

SUNDAY, 14 JULY, 2019

MEN

ON SUNDAY

A friend dropping in

85p

WIN A WEDDING 10 MORE TOKENS INSIDE



Ole's not done in the market yet

United / Pages 35-39



Blues' China tour departure delayed

City / Pages 30-34

'I turned to sex work to make ends meet...'

Women are resorting to prostitution in desperation after benefits delays

Full shocking report: **Pages 2&3**



Accent on talent for Nina

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INSIDE 24-PAGE SEVENDAYS PULLOUT

SEVENDAYS

14.07.19



INSIDE TODAY

CITYLIFE

TRAVEL

THE STYLE GUIDE

Weave into the craft trend...

Traditional textile techniques came to the fore in the spring collections. **KATIE WRIGHT** reveals how to wear the look right now

BEAUTY BUZZ

POLLUTION SOLUTIONS

TRAVEL

City will take you to its art

DESTINATION MILAN

HOTELS

GETTING AROUND

TRAVEL

Dreamy views of Balearic beauty

ALEXANDRA RUCKI EXPERIENCES LUXURY A MILLION MILES AWAY FROM A TYPICAL ALL-INCLUSIVE MALLORCA BREAK

TRAVEL REPORT PALMA

THERE is a spectacular view from the rooftop terrace of Sant Francesc Hotel Singular in Palma.

The gothic Palma Cathedral can be seen looming ahead, while the stained glass windows of Basilica de Sant Francesc just next door are reflected in the pool.

Further away in the distance the Tramuntana Mountains are visible as well as Palma's port. Contrasting the visible historic sites are the hotel's chic rooftop bar and restaurant.

This is what Sant Francesc Hotel Singular is all about, and the entire vibe of the city of Palma, honouring its history with a touch of the new.

Sant Francesc Hotel Singular, located in Palma's old town, is a short 30-minute taxi journey or bus ride from the airport.

The hotel is located in the city's old town in a quiet square flanked by historic houses and a church. It is far removed from the images of all-inclusive resorts and sun-loungers on crowded beaches many Brits associate with Mallorca.

The hotel building itself dates back to 1881 and was a former mansion which belonged to the Alomar Femenia family. The

building lay abandoned for many years until it was purchased by Andres Soldevila Ferrer and refurbished before it reopened as a hotel in 2015.

ORIGINAL FEATURES

There are many original features which have been retained when the building was transformed into the hotel.

Original frescos adorn the ceilings - including one in our room. They have kept the original staircase leading from the lobby as well as an outdoor courtyard, with authentic windows looking out from the first floor.

The restaurant is in the former stables of the building, named Quadrat. There are reminders of this scattered throughout the dining area, such as brass horse-head door knockers hanging on the walls.

The interior of the hotel is decorated in tasteful and understated colours, with black and white tiles in the lobby, stylish Edison lightbulbs and a slate grey fireplace.

It is the week before Christmas during our stay and there are a few



Sant Francesc Hotel Singular, in Palma

subtle bits of decor, with fairy lights down the banister and Christmas candles on the tables, but nothing too garish.

STUNNING ARTWORK

Art is also an important aspect of this design-hotel. There are large pieces of stunning artwork adorning the walls behind the reception and in the lobby, with pieces by Guillem Nadal and Josep Riera I Arago.

On the first floor there are black and white photographs which were taken during the restoration of the building, showing models holding pieces of wall, snapped by photographer Barbara Vidal.

A total of 42 rooms make up the hotel, although it's hard to believe there are so many as it has a such an intimate feel.

We stayed in the coveted Sant Francesc Suite and the room has to be the highlight of the trip. The high ceilings, combined with antique frescoes, made me feel like I was the lady of the manor. The 60sqm room features a king-size bed, 55ins TV, walk-in rain-shower with huge bath and twin sink basins.

There's also a Heeley London perfume bar, which I may have got a

little carried away with when testing the different scents out. Architecture and travel books are on the desk and shelves, including a really handy travel guide put together by the hotel staff themselves.

A complimentary bottle of Cava and little cakes provide a warm welcome. Guests are in for further surprises when they return to their rooms following the afternoon turn-down service.

We head to Quadrat for our first meal in Palma, located on the ground floor of the hotel. There is the option of having a three course meal from the main menu or a tasting menu put together by the head chef.

We're swayed to opt for the six course tasting menu with matching wine for each course.

Guests are in for a treat, with each course inspired by the Mediterranean with a modern touch. We tuck into a cream of sweetcorn with tomato and avocado ceviche, Peking duck dim sum dumplings, succulent hake, cocoa crumble and petit fours.

The highlight of the meal was black Angus beef rib with carrot puree, presented in such a way it could be confused for a chocolate cake, which was very rich and tender. The food is washed down



Spectacular views



Seasonal cuisine

with a selection of Spanish wines, including Ermita d'Espiells, from Barcelona and a local red wine called 12 Volts.

LOCAL DELICACIES

Breakfast, or Desayuno, is also served in Quadrat with the option to order hot dishes like scrambled eggs and Iberico ham or guests can sample continental meats, cheeses and cereals.

Make sure you try local delicacy ensaimada, a snail-shaped pastry which tastes a bit like a croissant, and Mallorcan sobrasada, similar to chorizo but softer in texture. If you want to take any sobrasada home

HOW TO BOOK

Rates at Sant Francesc start from €285 per night.
For more please visit:
www.hotelsantfrancesc.com



make sure you look out for a deli with a black pig painted on the shop-front - this means it is selling the proper stuff.

Guests can also dine at the roof top restaurant where well-known Mallorcan chef Maria Solivellas has just opened a pop-up restaurant.

Outside of the hotel in Palma itself there is plenty to do. Palma Cathedral, Almudaina Palace, the marina and the Arab baths for site-seeing are just a short walk away.

Art museum Es Baluard Museu d'Art Modern is also worth a visit, with Cezanne, Gauguin and Picasso works housed inside the 16 century former military fortress. Other galleries in the vicinity are the Kewenig Gallerie, Aba Art Lab and Rialto Living Art Gallery.

Meandering around Palma's historic city centre is an activity in itself, where visitors will find narrow streets dotted with chic boutiques and tapas restaurants.

Paseo Del Borne is the best place for shopping, while in Plaza De Cort you will find Palma's oldest olive tree at 1,200 years old. The Santa Catalina district is the cool, hipster area of the city, which used to be a former fishing village. Its market is bustling with locals at lunch time sampling Pintxos, small snacks, for just a euro each with glasses of cervaza. For an evening tapas meal look no further than La Rosa Vermuteria. The lively restaurant specialises in vermouth and traditional dishes such as polpo, patatas bravas and padron peppers.



Sant Francesc Hotel Singular, in Palma