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Travel | Destinations

Top 10: the best boutique hotels in Barcelona

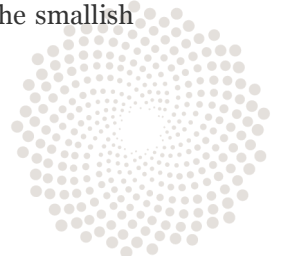
An insider's guide to the Barcelona's top boutique hotels, including the best for rooftop pools, hip bars, Michelin-starred restaurants and stylish bedrooms, in areas including La Rambla, the Barri Gòtic (gothic quarter), El Born and the Passeig de Gràcia.



The Mercer is a peaceful oasis in the heart of the Old City.

Mercer Hotel Barcelona

A peaceful oasis in the heart of the Old City, which is also a palimpsest of Barcelona's historical architecture. The Mercer is housed in a mostly medieval edifice built on to a section of the city's Roman wall, and includes a defence tower from that era. Its bare walls and ancient lintels are visible in many of the rooms. This place has all the essential facilities, including two restaurants and a pretty rooftop area with a plunge pool. Molton Brown toiletries and a free non-alcoholic minibar raise the tone in the smallish rooms. Ask for a room in the Roman tower for a special sense of history.





Mercer Hotel Barcelona

Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain



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mercercatalonia.com

8/10

Telegraph expert rating

"A peaceful oasis in the heart of the Old City, housed in a building displaying various architectural styles from Roman times to the present day, sympathetically modernised by top architect Rafael Moneo. This place has all the essential facilities, including two restaurants and a pretty rooftop area with a plunge pool."

10/10 Location

Hidden down a quiet side street in the heart of the Barri Gòtic action, it's hard to fault the Mercer on location (though some disgruntled visitors have apparently complained about the bells from the tiny church nearby). It's a short walk to the Born neighbourhood or the cathedral, and there are a plethora of transport options nearby – though not immediately, since the street is pedestrian.

8/10 Rooms

Most rooms are set around a quiet breakfast patio, redolent with orange blossom and jasmine, while others face a vertical garden. Most are small, but not cramped, wonderfully peaceful and kept cool by thick stone walls, some of which date back to Roman times. A free mini-bar (non-alcoholic), a single rose and a turndown service are welcome touches, as are Molton Brown toiletries. Ask for a room in the Roman tower for a special sense of history.

6/10 Value for money

Double rooms from €330 (£235) in low season; rising to €660 (£470) in high. Breakfast is €34 (£23). Free Wi-Fi.

Access for guests with disabilities?

There is one room adapted for guests with disabilities.

Family-friendly?

Cots are provided free of charge for children under two, and thereafter an extra bed is provided for €75 (£53).

9/10 Style & character

A palimpsest of Barcelona historical architecture, the Mercer is housed in a mostly medieval building built on to a section of the city's Roman wall, and includes a defence tower from that era. Its bare walls and ancient lintels are visible in many of the rooms, and the palette of the decor is sympathetic to the cream-coloured stone.

7/10 Service & facilities

Service is hushed and polished, with a manager on hand for queries. Given the constraints of this ancient building, facilities are limited, but there is a lovely decked rooftop, surrounded by aromatic plants and wild flowers, with a small plunge pool and – in summertime – a bar. There is an iMac and small library for guests' use downstairs.

- ✔ Bar
- ✔ Laundry
- ✔ Pool
- ✔ Restaurant
- ✔ Room service
- ✔ Wi-Fi

7/10 Food & drink

A smart, high-end Mediterranean restaurant is situated against the Roman wall (take a peek at the medieval frescoes in the private dining room in the defence tower), and there is a small adjacent cocktail bar, which shares its air of refined elegance. Next to the hotel's entrance, open on to the street, there is a more casual bistro, Le Bouchon, with French and Catalan dishes.