

## Great New Finds: Affordable Europe

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### Nîmes, France

\$236

Connoisseurs of 18th-century refinement are filling up **Jardins Secrets** (3 Rue Gaston

*Marvejols*; 33-4/66-84-82-64; [www.chicretreats.net](http://www.chicretreats.net)) faster than you can say, "Luxe, calme et volupté." The hotel is in downtown Nîmes but feels like a romantic rural refuge, with just four guest rooms, a rosy bougainvillea-clad façade, and a small swimming pool in the shadow of orange and olive trees. An embarrassment of curated antiques, bowls of garden roses, and curtained bathing alcoves with freestanding rolltop tubs have made this one of the most desirable addresses west of the Rhône.

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#### Bed spread

In the corridor of the Hoxton Hotel, London, right. Opposite, clockwise from top left: a suspended bed at the Five hotel in Paris; a junior suite at Sweden's Hotel Hellsten; the bathroom at Jardins Secrets in Nîmes, France; one of Pascua Ortega's suites at Room Mate.



#### LONDON ENGLAND

**\$145** Urban loft meets country-lodge chic at the centrally located 205-room **Hoxton Hotel** (81 Great Eastern Street; +44 20 7550 1000; [www.hoxtonhotels.com](http://www.hoxtonhotels.com)), designed by its owner, Sinclair Beecham – the co-founder and co-owner of sandwich chain Pret A Manger. The hotel is spread out on six colour-coded floors outfitted in green, red, yellow, orange, purple or blue. Interiors combine modern features, such as monolithic fireplaces and industrial wooden flooring, with classic touches that include Louis XIV-style armchairs and taxidermy. Rooms also feature, carved into the wall, architectural drawings of famous London buildings. Guests are steps away from the thriving East End scene and some of London's most famous bars, restaurants and sights.

#### BRIGHTON ENGLAND

**\$230** At **Blanch House** (17 Atlingworth Street; +44 127 360 3504; [www.blanchhouse.co.uk](http://www.blanchhouse.co.uk)), a wonderfully modernised town house hotel right near the seafront, breakfast starts at a laid-back 9am, and no one's likely to ask whether you want a wake-up call. Each of the 12 themed rooms displays a sense of no-holds-barred fun. In one, the walls, windows and bed appear swathed in the same green velvet that Scarlett O'Hara used to make her dress; another holds an impressive collection of snow globes. And if that's not enough, there's always the buzzy bar (try the strawberry-balsamic mojito), and the all-white restaurant, which serves creative modern European dishes.



#### CHELTENHAM ENGLAND

**\$268** With its strategically placed flea-market finds (a velvet couch here, a ventriloquist's dummy there), the 54-room **Alias Hotel Kandinsky** (Bayshill Road; +44 124 252 7788; [www.aliashotels.com](http://www.aliashotels.com)) projects an air of boho gentility. Rooms in this Victorian-era former girls'-school dormitory overlook quiet side streets and have homey neutral colour schemes and art deco-style black-and-white-tiled bathrooms. By night, the lobby absorbs spill-over from the adjoining bar, as low lighting and lounge music transform the shabby-chic interior into one of Cheltenham's hippest scenes. The hotel's prime location in the centre of the Cotswolds makes it perfect for exploring the region.

#### LONDON ENGLAND

**\$359** These days, finding a place to stay in London for less than a small fortune can seem as improbable as locating a discount suit on Savile Row. But it can be done. Only the faintest signs of life outside can be heard from **Montagu Place Hotel** (2 Montagu Place; +44 20 7467 2777; [www.montagu-place.co.uk](http://www.montagu-place.co.uk)), a secluded, 16-room Georgian town house in regal Marylebone. A narrow, winding staircase leads to three styles of bedroom (Comfy, Fancy and Swanky), all with original stone fireplaces, large sash windows, and divinely plump beds covered in chenille blankets. Although the hotel doesn't serve dinner, some of London's best gastropubs are a short walk away.

#### COPENHAGEN DENMARK

**\$320** While other new hotels have capitalised on

Copenhagen's reputation as a design city by embracing sleek functionalism to the point of folly, the **Bertrams Hotel Guldsmeden** (107 vesterbrogade; +45 33 250 405; [www.hotelguldsmeden.dk](http://www.hotelguldsmeden.dk)) remains resolutely inviting. It starts at the cheerful entry, which feels like that of a private residence, and continues into the light-filled dining room and courtyard with its voluptuous breakfast spread. Here, you'll find a buffet of charcuterie, thick wedges of Scandinavian cheese, crusty rolls and croissants from the nearby Emmerly's bakery. Upstairs, the 47 high-ceilinged rooms have breezy South of France-inspired interiors; downy four-poster beds are draped in white fabrics and accented with seashells (ask for a balcony overlooking the courtyard). The bathrooms are a little on the small side, but perks like complimentary breakfast and a vibrant location in the Vesterbro district make up for any shortcomings.

#### NÎMES FRANCE

**\$285** Connoisseurs of 18th-century refinement are filling up **Jardins Secrets** (3 Rue Gaston Maruejols; +33 4 66 84 82 64; [www.chicretreats.com](http://www.chicretreats.com)) faster than you can say, "Luxe, calme et volupté." The hotel is in downtown Nîmes but feels like a romantic rural refuge, with just four guest rooms, a rosy bougainvillea-clad facade and a small swimming pool in the shadow of orange and olive trees. An embarrassment of curated antiques, bowls of garden roses and curtained bathing alcoves with freestanding roll-top tubs have made this one of the most desirable addresses west of the Rhône. »