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20 best places to stay in Andalusia

Article Slideshow



Annabelle Thorpe Published at 12:01AM, May 2 2015 Cortijo del Marques in Albolote (2)

1. Fuente de la Higuera, Ronda If rustic chic defines many rural hideaways in Andalusia, La Higuera leans more towards the chic than the rustic. The owner, Tina Piek, has renovated a traditional olive mill, installing polished wooden floors, net-draped beds and an eclectic mix of artworks in the 11 bedrooms. The wonderful seven-acre gardens are scented with rosemary and lavender, and the pool shimmers lazily in the shade of the acacia trees as you admire the stunning views. Details: B&B doubles are from £155 a night (00 34 952 165 608, hotellafuente.com)

2. Cortijo del Marques, Albolote, Granada Del Marques has been a nunnery, country estate and army barracks in the civil war, before morphing into an 11-suite boutique hotel that aims to re-create the feel of a traditional Andalusian manor house. Bedrooms are scattered around the different buildings, from the pigeon loft to the granary, mixing bold colours with wrought-iron bedsteads and antique furniture. Twenty kilometres from Granada, it is a great base for walking, horse riding and mountain biking — all of which can be organised by the hotel. Details: B&B doubles are from £70 (00 34 958 340 077, cortijodelmarques.com)

3. Molino del Arco, near Ronda About 15 minutes' drive from Ronda, this is an 18th-century farmhouse and mill amid olive groves and vineyards with a relaxed feel; there's an all-day self-service honesty bar for guests lazing by the pool or on the shady terrace. Rooms are crisply comfortable and traditional three-course Andalusian suppers can be ordered 24 hours in advance. Details: B&B doubles are from £64 (sawdays.co.uk)

4. Hospes Palacio del Bailio, Cordoba Cordoba's lattice of narrow streets can get perilously hot and busy at times, making the huge tree-filled courtyard and sizeable pool at the Palacio del Bailio a real treat. The walls of the 16th-century palazzo are dotted with faded frescoes, bedrooms ooze luxury with marble bathrooms and king-size beds, but it's the restaurant that stands apart; it is a glass-roofed courtyard with the remains of a Roman villa lying beneath the glass floor. Details: Room-only doubles are from £134 (i-escape.com)

5. Casa Morisca, Granada A beautiful, 15th-century galleried house in the shadow of the Alhambra palace, Casa Morisca makes an atmospheric base for exploring the Albaicin — Granada's most historic quarter. Inside, intricately carved archways lead into a tiled courtyard that feels just like a Moroccan riad; upstairs the 14 rooms are traditionally furnished, some with Arabic painted ceilings and small balconies. Details: Room-only doubles are from £71 (00 34 958 221 100, hotelcasamorisca.com)

6. Hotel Rural El Añadío, Vilches, Jaen It doesn't get more authentically Spanish than El Añadío — a bull-breeding ranch hidden away down a three-mile track. This isn't some rustic farm B&B, however, but a full-on rural hotel; the lovely bedrooms are filled with antiques, art prints and ethnic objets, while the dining room — a low-lit, exposed-brick salon that overlooks the paddock — is home to Maria's traditional home cooking, with almost every ingredient sourced from the ranch itself. Details B&B doubles are from £79 (00 34 953 066 031, elanadio.es)

7. Casa Viña de Alcantara, Jerez A former hunting lodge surrounded by vineyards, Alcantara is a bit different from other rural retreats in Andalusia; butlers are on hand to mix your drinks or bring afternoon tea, the walls are filled with antique art and frescoes and the villa itself still has whispers of the family home it once was. The bedrooms have a cosy, country-house feel, and the whole place seems slightly colonial, mixing old-fashioned service with tip-top style. Details: B&B doubles are from £126 (00 34 956 393 010, vinadalcantara.com)

8. Hotel V, Vejer de la Frontera V is the hippest address in Vejer; an architect-designed revamp of a 17th-century town house, where the original features — beams and banisters and Moorish arches — form a backdrop to whitewashed walls, Indian antiques and striking photography. The 12 bedrooms are coolly comfortable but the wow factor is the hotel's Ibiza-style roof terrace, with views across the sea to the Moroccan Rif mountains. Details: Room-only doubles are from £120 (00 34 956 451 757, hotelv-vejer.com)

9. Hotel Palacio de Villapanes, near Seville It may be another of Seville's elegant palacios, but the 18th-century Villapanes feels special from the moment you walk through the ornate iron gates. Sip cocktails in the courtyard under crisp white awnings, take dinner in the all-white restaurant in the historic vaults beneath the house and retire to luxury bedrooms with stone-and-white decor, polished wood floors and contemporary styled furniture. Details: Room-only doubles are from £136 (00 34 954 502 063, palaciovillapanes.com)

10. Hotel Puerta de la Luna, Baeza, Jaen At the heart of medieval Baeza, the 16th-century La Luna once belonged to the Davila family who fought in the reconquest, and the sense of history remains in the grand courtyard, stone pillars and galleried walkways that lead to the sleek, comfortable bedrooms. Traditionally furnished bedrooms feel cosy and unpretentious, and the restaurant serves classic Andalusian dishes — the lunchtime tapas are some of the best in town. Details: B&B doubles are from £52 (00 34 953 747 019, hotelpuertadelaluna.com)

11. Corral del Rey, Seville Soak up Seville's rich history in this elegant 17th-century palacio, complete with original Roman columns, vaulted cellars and a neat roof terrace with a tiny plunge pool — perfect for cooling off at the end of a long day. The 13 rooms offer rain showers, iPods with comprehensive playlists and sumptuous fabrics. Some are a touch on the small side, but the location — just minutes from the Giralda — means it's a small price to pay. Details: B&B doubles are from £225 (00 34 954 227 116, corraldelrey.com)

12. Casa la Concha, Marbella On Marbella's famous golden mile, La Concha is surrounded by lush gardens, with Mediterranean views in one direction and spectacular mountains behind. Guests can stay in suites in the main house, or cottages in the grounds, both with tiled floors, Spanish art and splashes of vibrant colour. Pilates and yoga classes are on offer and the owner, Marie-Hélène, is always on hand for local tips and information. Details B&B doubles are from £91 (00 34 646 520 883, casalaconcha.com)

13. La Finca del Castillo Arabe Chris and Scarlett run their small eco-retreat in the Alpujarras with real love; each of the four rooms is furnished with textiles and mementoes from their travels, and can be taken on a self-catering, B&B or full-board basis. Food is a big part of the deal here; La Huerta is their organic-certified farm, which produces all the fruit and veg used at Castillo Arabe, and their kitchen produces everything from sausages to bread, with cookery classes available by arrangement. Details: B&B doubles are from £81 (sawdays.co.uk)

14. La Almunia del Valle, Monachil, Granada Once installed at La Almunia, it's hard to believe that the busy streets of Granada are only 15 minutes away; the house, perched in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, feels wonderfully isolated. There's a kind of effortless elegance to the place. Its 11 crisply cool bedrooms have wonderful views, there is a gorgeous lawned pool area and guests can sit on its roof-top terrace for three-course suppers of home-cooked Mediterranean dishes. Details: B&B doubles are from £86 (i-escape.com)

15. Posada La Sacristia, Tarifa La Sacristia is streets ahead of other Tarifa hotels in terms of style and comfort; the 17th-century town Tarifa boasts ten chic white bedrooms, with an eclectic modern art collection spanning the rooms and common areas. The restaurant is a big draw, with freshly caught fish featuring heavily. The lobby, which doubles as a café/bar, is popular with locals, making it a great place to sit with a cerveza and soak up the atmosphere. Details: B&B doubles are from £70 (00 34 956 681 759, lasacristia.net)

16. Casa la Siesta, Vejer de la Frontera, Cadiz There are only eight smart rooms at this welcoming cortijo — the Spanish equivalent of an English country house — and here, it's all about rustic chic. Antique ceramics dot the bedroom walls, artfully distressed furniture and soft linen complete the look. Eating is a big part of life at La Siesta; many of the ingredients come from the kitchen garden, and there's often wonderful fish because the coast is only 12km away. Details: B&B doubles are from £179 (00 34 699 619 430, casalasiesta.com)

17. Hospes las Casas del Rey Baeza, Seville A classic Andalusian house — galleried courtyard, cobbled terraces, whitewashed walls — transformed into a gorgeous boutique hotel with 41 chic bedrooms, decorated in tranquil cream and stone. The Bodyna spa is the perfect place to recover from a day's sightseeing, with a swimming pool and solarium on the roof, while the Azahar restaurant gives Andalusian classics a modern twist. Details: Room-only doubles are from £111 (00 34 954 561 496, hospes.com)

18. Hacienda de San Rafael, near Seville Standing alone, surrounded by olive groves and shallow green hills, San Rafael has a classic hacienda look — whitewashed walls, terracotta roof tiles and big-sky vistas from all the rooms. Equidistant from Seville and Jerez, it's a great base for exploring Andalusia, with a beautiful pool to return to, along with 14 individually designed rooms, all coffee-and-cream decor, private verandas and swish marble bathrooms. Details: B&B doubles are from £153 (00 34 954 227 116, haciendadesanrafael.com)

19. Hotel Claude Marbella, Marbella Brother and sister Franz and Désirée have created something pretty special in the Claude Marbella — a seven-room boutique hotel that stays just the right side of decadent. Velvet sofas and dark chocolate walls in the lounges create an intimate, boudoir feel, while the individually styled rooms are all pared-down sophistication: huge beds, gleaming parquet floors and angular furniture. Breakfast is taken on the roof terrace and snacks are available throughout the day. Details B&B doubles are from £222 (00 34 952 900 840, hotelclaudemarbella.com)

20. Finca Cortesin, Malaga Finca Cortesin blends local architecture with five-star baubles. Its giant spa has thermal suites, an indoor 25m salt-water pool and seven treatment rooms. The three restaurants include the Kabuki Raw with Japanese food. A guests-only beach club is a shuttle ride away. Rooms go from "junior suite" upwards, meaning marble bathrooms and a private terrace or garden. Details: Room-only doubles are from £292 (00 34 952 937 800, fincacortesin.com)

3 comments

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Andrew Darling 2 days ago

And Casa Olea in the Sierra Subbeticca - I have no connection to them but have stayed there twice and it is a beautiful rural boutique hotel with fantastic food in the middle of the countryside. Perfect for hiking, cycling etc. Also only about an hour's drive from Cordoba, Granada and a bit more to Ronda / Malaga so a good base!

★ Recommend Reply

Mr David Johnston 4 days ago

You should also add Molino del Santo in Benojan. A lovely converted mill not far from Mr Hendersons railway (the line from Ronda to Algeciras). The restaurant is superb and there is a pool where you can unwind having spent the day walking in fabulous countryside.

★ Recommend Reply

Philip Hurst 4 days ago

You should add to this list AL LAGO Hotel and Restaurant (www.al-lago.es) in Zahara de la Sierra, in the mountains between Seville and Ronda. This is a boutique hotel in a beautiful position overlooking the lake in what has been described by some Spanish newspapers as the loveliest village in Spain. The restaurant is outstanding. [I have no connection with the hotel or restaurant.]

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