DESTINATIONS

The cheapest nicest hotels in Europe for 2025

Our editors pick the best affordable hotels in Europe, from city break hotspots to rural boutique escapes

BY SARAH LEIGH BANNERMAN

2 July 2025

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There's more to a truly special hotel stay than being the most expensive, most elaborate, and most lauded. Often its the smaller, more personal places – the ones that feel like a secret you've stumbled upon – that make a trip memorable for all the right reasons. And some of the cheapest nicest hotels in Europe embody exactly that. From city boltholes in bustling Rome to rural escapes in the Portuguese countryside, these places are brimming with charisma, locality and charm. Interiors are chic, perhaps reflective of their surroundings, service is personable, and location is key. Whether you're planning a shoulder season escape to one of the best Greek islands or want to meander museums and galleries in Florence, we've found a spot in Europe for you to book. This is our pick of the nicest affordable hotels in Europe.

At a glance: the nicest affordable hotels in Europe

Best for foodies: Hostal La Torre, Ibiza
Best for a relaxing island stay: Amyth of Mykonos
Best for a central city location: The Vintage, Lisbon
Best for romance: Hotel Rochechouart, Paris
Best for winter sun: Ceasar Lanzarote
Best for a countryside escape: Le Pont De L'Orme, Provence

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Ludovic Balay

HOTEL

Hotel Rochechouart, Paris→

Strolling through the Pigalle neighbourhood and into this eight-storey Art Deco relic, there's a distinct sense of a time when the Twenties roared. A late-night hotspot on boulevard Marguerite de Rochechouart, the hotel's Jazz Age incarnation drew in travelling artists, intellectuals and a smattering of stars. It's now part of Orso, a new collection of hotels run by industry veterans Louis and Anouk Solanet (also behind Hotel Wallace below), and the sultry theatrics of the era make a welcome comeback. The couple teamed up with Charlotte de Tonnac and Hugo Sauzay of Festen Architecture to revive the building's legacy with modern touches. Some of the finest original details were restored, from the Thirties blue mosaic floor in the restaurant to the marble staircase and glass lift.

Upstairs, 106 rooms were given an autumnal, woody touch with shades of bronze, ochre and terracotta. Decorative details, from the burl-wood headboards to the curved armchairs and alabaster suspension lamps, thoughtfully whisk guests to another time. The Sacré-Coeur looms large from northern-facing bedroom windows (and in some cases, balconies) but is visible to all from the rooftop bar. On the ground floor, an old-world brasserie with plush banquettes serves up comforting Parisian classics, from chicken-liver pâté to roasted pork belly with crisp *frites* and the signature crêpe cake – a family recipe guests invariably try to coax out of the staff. One floor underground, the old Mikado club of the 1920s has returned as a dimly-lit speakeasy, where a trendy set sip cocktails on plush velvet sofas while a DJ spins electric beats in the corner. Next door, blue-hued Citrons et Huîtres is where locals perch at red metal tables on the pavement, throwing back fresh oysters from Brittany and chilled Champagne.

Price: From about £135 per night

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CHRISTOS DRAZOS

HOTEL

Amyth of Mykonos, Mykonos→

This 17-key boutique hotel helps balance out retox:detox ratios while on the island, with hot tubs or private pools in most rooms, a sun-soaked pool terrace, and a health-centric menu. It's located on the lesser-trod side of Mykonos, in the Cycladic village of Agios Stefanos, away from the south coast's party scene. While the isle's hedonic beach clubs are only a 20-minute drive away (should dancing feet start to itch), Amyth's location offers visitors a more authentic glimpse at Mykonian life, plotted in a primarily residential area.

One-bedroom suites offer sea view and some come with a private pool or hot tub, while garden rooms boast private terraces. Of the quartet of Cycladic Suites on the primary floor, the primely placed Amyth Suite is the most coveted. Guests can choose to dine anywhere, though lunch bites are perhaps best enjoyed by the outdoor pool, where Amyth Bar is also located. Open from sun-up to sun-down; the pool-adjacent bar offers both table and lounger service. Order a classic pour or test out one of their signature cocktails – the Dionysus Sangria (a blend of rose wine, elderflower, crème de cassis, and grapefruit soda) is a sweet choice. *Gilly Hopper*

Price: From about £193 per night

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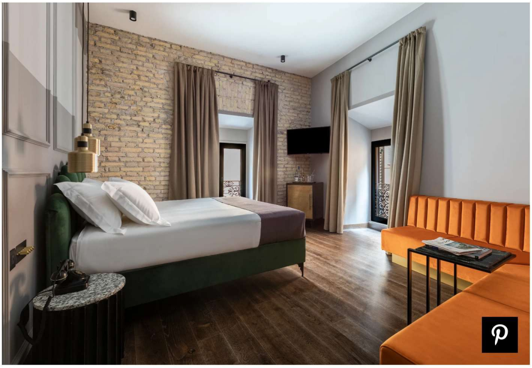

Giulia Venanzi/Courtesy Hotel Chapter Roma

HOTEL

Hotel Chapter Roma, Rome→

Here's a city that does traditional in spades, but until recently hadn't embraced the sort of street-savvy, communal-spaced hotel that New York and London are familiar with. So Chapter feels like a place that fully understands visitors who have come to expect DJs spinning at cocktail hour and street-art tours at concierge. The brains behind it belong to Marco Cilia. After years working with London's Blakes and cool-kid hotel slinger Grupo Habita – New York's Americano and the Robey in Chicago – he returned to his home country to launch the first of what he hopes will be a string of social clubs and places to stay throughout Italy. The Chapter is in the Jewish quarter, an area right across from hip Trastevere that for years has felt under-appreciated given its proximity to some of the city's star attractions, such as Piazza Farnese, the Forum, and MAAXI gallery. Its interiors are edgy in a way that Italians sometimes feel too conservative to embrace, which may be why Cilia turned to break-out South African designer Tristan Duplessis for the graffiti-scrawled lobby bar, quirky bespoke rugs, and pared-back, bare-brick rooms with mid-century inspired minibars, industrial metals, and punchy olive-green beds. Sandwiched between the centuries-old synagogues and café-society restaurants of the neighbourhood, Chapter feels remarkably at home, even though walking into it from the discreet cobbled sidestreet feels like stepping into one of Rome's freshest scenes. A thoroughly enjoyable arrival for the co-working generation, with a sense of humour and a can-do attitude. *Erica Firpo*

Price: From about £260 per night

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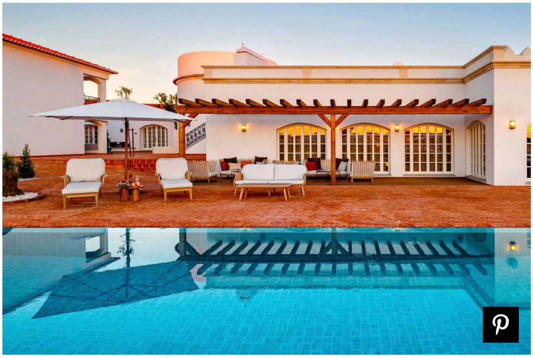

HOTEL

Quinta do Paral, Portugal→

Sun-baked vineyards, millennia-old olive groves, fig trees laden with ripe fruit – Quinta do Parel's backdrop is timelessly bucolic and, from a distance, its cluster of terracotta-topped buildings resembles any other old-school Alentejan winery. But it quickly becomes apparent this isn't your average hideout. A sinuous, vine leaf-trellised pathway leads new arrivals towards a pristine, palm-fringed pool terrace and sunken water gardens. Despite having just 22 rooms, a range of six categories gives guests ample choice. Signature terrace suites are the most lavish of the lot. Located in the new wing, their double-sided fireplaces divide spacious sleeping and living areas. At the same time, Italian marble freestanding tubs give bathrooms the 'wow' factor, and private terraces spill out on both sunrise and sunset sides. Junior suites in the historic wing are cosily romantic beneath vaulted brick ceilings, with square-shaped stone baths reminiscent of grape-stomping vats. Larger groups can spread out in the four-bedroom Manor House, which has a kitchen and perks like a private chauffeur.

The Wine Restaurant has a formidable, wall-to-wall collection of bottles on display, as well as windows onto the open kitchen where Portuguese chef José Júlio Vintém puts sophisticated spins on regional comfort food. Don't miss sampling Quinta do Paral's crisp, dry sparkling wine, as it's only available in the hotel. For those who fancy getting even more immersed in the vineyard setting, the sleep-out experience (cosying up on a Balinese bed beneath Alentejo's clear, starlit skies) is a highlight of summertime stays. *Estella Shardlow*

Price: From about £250 per night

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Karel Balas

HOTEL

Il Palazzo Experimental, Venice→

Venice can be light, fun and chic – who knew? Heavy velvet brocade and brown interiors are nowhere to be seen in this canal-side hotel, set in restored Renaissance palace, where you pretty much enter through the stylish, airy restaurant, and look through the lobby to a delightfully secluded back garden. The 16th-century building once belonged to a shipping firm, but pretty much all that remains of the original interior are the bedrooms' outer doors, which designer Meilichzon has jazzed up in vibrant stripes that recall old gondola mooring posts. My pretty-in-pink executive room had a balcony that looked out over a busy, boat-filled stretch of the Giudecca Canal from a lovely Gothic triple window (though it's only tiny – useful mostly as a photo-opportunity perch). There's little to choose between the nine room types in terms of decor, though the size and colour scheme changes.

If you believe that Venice should be fun rather than a worthy cultural chore, Il Palazzo Experimental may very well be the place for you. I love the fact that it comes across more as a hotel attached to a very cool bar-restaurant, rather than the other way round. *Lee Marshall*

Price: From about £220 per night

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Dimitris Poupalos/Monument

HOTEL

Monument, Athens→

Classified as a modern monument, this mansion was designed in 1881 by Ernst Ziller, the German architect whose eclectic neoclassicism shaped Greece's new 19th-century capital. Hotelier Grigoris Tolkas spent three years transforming the neglected beauty into an intimate hotel, undeterred by strict building restrictions, maddening bureaucracy and spiralling costs. Restoration specialists from the Ministry of Culture painted the delicate acanthus flowers on the ceilings and trompe l'oeil stairwell, which leads to nine subtly different rooms and suites. There are sepia-toned limewash walls, brass lamps beside bespoke wooden beds and a smattering of contemporary Scandinavian furniture to keep things from sliding into retro pastiche. Modern bathrooms are concealed in mirrored boxes, a neat trick that makes the lofty rooms seem even bigger. Some suites have marble balconies overlooking the domed church of Agios Dimitrios, the pavement scene at fashionable Linou Soumpasis restaurant and the Parthenon hovering above the rooftops. A locally sourced breakfast is the only meal served in the subdued living and dining room that occupies the whole ground floor. The complimentary sauna and steam room in the basement is a lovely perk. Service is hyper-personal, from the morning crew remembering your coffee order to behind-the-scenes tours tailored to your interests, whether you're into art, architecture or eating your way around Athens. This is a charming hideout in the heart of the city, where you can peel back layers of the past while checking the frenetic pulse of the present. *Rachel Howard*

Price: From about £240 per night

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Nico Fernandez Mari

Hostal La Torre, Ibiza

This fuss-free retreat on Ibiza's rocky west coast is the place to admire magical sunset views across the Balearic Sea, while the resident DJs spin chillout beats that evoke the bohemian spirit of Ibiza. Guests can do morning yoga, take local hikes and bike rides, explore nearby coves or just curl up with a book in the hotel's peaceful courtyard garden. The restaurant is open to the public and particularly popular at dusk when guests and visitors can enjoy inventive cocktails and Spanish wines along with salads, seafood, grilled meat and fish. Take it from us: the food here is second to none… it is, after all, part of the Mambo Group and sister property to the likes of famous Casa Maca and Cala Gracioneta. *Agnish Ray*

Price: From about £100 per night

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Ana Lui

HOTEL

César Lanzarote, Canary Islands→

Naming a hotel after Lanzarote's greatest art and design icon, then building it in his father's former home, is a bold move. But the latest outpost by the fledgling Numa Signature group (Amagatay and Morvedra Nou in Menorca) is an unapologetic love letter to César Manrique, the architect and activist who art-directed Lanzarote with his style of whitewashed volcanic modernism. This isn't the first Manrique- and nature-inspired design on the island, but it's the most polished, and a step up for this underrated destination. There are 20 rooms amid an estate of vineyards, newly furrowed olive groves, banana trees and pineapple plantations. Rooms have views of the ocean, volcanoes or both, and most have terraces and interior courtyards filled with plants. Interior designer Virginia Nieto leverages the landscape to weave a natural tapestry of lava stone and wood finishes with a white, brown and green palette. The pool, shaped to resemble a lake, is surrounded by sunloungers ensconced in semi-circular stone dividers, a nod to the walls that protect the vineyards from Atlantic winds. Guests roam among vines that are already yielding wine; soon to follow will be the production of olive oil to accompany chef Zebenzui Ferrera's seafood specialities, including John Dory with calamari and Canarian red mojo sauce. This is art and nature in immaculate union: Manrique would surely approve. *David*

Moralejo

Price: From about £250 per night

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HOTEL

The Hoxton Poblenou, Barcelona→

The easy, fluid design of Hoxton properties makes them instantly welcoming; and no more so than the new Poblenou location, where guests are a mixture of hip locals and international travellers who already know and love the brand. First impressions are overwhelming, in the best way – expect to see a bartender mixing a cocktail alongside a small co-working group having a laid back meeting, to your left is a small store with tempting treats, and to your right a space for relaxing and the subtle check-in desk.

Upstairs, rooms have a signature Hoxton headboard (this time in sage green) and locally-commissioned artwork, including a tapestry behind the bed and framed prints on the wall. Bathrooms are tiled white and green, and – as Hoxton fans have come to expect – there's a fun play on textures throughout; from the corrugated wood bedside tables to stone lamps and – our personal favourite – the terracotta flooring, which has a distinct Mediterranean vibe to remind you that you're not, in fact, in the UK any more. The property has 240 rooms, but it never feels like a big hotel. They're spread over nine floors, and corridors are painted in a classic pink Hoxton palette, with wavy walls welcoming you in. *Abigail Malbon*

Price: From about £140 per night

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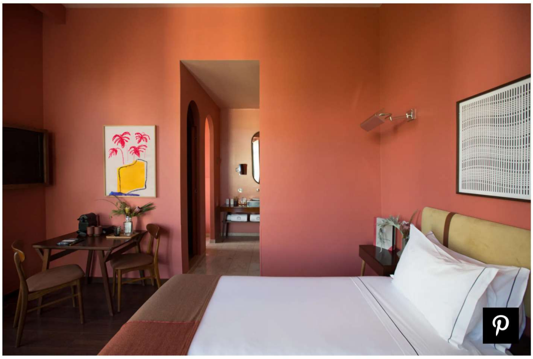

HOTEL

The Vintage, Lisbon→

When in Lisbon, it's only right that you should embrace the city's love of all things beautiful – and The Vintage does so perfectly, with one-off art pieces dotted around the property and a chic mid-century theme throughout. The one-off boutique hotel is made up of 56 rooms and three suites – all of which contain a vintage bar cart, from which guests can make their own complimentary gin and tonics, and most with a view of the city. Lisbon is known for its many rooftop bars, but the V Rooftop Bar stands out from the (strong) competition thanks to the suspended vertical garden and could-be-in-LA vibe. *Abigail Malbon*

Price: From about £174 per night

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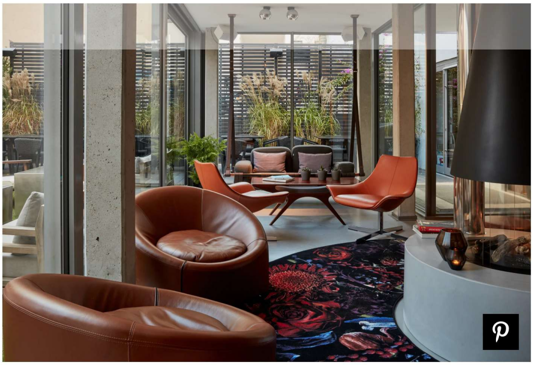

Steve Herud/Courtesy Sir Savigny Hotel

HOTEL

Sir Savigny Hotel, Berlin→

Berlin is an exuberant capital full of bewildering contradictions, and Sir Savigny, is no exception. Don't be fooled by its formal title and schicki-micki (German for fancy-schmansy) location in upscale Charlottenburg. This 44-room property, designed to resemble the suave dwellings of a well-travelled modern-day aristocrat, knows how to let its hair down. A quirky layout awaits through the brick archway decked out in murals by street artist Dome. Forget about the usual lobby and reception desk. Here the ground floor has a well-stocked library, with floor-to-ceiling bookshelves and a large communal table, that spills into a winter garden with a 360-degree fireplace. And in haute fast-food burger bar The Butcher, a life-size stuffed cow hangs on display in one of the windows. Take a seat and while you're sipping a glass of complimentary wine, the efficient and bubbly staff will soon have you checked in. Spread throughout the slightly over-scented public spaces and rooms are bits and bobs that tell the tale of the hotel's fictional master: a grand chessboard, a retro dial telephone and a large cast-iron sculpture of a golden retriever. The rooms are layered with masculine pieces - mustard velvet armchairs, moss-green leather headboards, sage bedspreads, collages by local artist Katharina Musick and an abundance of brass and mirrors. Sir Savigny is a great base from which to check out the neighbourhood's Art Nouveau architecture, jazz clubs, galleries, grand cinemas and prime Asian restaurants, but a rare truffle burger, available by pressing the dial-a-burger button in your room, might just suffice. *Fiona Kerr*

Price: From about £95 per night

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The Melegran, Rovinj, Croatia

Croatia's horizons stretch a whole lot further than Dubrovnik and the hands-in-the-air beach-party season. The north-western peninsula of Istria is now regarded as a Tuscan-style sensation stocked with fresh seafood, snuffled truffles and quite brilliant wine. Plenty of which ends up on the tables in Rovinj, the coastal citadel that's every bit as dramatic as Saint-Malo, with the happenchance street theatre of a Fellini film. But while large hotels rise along the shore, the old town has lacked a smart, small-scale base from which to explore the cobblestoned lanes.

The Melegran is owned by Aussie-born Adrian Calvert and Lea Lazarić, whose grandfather was mayor of nearby Pula and a frequent guest of President Tito. Both are well aware of the sort of versatility and service that many outfits in Croatia lack. While the walls are siege-proof thick, the couple have deployed a playful design that draws on mid-century riffs, Love Heart pinks and blues, Designers Guild prints and faux foliage. The main building is a former sculptor's house, with a hole-in-the-wall bar-reception that rustles up pomegranate cocktails; there's also a scattering of apartments nearby – the two-bedroom mezzanine suite even has its own roof terrace. Staff at the front-desk will fix island voyages, vineyard tours and restaurants (first-timers should head to La Puntulina for oysters and Istrian fizz at sunset). With a spa retreat in spring, and a new space for events and talks, this spot is carving out its own cultural scene while remaining rooted in the medieval atmosphere of one of the country's most individual towns. *Fiona Kerr*

Price: From about £120 per night

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Sebastian Erras

Le Pont De L'Orme, Provence

Here is a charmingly uncomplicated proposition: a small, shuttered, whitewashed house of indeterminate age, approached through a lovely avenue of old yew trees, with a bar and restaurant downstairs and five airy rooms upstairs. It's owned by Axel van den Bossche, founder of Antwerp-based design studio Serax, who was on the lookout for somewhere to stay in his favourite part of France. The original Provençal terracotta tiles and marble fireplaces of the mas remain, the walls have been given the brightest white lick of paint and Serax's sleek furniture and contemporary lights are placed alongside vintage pieces.

The hotel has mostly Belgian guests, Belgian gin in the bar and Belgian tableware in the restaurant; but the daily chalked-up menu is respectfully regional (gnocchi with sage butter; pork knuckle; bouillabaisse; cherry sorbet), generously executed and reasonably priced. The B&B is a half-hour drive from Avignon and a five-minute walk from Malaucène, perhaps best known as the point from where Tour de France cyclists begin their agonising ascent of Mont Ventoux. Wiry Lycra-clad masochists come here year-round to punish themselves on its slopes, but back at Le Pont de l'Orme the pace is positively horizontal. A dip in the pool. A long lunch. A snooze in the shade. And some very good local wine. *Fiona Kerr*

Price: From about £140 per night

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Alex Stephen Teuscher

1898 The Post, Ghent, Belgium

This dramatically turreted Gothic Revival pile, with its double-spiral staircases, soaring traced windows and five-metre-high ceilings, used to be the central post office in Ghent. The interiors have been adapted to their new purpose with low-key northern European flair. In keeping with the epistolary theme, there are bundles of old letters, inkpots and paperweights. Though the visual cues are different, the overall vibe – at once sumptuous and modest, impeccable and unpretentious – will be familiar to anyone who has visited other Zannier hotels, such as its gorgeous flagship chalet in Megève.

Bedrooms are categorised according to size: from Stamps and Envelopes to Letters all the way up to the wildly romantic Tower Suite. Though the proportions vary greatly, the style is consistent throughout, with lots of deep arboreal greens, woody, brassy accents and gleaming marble bathrooms. Most rooms have fine views of the historic city centre and its churches, castles, riverside mansions, atmospheric lanes and picturesque genever joints.

Yet Ghent feels less self-consciously museum-like than Bruges, more like a place where ordinary life goes on, thanks to its large, friendly student population. Go – post-haste – and marvel at Van Eyck's altarpiece in St Bavo's cathedral. Stuff your face with waffles in the market square. Then repair to the hotel's superb bar, The Cobbler, for a digestif before retiring to your fairy-tale digs. Definitely somewhere to write home about. *Steve King*

Price: From about £195 per night

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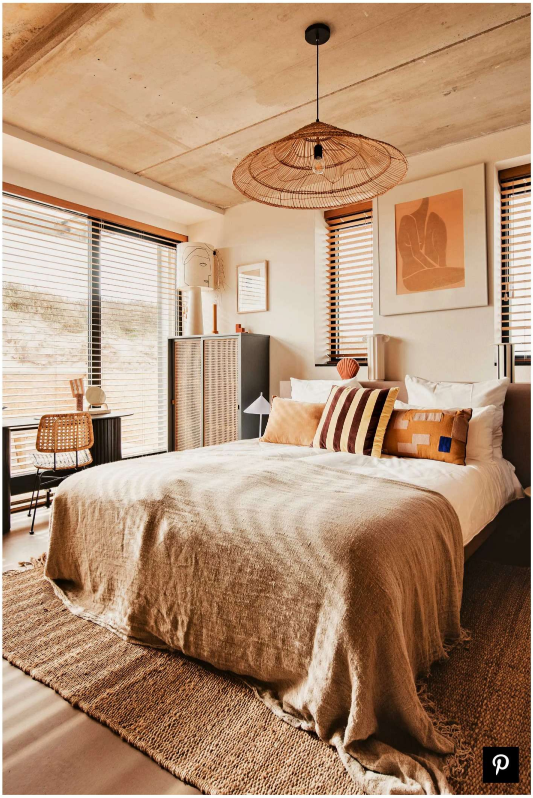

Denise Pronk

Standhotel Zoomers, North Holland

While the crowds mostly head to Zandvoort or Bergen, lo-fi Castricum aan Zee still flies slightly under the radar on the Dutch coast, with just a handful of beach clubs and a couple of tiny summer houses. The real draw is that the land here gives way to Noordhollands Duinreservaat, one of the country's biggest nature reserves, beloved by hikers, cyclists and horse riders. Strandhotel Zoomers is huddled among the dunes right on the path that leads to the ocean where families from Amsterdam carry their cool boxes, foldable beach chairs and young children in a typical *bolderkar* (beach wagon) to a sunny spot near the water.

The owners were already running hit beach bar and restaurant Strandpaviljoen Zoomers, so adding somewhere to stay was a natural extension. They collaborated with homegrown design brand HKliving on interiors including rattan chairs and woven lamps. Yet it's not just the styling that takes its cues from the environment – the latter is part of the whole ethos: the property is heated by a pellet stove and powered by energy generated via 280 solar panels. There are just 12 rooms and no reception or restaurant – though Strandpaviljoen is a short stroll away – instead, guests tap in a code to access rooms and there is a delivery service for breakfast and supper. And when the sunseeking day trippers return home, the sky turns a peaceful pink above the almost-empty shore. *Fiona Kerr*

Price: From about £207 per night

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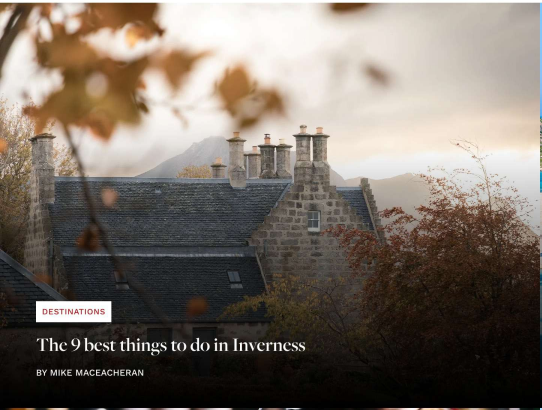

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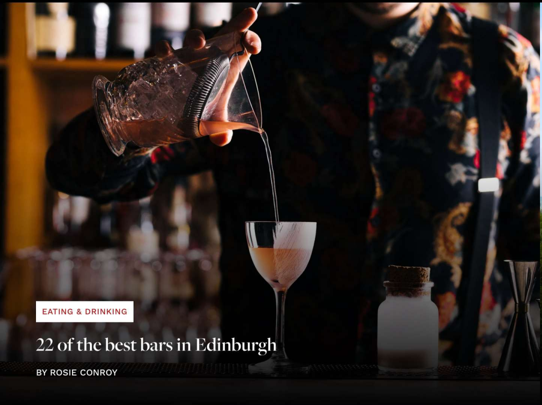

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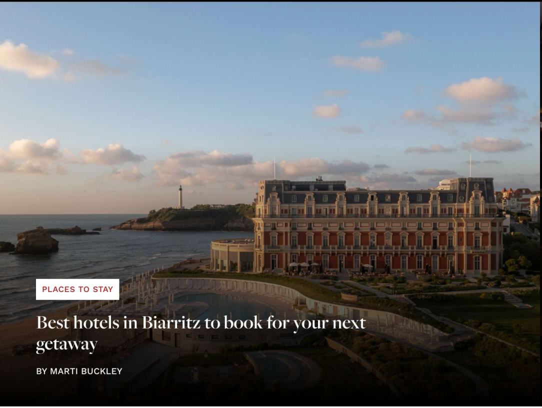

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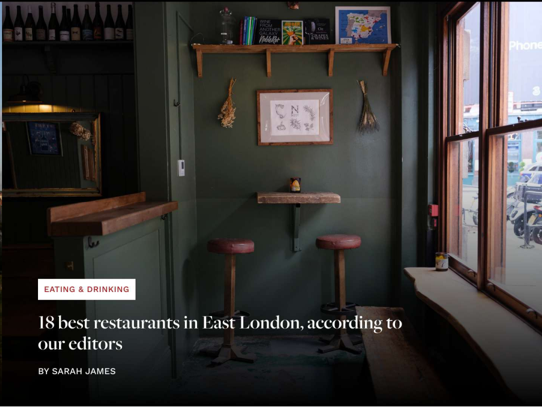

EATING & DRINKING

18 best restaurants in East London, according to our editors

BY SARAH JAMES

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