

GÒTIC, EL BORN *Medieval centre & café terraces*

THE BARCELONA EDITION

[Avinguda de Francesc Cambó 14, Gòtic](#)
[Metro Jaume I](#)
[Tel 936 263 330](#)
[www.editionhotels.com/barcelona](#)
[100 rooms, €475 to €4,650](#)

PANORAMIC PRESTIGE

The combined strengths of the Marriott Group and Ian Schrager, former boss of the legendary Studio 54 and inventor of the boutique hotel concept, make each of the twenty-one destinations of their EDITION collection distinctive. The Barcelona EDITION is no exception. Luxurious but not stuffy, it attracts a local and international clientele who mingle in the soft, minimalist decor put together by Lázaro Rosa-Violán, the Catalan design darling. From the lobby onwards, the walnut facades, echoing the shutters on the buildings of the old town, warm the atmosphere. Soundproofed cocoons with unforgettable bedding, the rooms offer precious calm steps away from the Catedral de la Santa Creu i Santa Eulàlia. Here, the energy of the city can be appreciated on every level: on the ground floor at the Veraz tapas bar; around the pool table in the Punch Room bar on the first floor; in the basement for dancing in the cabaret. On the tenth floor, The Roof is where Barcelona's chic young people come day and night, summer and winter, to sip drinks in front of the city's most beautiful panorama. Reserved for guests, the full-length pool offers an unforgettable swim with an (almost) 360-degree view.

GRAND HOTEL CENTRAL

[Via Laietana 30, Gòtic, metro Jaume I](#)
[Tel 932 957 900](#)
[www.grandhotelcentral.com](#)
[146 rooms and suites, from €324](#)

LUXURIOUS INSTITUTION

In the world of hotels, this is the big news for 2024: the Grand Hotel Central is back. Ideally located on Via Laietana, in the very central Gòtic quarter, it is reopening after six months of intensive renovation. The first hotel in the city to have a lift, it was built in the 1920s by the great architect Adolf Florensa and is the ultimate gem of the Noucentisme architectural style. Previously part of the Unico hotel group, it is now entering a different era, with new shareholders keen to re-establish this historic place as one of the city's prime luxury boutique hotels. The rooms have benefited from an iconoclastic contemporary makeover, their design juggling assorted eras while providing all the modern comforts expected by hedonistic travellers, who will also enjoy the rooftop and its swimming pool, one of the quarter's more sought-after spots. More surprises are in store for 2025, with access – from within the building – to an amazing little palace untouched by time, a listed monument that has been rehabilitated by London design studio Sagrada. Built by Francesc Cambó (1876–1947), a philanthropist, captain of industry and politician, the private manor boasts Chinese lacquerware, period parquet floors, balustrades and secret gardens.

HOTEL BAGUÉS

[La Rambla 105, Gòtic, metro Liceu](#)
[Tel 933 435 000, www.hotelbagues.com](#)
[30 rooms and suites, €350 to €1,000](#)

DISCREET GEM

At the top of La Rambla, close to La Boqueria market, Hotel Bagués cultivates a healthy discretion on Barcelona's most bustling avenue. Next to the gaudy boutiques and tourist attractions,

the hotel is more in the style of its two little-known neighbours: the beautiful Parròquia de la Mare de Déu de Betlem church and the **PALAU DE LA VIRREINA**, which today houses the Centre de la Imatge, a free museum of contemporary art. Entering the Bagués, the rowdy sounds of La Rambla segue into an intimate, friendly atmosphere with attentive (and English-speaking) staff. A small, elegant hotel, the Bagués offers rooms with balconies overlooking the city and suites with terraces and jacuzzis, as well as a rooftop terrace with swimming pool. Special mention should be made of the beautiful white marble spiral staircase. The hotel was inaugurated in 2010, after being renovated in the spirit inspired by Jordi Clos, chairman and founder of the Derby Hotel Collection group and a keen collector and Egyptologist. Housed in the building that long belonged to one of the city's most renowned jewellers, El Regulador Bagués, the hotel maintains the memory of the site with exclusive pieces in every room, as well as a special room displaying the Bagués Masriera collection. The names of the suites – Jewel, Diamond – also evoke this glittering past.

HOTEL NERI

[Carrer de Sant Sever 5, Gòtic](#)

[Metro Liceu](#)

[Tel 933 040 655, \[www.hotelneri.com\]\(#\)](#)

[28 rooms and apartments, from €375](#)

HISTORIC PALACE

Situated right next to the hypnotic Plaça de Sant Felip Neri and its tall Tipuana trees, in the heart of the Gòtic quarter, Barcelona's only Relais & Châteaux hotel boasts a wonderful location and is one of the major buildings in this part of the city. It's not unusual for travellers to come and marvel at this 12th-century residence, which now belongs to the Anima Hotels group (Wittmore, El Sant Cugat, etc.), whose ambition is to rethink the hotel concept by going beyond traditional accommodation, resulting here

in a warm, personalized welcome to one of the twenty-two rooms in a palace built on Byzantine pillars and Roman ruins. The current building dates from the 18th century and was formed by joining two separate buildings, one of which, the 12th-century medieval palace, is hugely popular with international guests. In 2003, Cristina Gabas refitted it with respectful, high-quality interior design, based on a dramatic "maximalist" style with a dash of irony, and featuring local craftsmanship and Spanish designers, including Víctor Paniagua and Ascensión Latorre. In 2011, designer Virginia Figueras added to the decor with sand-coloured accents and photographs from the "La Mirada Transúente" collection. With its gastronomic A Restaurant, its attentive welcome, and the rooftop with swimming pool, a stay here is highly restful. A neighbouring building houses functional apartments for longer stays.

MERCER HOTEL BARCELONA

[Carrer dels Lledó 7, Gòtic](#)

[Metro Jaume I](#)

[Tel 933 107 480](#)

[www.mercerbarcelona.com](#)

[28 rooms and suites, €390 to €1,500](#)

HERITAGE REDESIGNED

The Mercer is a five-star hotel with more than one ace up its sleeve. Set in the heart of the labyrinthine streets of the Gòtic quarter, part of it is built on old Roman walls and preserves their ashlar stonework and majesty. Its beautifully designed rooms, redesigned in 2012 by star Spanish architect Rafael Moneo (responsible for Madrid's Atocha station, Houston's Museum of Fine Arts and the Miró Mallorca Foundation), offer optimum comfort. The numerous paintings by the Catalan expressionist artist Agustí Puig keep the eyes on alert. An ideal compromise for one or more nights in the peace and quiet of a secluded alleyway, yet just a few hundred metres from the Museu Picasso and the Palau de la Música Catalana.

SERRAS HOTEL

[Passeig de Colom 9, Gòtic](#)

[Metro Barceloneta](#)

[Tel 936 061 632, \[www.serrashotel.com\]\(#\)](#)

[28 rooms and suites, €386 to €3,500](#)

MEDITERRANEAN PLEASURES

This sea-facing building was where Pablo Picasso had his first studio in 1896. It was here that he painted *Science and Charity*, now on display in the museum dedicated to his work, a ten-minute walk away. All that remains of that period is the attractive facade designed by Francesc Daniel Molina, carefully preserved, with its balconies lined up in the sun. Inside, the renovation carried out in 2015 has revived an elegant and welcoming boutique hotel. The bright, spacious rooms all open onto the Marina Vela. On the rooftop, a pool for cooling off in summer, with a view of the palm trees and the Mediterranean, neighbours the El Sueño restaurant, where award-winning chef Marc Gascons' creative Catalan cuisine can be savoured, as it can at the Informal restaurant on the ground floor. A hotel that is colourful and local, like the general atmosphere.

SOHO HOUSE BARCELONA

[Plaça del Duc de Medinaceli 4, Gòtic](#)

[Metro Drassanes, La Barceloneta](#)

[Tel 932 204 600, \[www.sohohouse.com\]\(#\)](#)

[56 rooms and suites, €300 to €4,500](#)

VIBRANT CLUBHOUSE

A Soho House isn't really a hotel; it's more like a members' club that is also a hotel, but where non-members can book a room. And what a hotel: neo-Gothic architecture, British vibes, Catalan inspiration, plus an asset that belongs to Soho House DNA: a fabulous gym – vast, bright, well-equipped and lively. There's also a rooftop with pool, bar and one of the most spectacular 360-degree panoramas of the city, sea and mountains. The basement boasts another stylish pool and a spa. There's also a luxurious screening room with Hollywood-style

armchairs, along with spaces that are a cross between lounge, English bar and library, designed for co-working and networking, following to precise codes of practice. In short, this is tailor-made for the international fraternity of members, most of whom are young creative professionals (in design, advertising, communications, tech and so forth). The rooms are generally modest in size (the hotel even calls some of them "Tiny") but offer cocoon-like comfort in a distinctive aristo-retro-futurist style. Not forgetting myriad teas, coffees and drinks. The irresistible bathrooms combine black brass and white ceramics with a generous helping of Cowshed amenities. The fourth-floor rooms are the most sought-after, with some ("Medium Marina") overlooking Port Vell, where the Louis Vuitton 37th America's Cup regattas take place from summer 2024.

WITTMORE HOTEL

[Carrer de Riudarenes 7, Gòtic](#)

[Metro Jaume I](#)

[Tel 935 500 885, \[www.wittmorehotel.com\]\(#\)](#)

[22 rooms and suites, €370 to €570](#)

DISCREET HIDEAWAY

In Barcelona's Gòtic quarter, it's almost comforting that this boutique hotel, owned by Narcís Barcelò, should be hidden away in the maze of alleyways. If discretion and intimacy are the desired features, this is the place to book. The atmosphere is in keeping with the very British decor, composed of sumptuous fabrics, tartans and a log fire in the lounge-library, all of which is accented by plenty of chiaroscuro and boudoir-style olfactory signatures, destined for discreet hedonists. The twenty-two rooms come with a handful of pleasant surprises thrown in, including the vertical garden claiming the title of the highest in the city, the rooftop with swimming pool, and the Contraban restaurant, which has become one of the city's most jealously guarded secrets. Highly attentive service.