

Pillow talk

The hottest digs to bed down in this summer



The only commuters
you'll find here are
tiny field mice

Photo: Michelle Chaplow

5 reasons to stay at:

Hotel Cortijo del Marqués, Granada

Could this be Andalusia's most peaceful escape? A 500-year-old manor house close to the Moorish city of Granada is the ultimate chill out spot

1. You can go completely off grid

Surrounded by olive groves, fields of gold and hazy lilac mountains, you'll feel like someone has picked you up and dropped you in the middle of nowhere (but with wine). Fat bumble bees collide lazily with roses, swallows swoop in and out of wooden beams, and Romeo the resident cat pads about silently. You won't hear so much as a pin drop, let alone a car horn beep.

2. If you thought you'd seen rustic decor, then finca again

Roughly hewn stone walls, original pillars and sunken Arabic baths are par for the course here. Throw open the wooden shutters to reveal each room's unique character – one is set in an old grain silo. Another, built in the old stable quarters, still features the horses' feeding troughs on the wall.

3. The food is out of this world

Why venture out when the three-course gourmet dinners provided each evening are this darned good? For

just €29 per person, you can tuck into dishes including truffled leeks, stewed cuttlefish and Iberian pork cheek braised in port wine. Then sink deep into a Chesterfield sofa with a glass of brandy and a pervading sense of smugness.

4. Find religion... or at least digestion

Slip into the calming on-site chapel, built in 1878, to peer up at its domed ceiling, and the sun splintering through stained glass. Check out the coat of arms on the altar, belonging to the family that used to live here. A tranquil spot to digest all that jamón.

5. Its location is plum for exploring

The hotel is 25 minutes from Granada's magnificent Alhambra palace, and close to the Alpujarras mountains, dotted with pretty *pueblo blancos*. @cortijodemarques

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Thomas Cook Airlines flies to Almería from four UK airports

For chic design

Bless hotel, Ibiza

They had us at two infinity pools and a Vermouth bar... and that's before we even heard about the soap butlers who advise on which kind of bubbles and essential oils will best suit your desired soak. Then there's the pet-sitting service... dogs weighing up to 10 kilos are welcomed here with open arms. Sold, sold and sold. This new opening in Santa Eulalia del Rio, in the north of the island, sits snugly inside a stunning cove with killer views across the water. Oh, come on.



For snazzy spa action

Savoy Saccharum, Madeira

Crying out for some TLC? You'd be hard pushed to beat the luxurious spa here. Hop between sensory showers, each one wafting out a different blissful scent, swing by the warm halotherapy room to absorb the healing energy of the salt crystals and plunge into the Jacuzzi like an overeager tea bag. In fact, we'd recommend not changing out of your fluffy white dressing gown for the duration of your stay. Apart from when you tuck into the vegan and Ayurvedic menu at the plush Alambique restaurant of course. It's the best way to balance your chi after all that tough spa-ing.



For unbeatable pools

Magdalena Grand Beach & Golf Resort, Tobago

Head a wee bit sore from last night's rum punch? Float your way to the swim-up bar and order an ice-cold smoothie to replenish those vitamins. Then stare up at the coconuts on the colossal poolside palm trees, and thank your lucky star you don't have to shimmy up there to get one. The odd sleepy caiman will cheer on your handicap as you make your way around the 18-hole golf course. And the friendly bar staff will cheer you on as you work your way through the rum cocktail menu. Bottoms up.

