



The Best Hotels and Resorts in the World: The 2019 Gold List

85 PHOTOS

by CNT EDITORS
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The editors' favorite hotels and resorts of all time.



Vera Lair/Courtesy Sant Francesc Hotel Singular

HOTEL

Sant Francesc Hotel Singular, Palma, Mallorca, Spain →

\$\$\$ | RCA 2018

Retaining its neoclassical splendor yet introducing mischief and modernity, art curator Nuria Ferrer Klein—the owner's mother—has perked up this 19th-century mansion's ancient coffered ceilings and paved courtyard and gallery by using a smoky charcoal-grey hue. Bespoke contemporary canvases by trailblazing artists Guillem Nadal and Josep Maria Riera i Aragó are an arresting sight in the otherwise serene lobby. In the former stables, the snug Quadrat restaurant serves up convincing yet edgy Mediterranean dishes such as scarlet-shrimp *socarrat* rice. Hollywood stars and the hotel's savvy regulars head for the private garden, or chow down on sushi served by the pool on the rooftop terrace, the largest in town. While common spaces are filled with checkered stone tiles, soft grey textiles and sofas, bedrooms cut a dash, some with frescoed ceilings, French oak flooring, and bold chandeliers. Set in the city's twisty-turny historic quarter, the hotel can sort inspired concierge-curated diversions, including gin making at a local distillery—but if that's too taxing, the barman can easily rustle up the real deal here instead. Sant Francesc sums up what makes Palma so alluring in the first place—that intersection of old and new imbued with a playful spirit. This is Palma's most self-assured though understated address.

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