

THE LEVIN HOTEL, LONDON

With just 12 bedrooms arranged around a spiral staircase it's immediately obvious that this Knightsbridge hotel is a classy joint. My room is small but lovely, with fantastic lighting and finest Egyptian-cotton bedding. The bathroom is compact but swish, with marble surrounds and under-floor heating.

Dinner is in the basement restaurant, Metro. Full of little nooks and bright, striped banquettes, it has a cheerful, bistro feel and is tremendously good value.

Breakfast was also served in the Metro and it was outstanding, a great buffet of cereals, yoghurt and fresh fruit with fantastic croissants and pastries from the London Bakery, owned by the hotel group.

For such a busy part of town, the Levin manages to seem like the soul of discretion — a quiet, grown-up retreat. **Jo Fletcher-Cross**



📍 28 Basil Street, London, SW3 1AS
 📞 From £265 per night, B&B
 🌐 thelevinhotel.co.uk

SAVOIA EXCELSIOR PALACE, TRIESTE



Ever since it opened in 1911, the Savoia Excelsior Palace has been the best address in town. Trieste was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in those days, and there remains a timeless, classical feel to room décor. Somehow, though, the effect still feels contemporary. Excellent service from hotel staff really enhances the experience.

Room pricing is dynamic, of course, but often it's not a huge stretch between doubles and 'junior' (balcony) suites.

Many amenities are pitched at the hotel's business clientele. There's an international buffet breakfast; reliable wi-fi; and the Italian fine-dining Savoy restaurant, which has picture-window views over the quayside. Pretty much everything in the city is an easy walk from the front door. **Donald Strachan**

📍 Riva del Mandracchio 4, Trieste, 34124 Italy
 📞 Double rooms from £170 per night B&B; balcony/junior suites from £215
 🌐 preferredhotels.com

ALMAHA MARRAKECH

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.

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 Jacuzzi. **Stephanie Cavagnaro**



📍 Derb Ben Zina 55, 40040 La Kasbah, Marrakech, Morocco
 📞 Accommodation, breakfast and transfers from £270 per room per night, B&B
 🌐 almahamarrakech.com

CAESAR PARK, IPANEMA

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 (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**



📍 Av Vieira Souto 460, Ipanema, Rio de Janeiro 22420-006, Brazil
 📞 From £149 per night
 🌐 accorhotels.com

NAKAR, PALMA DE MALLORCA



In the heart of Palma, stacked above the city's main artery, is the exquisitely engineered Nakar — it opened this year and is a member of the elite 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.

Upstairs, looking across to the striking shoreline 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**

📍 Av. de Jaume III, 21, 07012 Palma, Illes Balears, Spain
 📞 Standard double from £70, B&B; Junior suite from £141, B&B
 🌐 nakarhotel.com

HOTEL D'ANGLETERRE, COPENHAGEN

A complete renovation in 2013 peeled back layers of modernisations to flaunt this palatial hotel's 18th-century grandeur while discreetly slipping in fast free wi-fi, in-room media hubs, sleek and spacious marble bathrooms and other five-star, 21st century musts. Each of the hotel's elegant 90 rooms and suites is individually decorated, many with fireplaces and balconies.

Its chic Champagne bar, Balthazar, is a popular local spot and its Michelin-starred restaurant, Marchal, not only serves artistically plated lunches and dinners, but lavish, photo-worthy breakfasts.

Guests enjoy free use of the hotel's Amazing Space Spa sauna and steam rooms, large heated indoor pool, reminiscent of a Roman bath and well-equipped fitness studio. **Geri Bain**



📍 Kongens Nytorv 34, 1050 Copenhagen K, Denmark
 📞 From £408
 🌐 dangleterre.com

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