascus suites are on the first floor and are decorated with frescoes, parquet floors and works of art from the 19th century. Measuring 90 square meters, the Vichy suite sits on top of the building, next to the swimming pool and features a private terrace of 25 square meters and two independent entrances. The combination of past and present is seen in some of the services offered by the Cotton House. The area now called L'Atelier was, at the time of the Fundación Algodonera, where the members of the industries would traditionally meet with their tailors, who got their measurements to design their clothes. Today, the site retrieves this tradition and offers guests the same service of tailoring with professionals who, in addition to getting customers measurements, advise them on the selection of high quality fabrics for the production of clothes. When the search is for some quiet and privacy, the hotel's library, used for meetings among the high members of the textile foundation, is the right place. Although it sometimes hosts private events, the place remains fairly quiet on other occasions - perfect for an English style afternoon tea. And if the goal is to





keep in shape, one's physical exercise routine does not need to stop: the hotel offers a fully equipped gym with the most modern fitness equipment in the industry. The spa also offers a variety of cosmetic and relaxing treatments, such as massages. Who stays at the Cotton House cannot miss to visit the terrace, where there is a swimming pool, at the top of the building. From up there one can enjoy a sunset with a privileged view of the entire city, that includes one of the greatest postal cards of Barcelona, the Sagrada Familia, a monumental church designed by the Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí. To best enjoy this moment by the book, a great tip is to toast with a typical Spanish sangria or, of course, a Catalan cava. The "Gossypium" (which in Latin means "cotton flower") is where the concierge service is. Here, employees are trained to offer information according to each guest's tastes and profile, respecting their cultural or culinary preferences. Named Batuar, the bar and restaurant at the Cotton House is open from 7h to 24h, non-stop. In a sophisticated environment with a colonial touch, guests can order cocktails and typical dishes such as tapas, and appetizers with regional ingredients. It also features a nice outdoor terrace. Be it for leisure or on business, the event landing you at the Cotton House matters little: you'll find it hard to leave, period. 📍

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