relax

Budding Splendor

The newest luxury boutique hotel in the heart of Barcelona was originally built in the late 19th century by a husband so in love with his wife that he promised to give her the best mansion in the city. In 1957, the house was sold to the Cotton Producers Guild and became its headquarters.

Recently renovated and reborn again as Cotton House (Autograph Collection Hotels), many elegant original details remain, including a jaw-dropping spiral staircase suspended all the way down to the lobby from the sky-lit roof.

The 83 rooms, named after types of cotton (Madras, Egyptian), are stylish and comfortable, with beautiful hand painted panels featuring artists' evocative renditions of cotton buds. If you fall in love with a piece and need to take it home, the hotel will connect you with the artist.

Batuar Restaurant features discreet nooks and crannies—and a spacious outdoor terrace—for dining from a sumptuous menu sourced at nearby markets and inspired by local Catalan cuisine. Cotton House spa-goers must try the Herbal Cotton Fusion Ritual, a massage with warm Egyptian cotton poultices stuffed with rice, herbs and pure essential oils, for muscle relief and relaxation.

Common spaces include a charming rooftop pool (with views of the spires from Antonio Gaudi's La Sagrada Familia), a library and an atelier where fabric is stacked behind glass cases, waiting for one of Barcelona's best tailors to come and kit you out in bespoke sartorial splendor—in your choice of cotton, of course. hotelcottonhouse.com; autographhotels.com —Rona Berg