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### THE BEST BOUTIQUE HOTELS IN MALLORCA

Words by GILLY HOPPER .

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It's happened. Love Island has taken over our lives, and Mallorca has positioned itself as one the most searchable destinations of the summer. We thought we'd save you the  $embarrassment\ of\ searching\ incognito\ and\ just\ lay\ it\ all\ out\ there.\ Mallorca\ is\ beautiful;$ current habitants withstanding. And in that spirit, here are 10 of the best and most beautiful boutique hotels in Mallorca.



#### Sant Francesc Hotel Singular

Credit is due to interior designer Maria José Cabré in her pursuit of yin and yang.



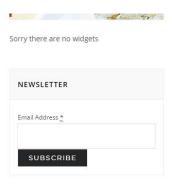
Nowhere balances eclecticism and minimalism quite like Hotel Sant Francesc. A Spanish landmark in the heart of the historic centre of Palma of Majorca, this 19th-century mansion once owned by the Alomar Femenia family is the talk of the town. Beautifully restored with wood-beamed ceilings and original frescoes, the courtyard where horses were saddled has become a lounging spot for the après-sun crowd. Dine at Quadrat Restaurant and Garden, where menus offer creative Mediterranean cuisine with an Asian twist. Design-wise, it's a rather delicate affair combining wicker chairs and sweeping windows with parquet floors and heavy wooden shutters. Billowing canopies hanging over the terracotta terraces on the second floor add a romantic touch to the surrounds.

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⊚Plaça de Sant Francesc 5 07001 Palma

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#### 1902 Townhouse

When breakfast is a three-course menu (that changes daily) you know you're staying in the right place. 1902 Townhouse, located on a historic street close to the centre of beautiful Sóller, is as dreamy as they come. Brushed with a neutral palette, with the occasional flicker of pistachio, the hotel's design focuses on texture with woods, cotton and glass key elements to 1902s relaxed luxury feel. Historical features including decorative tiled floors, vaulted ceilings and shuttered windows add to its charm.

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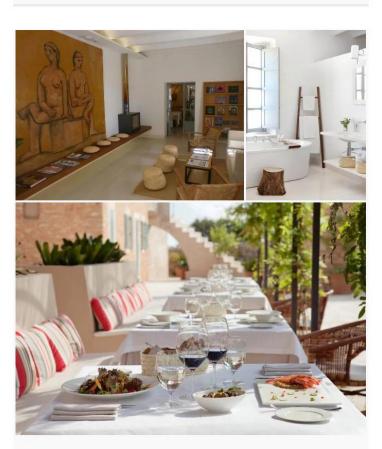
Belmond La Residencia

Situated in the hillside town of <u>Deiá</u> (on the northwest coast of Mallorca) among olive and citrus groves, you'd be forgiven for driving past Belmond La Residencia, so subtly carved into its surrounds. Composed of a series of traditional 16th-century manor houses which make up the hotel, the built-in local stonework seamlessly fits into the mountain scenery. Home to one of Spain's largest sculpture gardens, an on-site spa, three swimming pools and an acclaimed art gallery – plus workshops in sculpture, painting, and ceramics, taught by artists in residence – suffice to say boredom is not in Belmond's vocabulary.

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#### Hotel Rural Predi Son Jaumell

Hotel Rural Predi Son Jaumell on Mallorca's northeast coast is formed on the foundations of a 400-year-old estate, with traditional stone exterior. Combining bold local art and a cool minimalist palette design is taken very seriously at Predi Son Jamuell. Traditional Mallorcan decor keeps things simple – stone walls, wooden beams and linen-covered chairs in neutral shades, though the calm is broken up by brief flickers of colour. Outside, cabanas and white loungers surround the deep-green infinity pool and there's a direct path from the hotel to the pristine beach at Cala Agulla, just 20 minutes away on foot. The food here is top notch – something of a given considering ex-El Bulli chef Andreu Genestra heads up the restaurant.

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#### Gran Hotel Son Net

Away from the bustle of Palma, the pink-hued Gran Hotel Son Net is a great spot for those looking to log off. The brainchild of American hotelier, David Stein, this ancient finca nestled in the Tramuntana Mountains dates back to the 17th century and boasts two gourmet restaurants, a spa and pool skirted by private cabanas. The pristinely kept country house with its marble and stone floors and lofty ceilings – not to mention its exceptional artwork, including those by Marc Chagall and David Hockney – is filled with quirky antiques and artefacts. The main building peaks in the elegant entrance hall with its stone vaulted ceilings, tiled floors and sofas, that gives onto a comfortable open-plan area with a selection of books, magazines and board games to whittle away the hours.

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#### Cap Rocat

This romantic 19th-century fortress, just 15 minutes' from the airport and perched on a cliffton is a placeure palace of the highest order. The coastline below Cap Pocat is

a clintop, is a pleasure palace of the riighest order. The coastiline below cap notates rocky but the clear waters (and the mojito waiting for you by your sun bed) make the uneven walk down to the coast utterly worthwhile. A former military fort, its history provides a dramatic setting for a week away.

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