

IT'S TIME TO...

EXPLORE

# Book an uplifting mini-break

IN THE MOOD FOR A CHEEKY GETAWAY? TAKE YOUR PICK FROM THESE HOT HOTELS

## FOR RETRO CHARM PILGRIM HOTEL, PARIS, FRANCE

Situated in Paris's Latin Quarter, a stone's throw from Notre Dame and the River Seine, the Pilgrim Hotel is a chic homage to '70s style, with pops of burnt orange, mustard yellow and chocolatey brown, delicious curves and sink-into furniture. Bedrooms all have large padded headboards and vintage pieces, specially selected art and tactile textures, while deluxe rooms each come with a private terrace. In the smart bathrooms enjoy toiletries by Swedish organic brand L:a Bruket. The basement spa with indoor pool, steam bath and gym is the place to go for some serious self-care, while the lobby is the perfect gathering space, with comfy sofas arranged around an open fire, an alfresco terrace and '70s cocktail classics given a fresh twist by mixologist Alceste Siobhan Von Holz. A rooftop bar offers magical views over the city of romance. *Rooms from £300pn, hotelpilgrim.paris*

The Pilgrim Hotel flirts with '70s style (above), while deluxe rooms each have their own private terrace (left)

## FOR LA DOLCE VITA VILLA PAOLA, TROPEA, ITALY

This 12-room hotel in a 16th-century former convent, set high above the sea, is a romantic bolthole in Calabria, one of Italy's most unsung regions. The decor of neutral walls and terracotta floors instils a sense of calm; slip between linen sheets and, in the marble bathroom, luxuriate in products made exclusively for the hotel by fragrance creator Filippo Sorcinelli. Outside, terraces and a pool offer fabulous views over Costa degli Dei, the Coast of the Gods. Watch the sunset over an aperitivo, followed by dinner made with local produce, much of it grown on-site. Tropea town is a gem. Perched on a cliff, it has winding streets, pretty squares and a great beach. *Rooms from £285pn; villapaolatropea.it*

## FOR VIENNESE STYLE THE HOXTON, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Sip a mojito at the Cuban-inspired rooftop bar and pool while drinking in the city views. The latest outpost from the hip hotel brand has just opened in a striking, modernist landmark. Inside, it's all mid-century stylishness, with a high lobby framed by original travertine-clad walls, while the 196 rooms reference early 20th-century Austrian design and traditional Werkstätte fabrics. Eat at the rooftop bar's barbecue, or tuck into modern French food at Bouvier, 'a Parisian-inspired bistro with an NYC edge'. Beyond the front doors, it's a short walk to the historic first district, and the vintage stores and indie restaurants of the sixth and seventh districts. *From £101pn, thehoxton.com/vienna*



Above: Villa Paola's pool and terraces offer unrivalled R&R. Below: views of Vienna and contemporary style at The Hoxton



A luxury villa at Ras Al Khaimah

## FOR ARABIAN HOSPITALITY RAS AL KHAIMAH RESORT, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The first over-water villas in the UAE are the stars of the show at the Anantara Mina Al Arab Ras Al Khaimah resort. Each villa, with stunning views of the Hajar mountains and Arabian Gulf, comes with an outdoor deck and plunge pool, host service and a reserved cabana on a private beach. Other options include contemporary and spacious guest rooms and suites in the main building or within traditional riads. Active types can kayak through the mangroves, home to sea turtles and flamingos, or go hot air ballooning over the desert. In the spa, enjoy treatments with local ingredients, such as a body scrub made from dates, salt and honey from mangrove hives. Eat and drink in the six bars and restaurants. *Rooms from £315pn, water villas from £1,568pn, anantara.com/en/mina-al-arab-ras-al-khaimah*



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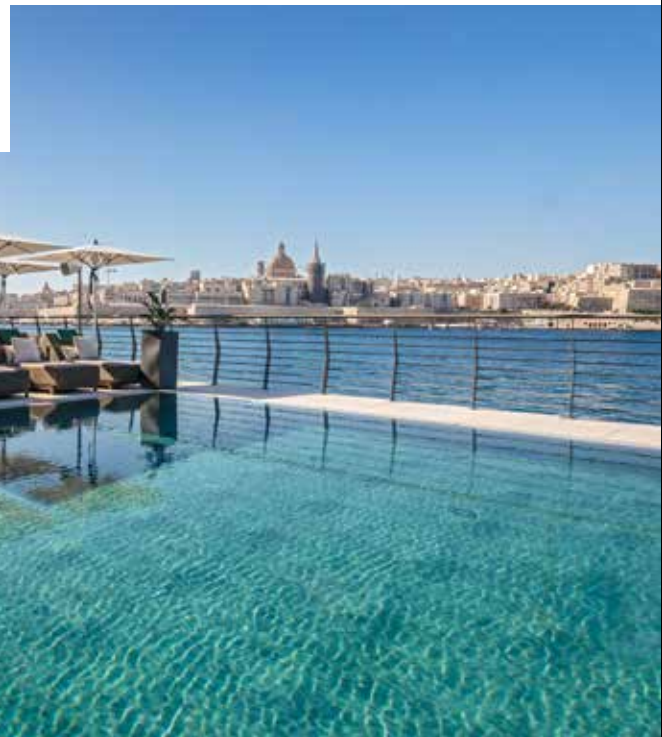
Above: Holm heroes all things Somerset. Below: enjoy panoramic views and contemporary style at Malta's Barceló Fortina

**FOR FOODIE FABULOUSNESS**  
HOLM, SOMERSET

The seven newly renovated rooms at this restaurant with rooms are a joy to retire to after an evening of sensational food from renowned chef Nicholas Balfe. Rooms have exposed lime plaster walls, the pink perfectly complementing the warm tones of oak in the bespoke headboards, bedside tables and Ikebana vases by local craftspeople. Locality informs the whole ethos, with art, ceramics and textiles also from the vicinity, including wool blankets from Somerset-based Gather, made using wool from their own flocks and other regional smallholders. Breakfast evolves with the seasons, but think chalk stream trout smoked nearby, locally foraged mushrooms sautéed with truffle butter on homemade sourdough, plus indulgent cinnamon butter brioche buns to take away. *Rooms from £140pn, holmsomerset.co.uk*

**FOR MODERN MEDITERRANEAN**  
BARCELÓ FORTINA,  
MALTA

On the seafront promenade, the newly refurbished Barceló Fortina hotel is perfectly placed to soak up the beauty of Sliema. Rooms are spacious and modern, the neutral decor a haven from the sun. On your private balcony, relax after a dip in the hot tub while enjoying panoramic views of the sea and historic Valletta – a UNESCO world heritage site – or grab a lounge down by the fabulous open-air pool that's right on the seafront. The hotel's ideally located for catching a ferry to Valletta – there, see original Caravaggios in St John's Co-Cathedral, a gem of baroque architecture complete with frescoes, snack on pastizzi, the local savoury pastry, and lunch on pasta at Trattoria Da Pippo. After a day exploring, head to the hotel's adults-only spa and wellness centre for the heated indoor pool, sauna and steam rooms and treatments – the body massage and exfoliation with local products is heavenly. The hotel restaurant serves delicious international dishes and great cocktails, but Sliema is bustling with great eateries – Tora is the spot for incredible Asian-fusion food. Finally, enjoy a nightcap in your room – the views are mesmerising at night. *Rooms from £90pn, barcelo.com*



**FOR FOREST GLAM**  
GLENROSS LIVING,  
SRI LANKA

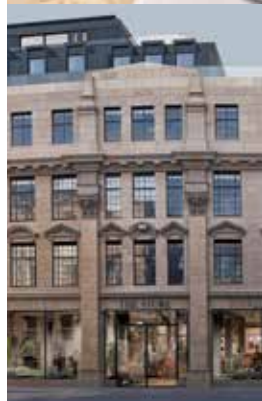
Although just 45 minutes from the coast, this boutique hotel of just 10 rooms in the untouched Kalutara Highlands of Sri Lanka's interior is the perfect place for a wellness pit stop. The comfortable rooms are decorated in a soothing palette of navy, green, ochre and taupe, which perfectly complements the verdant landscape that surrounds them. Once a cinnamon, tea and rubber estate, stay in the colonial-style bungalow or, our favourite, one of the modern pool villas with an infinity plunge pool, floor-to-ceiling windows and sun deck that's just the place for a morning cup of tea or sundowner. Explore or simply stay put, relaxing with yoga or in the spa, all the while following a bespoke meal plan featuring fresh, organic and locally-sourced ingredients devised by Glenross's in-house nutritionist. *Rooms from £430pn half-board; glenrossliving.com*



Left and top: colonial style rooms and forest views at Glenross, Sri Lanka. Right and above right: a Greek idyll at Phaea Blue Palace, Crete

**FOR DREAMING SPIRES**  
THE STORE, OXFORD

One of the world's oldest department stores, Boswells is now a chic hotel thanks to the team behind Paris's much talked about Hôtel Dames des Arts. The rooms, all 101 of them, are spread across two interconnected buildings with decor that includes plush velvet headboards, panelled walls and motifs inspired by the city's distinct architecture. Dine on modern British cuisine in the Treadwell restaurant and head to The Roof at The Store for classic cocktails served with a view. In the basement is the spa with Oskia treatments and holistic studio space that offers yoga, sound baths and a gym. *Rooms from £285pn, thestoreoxford.com*



The Store at Oxford reflects the city's refined heritage

**FOR GRECIAN BEAUTY**  
PHEA BLUE PALACE,  
CRETE

Long a favourite place to stay in the Greek Islands, the iconic Blue Palace hotel is re-opening under the luxury hospitality brand Phaea. The updated rooms and suites reflect the relaxed mood of island living, the neutral palette warmed with texture and crafted pieces by Cretan designers, such as Philippos Theorides, Themis Z and Nisaki Mou. Feast on the freshest seafood in the Greek taverna or opt for more refined dining; you can also harvest and cook your own ingredients before eating with other guests around a communal table. Lounge by the pool by all means, but there is plenty to do, such as setting sail on the sparkling Aegean sea from the hotel's own jetty in a traditional fishing boat, then tucking into a barbecue lunch on a dreamy beach. *Opens May, rooms from £287pn, bluepalace.gr*



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### FOR RIVIERA STYLE THE MONDRIAN, CANNES

From the palm-tree lined path that ends at the fabled boulevard Croisette to the lawned garden terrace with its dedicated Martini trolley, the Mondrian is a chi-chi haven from which to experience the French Riviera. A seven-month renovation has transformed what was the 19th-century Grand Hotel into a luxe modern space that combines the contemporary with art deco touches. The 76 bedrooms are beautifully appointed – those at the front offer great views from the glass-fronted balconies – and the polished marble bathrooms come with lush Balmain toiletries. Dine at Mr Nakamoto, where fresh seafood, sushi and classic steak dishes infused with Japanese flavours are a modern take on 1950s New York restaurants. We recommend settling down on a sun lounger on the private beach where, at sunset, DJs spin an uplifting mix. Très belle, très chic! *From £215pn; book. [ennismore.com/hotels/mondrian/cannes](http://ennismore.com/hotels/mondrian/cannes)*

### FOR ARTY STYLE

### WARREN STREET, NEW YORK

With its striking blue facade, complete with a yellow top, Warren Street – the third Firmdale hotel in the Big Apple, this time in arty Tribeca – starts as it means to go on. The lobby is sunshine bright too and designer Kit Kemp's joyful look, which celebrates colour and mismatched pattern, continues throughout with oodles of brights, whimsical wallpaper and statement fabrics. To this mix, add awe-inspiring installations, such as a 6.5-metre bronze and plaster piece by British artist Gareth Devonald Smith, plus a staggering 690 artworks throughout. Each of the 69 bedrooms is decorated individually, each with floor-to-ceiling windows that look out over the busy streets of downtown Tribeca. The buzzy brasserie has become the place to hang for nearby American Vogueettes as well as locals who tuck into Caesar salads, crab cakes and a sensational lemon tart. Get away from it all at the guests-only lounge tucked away at the back. *Rooms from £725pn, [firmdalehotels.com/hotels/new-york/warren-street-hotel](http://firmdalehotels.com/hotels/new-york/warren-street-hotel)*

Above: art deco flourishes and alfresco dining at the Mondrian in Cannes. Below: New York's Warren Street is the antithesis of bland corporate chain hotels

