

Hotel reviews



Peppermill Reno Reno, US

In the shadow of the Sierra Nevada mountains, Reno lights up the Nevada desert like a twinkling ode to entertainment. A swift complimentary airport transfer drops me off at the Peppermill's grand entrance. Check-in is seamless, despite there being over 1,623 rooms and suites to keep track of. My spacious fourth-floor Deluxe Two Queens room is gilded to the hilt and overlooks the pool and mountains.

On the walk to breakfast, it's clear this is a 24-hour hotel. Slot machines clink, waitresses deliver drinks to blackjack tables and couples order lobster in the restaurants. There's no sense of time or routine — everyone's here for a good time. The three-storey, gold-hued Spa Toscana offers respite from the hustle of the casino floor with massages, pools and lounges. There are 10 dining options. I try sushi at Oceano, huge bowls of pasta at Biscotti's and oozing cheese toasties at Cafe Espresso. I'm most impressed, though, by what goes on behind the scenes. The hotel is the first in the US to be wholly powered by its own geothermal energy source. The dazzling lights of the resort are a beacon of green, it turns out.

Josephine Price

ESSENTIALS

Address: 2707 S Virginia St, Reno, NV 89502, USA.

Price: From \$63.99 a night.

peppermillreno.com



Hotel Caesar Park Ipanema Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The building guaranteed to stand out on Ipanema beachfront is Caesar Park. Up on the 23rd floor, a pool offers a view of the Cagarras islands, while the rooftop bar is a great spot for watching the sunset behind Dois Irmãos (the Two Brothers) mountain.

Down on the 17th floor, our junior suite overlooks the beach. The furniture is minimal, with neutral grey and blue tones. The main feature is the view from four large windows spanning one wall.

At breakfast, the hotel's wellness and health-conscious ethos is apparent throughout the selection of foods in the buffet-style spread, with an array of exotic fruits, juices, eggs and tapioca, alongside the more hearty fresh cheeses, meats and pastries. There's even a separate low-calorie restaurant open from breakfast until dinner.

Tamsin Wressell ►



ESSENTIALS

Address: AV Vieira Souto 460, Ipanema, Rio de Janeiro 22420-006, Brazil

Price: From \$188 a night.

accorhotels.com



Departures

Nakar Hotel Palma de Mallorca, Spain

Opened this summer in the heart of Palma de Mallorca, stacked above the city's main artery, the exquisitely engineered Nakar is a member of the Design Hotels group.

I was surprised by how relaxed I felt in my spacious, ultra-modern suite: oak boards and stone-hued furnishings added a touch of the organic, while also mirroring the warm colours of the medieval masonry in the city's famous Old Quarter.

The rooms contained motion sensors, so lights glowed on and curtains opened as I entered. What's more, I could sync my electronic devices to the plasma TV. Other intelligent features included international plugs in the safe and sockets that stay on when you leave.

Upstairs, looking across to the striking shorefront cathedral, is Cuit — a breezy, modern restaurant with an indulgent menu, full of surprises such as swordfish tartare with spiced marshmallows and carrot foam. The hotel's crowning glory is the intimate rooftop pool and bar area — the perfect place to watch the sun sink over the city.

Amelia Duggan



ESSENTIALS

Address: Av. de Jaume III, 21, 07012 Palma, Illes Balears, Spain

Price: Standard double from £70, B&B; Junior suite from \$178, B&B nakarhotel.com



Almaha Marrakesh, Morocco

Off a quiet alleyway in the Kasbah district, behind a modest wooden door is a dreamy place — a white, arcaded courtyard with billowing curtains, a mirror-like reflection pool and plants spilling from the surrounding balcony.

Word is that Belgian architect Charles Kaisin was inspired by the Charles Baudelaire poem *L'invitation au voyage* to create a combination of traditional Moroccan craftsmanship and contemporary design elements.

A lounge-cum-bedroom is kitted out with Egyptian-cotton sheets, fireplace, desk, flatscreen TV and mini-fridge. The design is what really impresses — patterned lanterns, local art, geometric stucco, carved cedar and polished stone floors. Bathrooms are equally lavish, with twin vanity sinks, marble floors and walls and rain showers.

Steps lead to a private roof terrace area where I have breakfast the next morning. There's also an 18sq metre rooftop pool and subterranean spa with plunge pool and whirlpool bath. *Stephanie Cavagnaro* ■

ESSENTIALS

Address: Derb Ben Zina 55, 40040 La Kasbah, Marrakech, Morocco

Price: Accommodation, breakfast and transfers from \$341 per room per night, B&B almahamarrakech.com