

# Europe's 6 hippest new city hotels

## CANAL HUIS 58 AMSTERDAM

**THE FUSS** Just 13 properties in Amsterdam are lucky enough to overlook the meeting point of two canals. This gabled 18th-century townhouse — at the intersection of Herengracht (Patricians') and Brouwersgracht (Brewers') — is the swankiest. There's a private-club vibe to the sitting room, a wood-panelled, well-stocked complimentary bar, and a crackling fire to encourage guests to linger. In the four bedrooms, original features have been brought up to date with surround sound, mood lighting and walk-in showers.

Stay in style in a cool neighbourhood on your next weekend away. By **Susan d'Arcy**

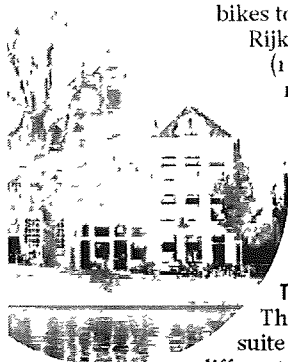


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**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD** Jordaan is crammed with trendy hangouts. Expect vintage finds at nearby Salon Heleen Hulsmann (salonheleen.hulsmann.nl) and PS Atelier (ps-atelier.com), and fantastic cocktails at Vespe (vesperbar.nl). The Anne Frank House is an easy walk (annefrank.org).

Borrow one of the hotel's bikes to get to the Rijksmuseum (rijksmuseum.nl), or take the hotel's boat out for a tour afloat with one of Huis 58's expert guides.



### THE BEST ROOM

The basement suite offers a different perspective,

with discreet, ceiling-level windows through which you can watch the world walk by.

*Doubles from €690, B&B, including bar, and use of boat and bikes, elevenexperience.com*

## SOHO HOUSE BARCELONA

**THE FUSS** Opening next month, this rebuilt 18th-century mansion is the latest outpost of Soho House, the private club with rooms. Expect its much-loved trademarks: kitsch, mid-century decor for the 57 rooms, an extravagant Cowshed spa and a rooftop pool — here with Med views. This house also gets bonus points for its clandestine club within a club, a stylish advance on your common-or-garden speakeasy. It looks set to become a rubberneckers' paradise.

**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD** It's in the city's medieval Gothic Quarter, with its narrow, labyrinthine streets and placid *placás*. Segue between the cathedral's vaulted chapels, the bars and cafes of the tree-lined La Rambla — with its earthy La Boqueria food market — and arty concept stores such as Antonio Barcelona, in neighbouring El Born (antoniobarcelona.com).

**THE BEST ROOM** Bring your selfie stick for the corner suites: their balconies overlook both Duc de Medinaceli square



and Port Vell marina  
*Doubles from €215, corner suites from €270, soho.housebarcelona.com*

### ODDSSON REYKJAVIK

**THE FUSS** With tourist numbers up by almost 30% last year, Iceland was already on a roll prior to its Euro footballing triumphs. But as the Icelandic crowd chanted their team to victory over England, our national crush only deepened. Oddsson epitomises that infectious, offbeat charm. The hotel advises that, "If you are not comfortable with a stranger snoring next to you", you should skip its cheap but chic bunk rooms that sleep up to 12 (from €35 a night) and upgrade to a stylish, if compact, double instead, complete with zingy marine furnishings and record players (€177). There's a yoga room, a soundproofed, see-through karaoke chamber in the middle of the restaurant and a hot tub on the roof with cool bay views.

**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD** It's near the Old Harbour, which has been reinvented in the past few years with hipsters very

much in mind. So expect the city's best coffee shops, plenty of lifestyle beads and an eclectic line-up of performers, from classical to jazz via folk, at the striking glass-fronted Harpa concert hall. The backstage tours of the venue make a great consolation prize if the shows are sold out (€15, harpa.is).

**THE BEST ROOM** The custom-made Pods are just one step up from a broom cupboard in size, but come with views all the way to the Snaefellsjökull glacier (€58).  
*Doubles from €35, oddsson.is*

### TOTEM MADRID

**THE FUSS** The Spanish capital has been crying out for a gorgeous, affordable boutique hotel for years. Finally, here it is, the little sister of the award-winning Uiso hotel. Restraint runs through the 64 bedrooms, a look the design team likes to describe as "intellectual luxury". Let us translate that for you: dove-grey or

desert-pink walls, oak floors, black-marble bathrooms. The modern Spanish restaurant, *Hermosos y Malditos*, has already proved a hit with Madrileños, with decor inspired by F Scott Fitzgerald's *The Beautiful and Damned*.

**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD** The Salamanca district is Madrid's answer to Mayfair, with plenty of designer stores, first-rate people-watching in nearby Retiro Park and the Prado's treasures a pleasant, 20-minute walk away ([museodelprado.es](http://museodelprado.es)). Also within reach is Platea Madrid, the flamboyant conversion of an old movie theatre into a huge entertainment hub ([plateamadrid.com](http://plateamadrid.com)).

**THE BEST ROOM** The attic rooms are flooded with light and very quiet (€164).  
*Doubles from €140, B&B, totem-madrid.com*

### AMASTAN PARIS

**THE FUSS** It's home to the city's first dedicated pop-up installation space, and the spirit of experimentation informs the hotel's style. So, the herringbone parquet ventures up the walls and is stamed an eye-popping petrol blue, while a wall-hung tapestry in the restaurant slinks down over the banquette, then rolls out as carpet. There is a brilliant white palette for the 24 rooms, though, and smart brass fittings and leatherbound books to create a homely ambience. The jasmine-scented garden will be a great place for breakfast on balmy mornings.

**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD** Amastan is in the city's emblematic Golden Triangle, just around the corner from the haute-couture stores of Champs-Élysées, the Arc de Triomphe and Place de la Concorde. It's an easy stroll to the Tuileries Gardens to soak up views of the Seine and about a 10-minute walk to the Grand Palais ([grandpalais.fr](http://grandpalais.fr)).

**THE BEST ROOM** Number 63 has sloping ceilings and a balcony for that artist's garret fantasy (€400).  
*Doubles from €295, B&B, amastanparis.com*

### NAKAR HOTEL PALMA DE MALLORCA

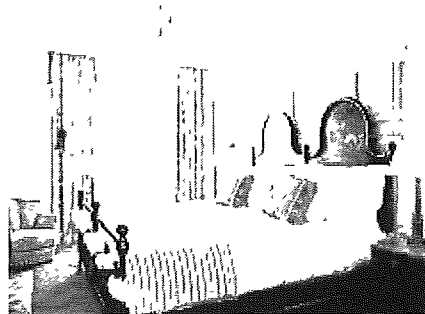
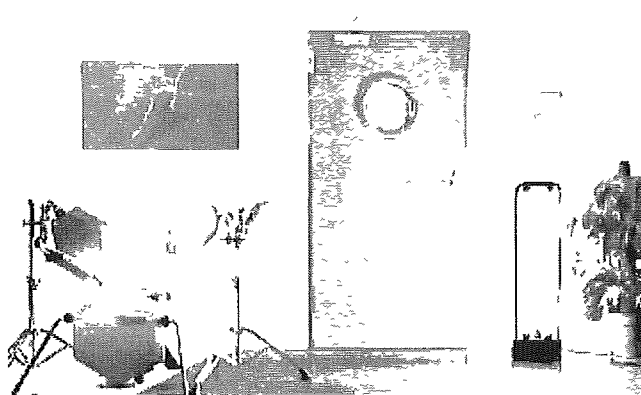
**THE FUSS** Toni Ramis is making his mark by breathing new life into the iconic Pension Nacar, built by his grandfather. There is still plenty of local flavour in the 57 rooms but also some welcome additions such as screen-mirroring Apple TVs, which are Netflix and Spotify enabled. The piece de resistance has to be the rooftop with its infinity pool.

**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD** Step out of the lobby and on to Avinguda Jaume III, one of the capital's liveliest shopping streets. The

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best restaurant is Marc Fosh, a Michelin-starred Mediterranean brasserie for lunch (€27) ([marcfosh.com](http://marcfosh.com)) Go on, have the chocolate cremoso, the brisk walk down to the beach at newly gentrified Portlaoise more than justifies it  
**THE BEST ROOM** The five deluxe doubles have jacuzzis and romantic private terraces (from €184) *Doubles from €115, B&B, [designhotels.com](http://designhotels.com)*



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**The Med  
from your bed**  
Main picture, the  
rooftop pool terrace  
at Nakar, in Palma  
Far left, drinks at  
the Pulitzer, in  
Amsterdam Bottom,  
beat a (digital) drum  
at the Oddsson, in  
Reykjavik