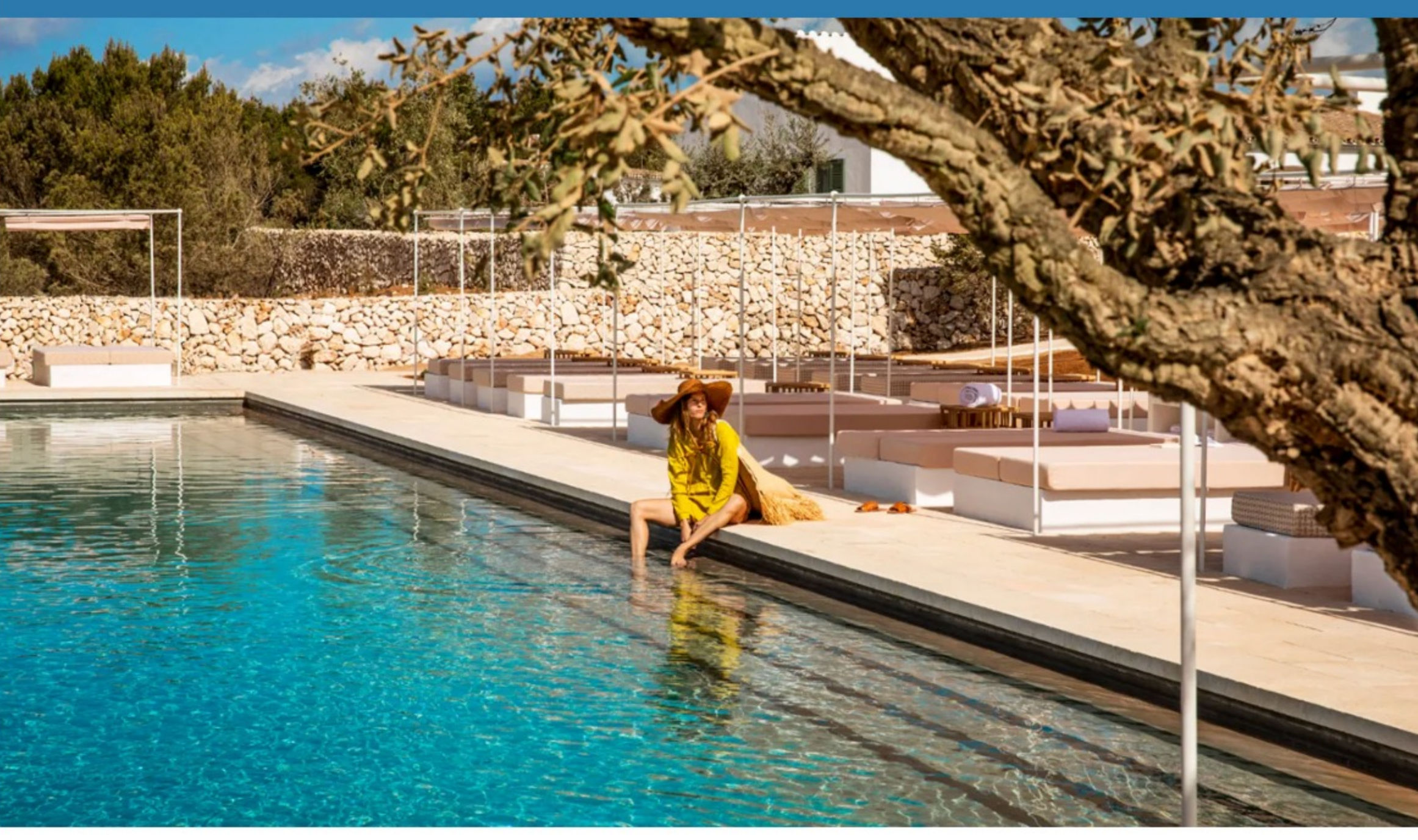


Menorca Experimental hotel review: a rural hideout with a creative kick

This cool, cleverly reimaged Balearic finca is the ideal setting for a serene, sun-splashed getaway on the Little Rock



KARL BULL

Harriet Charnock Bates | Wednesday April 16 2025, 11:12am, The Times

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Occupying a terracotta-roofed 19th-century finca between Menorca's rolling countryside and the craggy south coast, your typical Balearic hideaway this is not. Along with an irresistibly mellow mood and soothing views as far as the eye can see, you can expect ahead-of-the-curve zing in spades: the Dorothee Mellichzon-designed interiors are imaginative and playful, with bold splashes of colour and art deco accents galore; downtempo sounds spill from the speakers; and the gardens often play host to conversation-starting exhibitions. The bar pours out reliably good tipples – a fair number of which are infused with unexpected ingredients that will pique your interest as much as your palate – and you can counter the after-effects of one too many with a swim down at cliff-backed Cala Llucalari – an easy 15-minute amble away.

Overall score 9/10

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Rooms and suites



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Score 8/10

Many of the 43 bedrooms, strung across the main finca and a handful of outbuildings, lead out onto terraces with straw parasols and views of the meadows. Nine suites also have their own little dipping pools. Though they all bear the same creative hallmarks, no two are the same. Whitewashed walls are offset by perky pops of colour here and there, and statement-making custom pieces lend an air of fun to the spaces. Lacquer cupboards are juxtaposed by seagrass side tables, leggy wildflowers burst from cobalt-blue vases by Sophie Alda, and the geometric headboards are artworks in their own right. Even the robes and slippers have been made characterful, with abstract motifs stitched into the waffle fabric.

All of the rooms are fairly spacious and there are freestanding tubs in some of the bathrooms, in addition to huge concrete sinks, but those craving more seclusion ought to book one of the stand-alone Casa de Campo rooms, which are set within private walled gardens, positioned a little further away from the action, and come with their own pool.

Food and drink



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Score 9/10

Rustic wooden tables are clustered out on the main finca's patio and bordered by rosemary bushes. The focus is on seasonally led sharing plates that put a creative spin on typical Mediterranean and Middle Eastern flavours, and much of the produce is hauled straight out of the estate's garden. Must-try lunch dishes include grilled lettuce bud with Cantabrian anchovies and pico de gallo, and marinated monkfish brochette with labneh and empedrat (a bean salad). By day the feel is laid-back yet buzzy, then after dark, flickering candles create an altogether more intimate atmosphere. On the dinner menu you'll find a good number of *para picar* (nibbles from marinated anchovies to pan con tomate) followed by crudo and some terrific larger plates like grilled sea bass with strasciella and sauteed fennel.



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Smaller Spanish producers are put front and centre when it comes to wine, though it's impossible to discuss a hotel by the Experimental Group without mentioning the cocktail list. The line-up is every bit as innovative as you'd expect, with boozy combinations muddled with out-there ingredients such as spirulina, roasted cumin and butterfly pea tea.

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What else is there?



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Score 9/10

Hemmed in by stacked stone walls and warmed by the sun, the inky-blue swimming pool is an ideal spot to spend lazy afternoons, and there's a dinky spa with a raft of holistic therapies for guests to pick from, plus a sauna and steam room to fit between pre-treatment. Hatha and yin yoga classes take place on a platform overlooking the Mediterranean waves, and there are paddleboards and snorkels for those keen to spend time on (or in) the water – just ask at reception. There's also a calendar of other activities, from bachata dance sessions to art workshops.

Children of all ages are welcome and cots can be placed in the rooms for no added charge, though there's no kids' club.

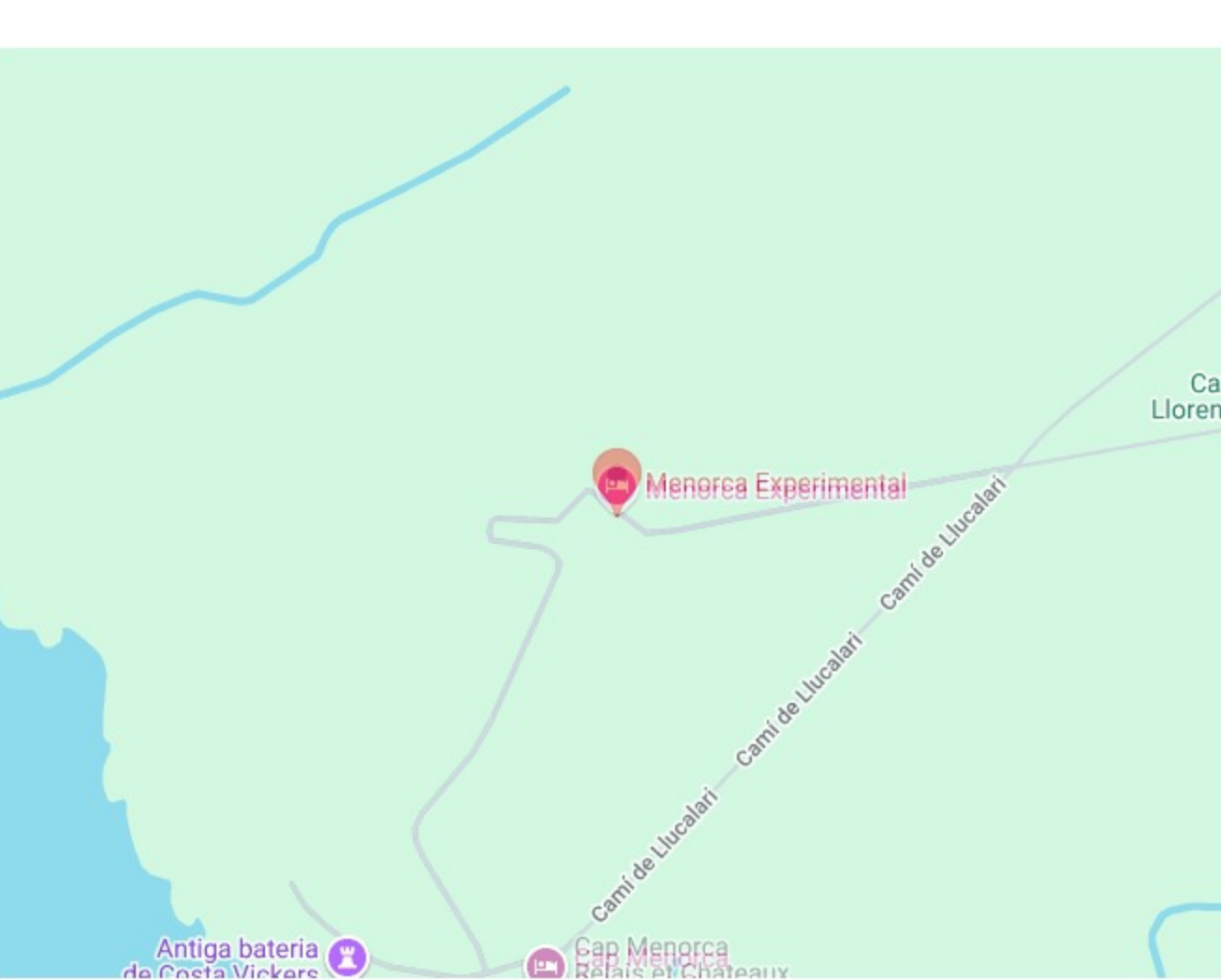
Where is it?



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Score 8/10

On Menorca's south coast, close to well-known San Boni. The nearest cove – rocky Cala Llucalari – is just a short walk away, though the estate is encircled by farmland and meadows. You can reach the island's capital, Mahon, and the airport in less than half an hour by car.



Price room-only doubles from £220

Restaurant mains from £18

Family-friendly ✓

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Harriet Charnock Bates was a guest of Menorca Experimental ([menorcaexperimental.com](#))

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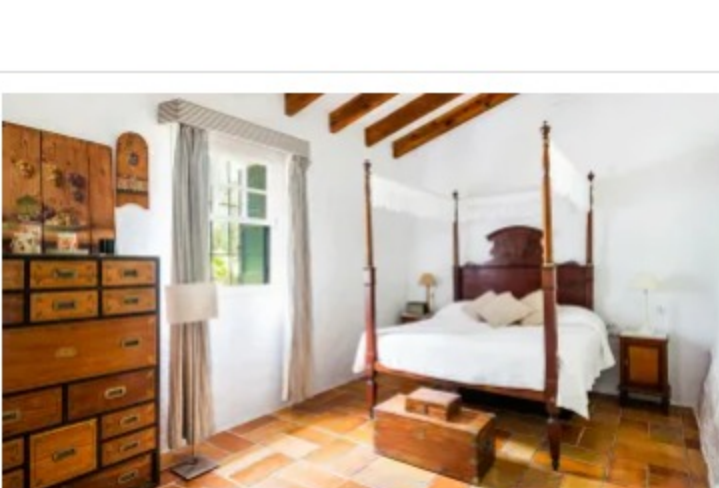
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