



Bargain bed LUX 11 Berlin

Situated between a boutique and a sex shop, the 72-room

Lux 11, in trendy Mitte, finally provides Berlin with a destination hotel. Inside resembles what people in the 1960s thought the future would look like: lots of white lines and black-bordered doors in the rooms, and dark corridors lit in hot pink. There's an open sushi kitchen and a great modern European menu in the Shiro i Shiro restaurant. Doubles from £120, room only (00 49 30 936 2800, www.lux-eleven.com).

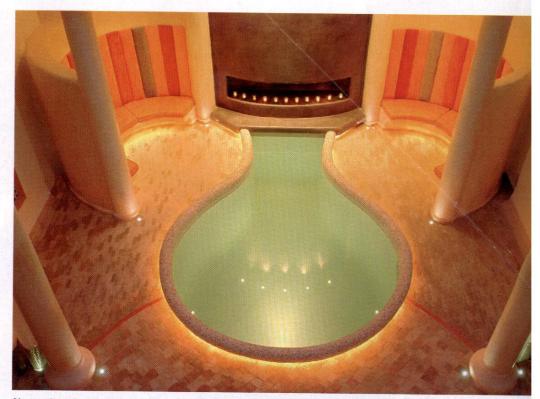
ISTANBUL SUITES Istanbul

First-timers to Istanbul tend to stay among the mosques in the Sultanahmet quarter, but there's a big case for choosing this new townhouse conversion across the water. You've got the neon barand-restaurant whirr of downtown Beyoglu almost on your doorstep, some of the best fashion-hotel interiors in the city, as well as mural-like views of the skyline's domes and spires - even better than being in the shadow of them. Doubles from £137, B&B (00 90 212 393 7900. www.wittistanbul.com).



DONOVAN HOUSE Washington DC Obama's not the

only new kid on the DC block; when Donovan House opened this year, it killed off the capital's fusty reputation. The people behind New York's 60 Thompson hotel have conjured gleaming white rooms with Kiehl's potions and Dean & Deluca munchies. Corner rooms are semi-circular pads with curved windows, snail-shaped showers and possibly the world's biggest baths. Doubles from £75, B&B (00 1 202 737 1200, www.thompson hotels.com).



Above, after a hot day's sightseeing take a dip in the sublime plunge pool at Maison MK, Marrakech; below, the ocean view from one of the rooms at Gansevoort South, Miami. Opposite, hang out in the ultra-modern W Seoul hotel, Seoul

MAISON MK Marrakech

An unmarked door off a tiny alley in the Medina, the entrance to Maison MK betrays nothing of its interior. Most riads aim for a Moorish mood, but Maison MK is all modern lines and pared-down panache. Owner Paul Hopkins is a fashion photographer, hence the flowing spaces, curvaceous plunge pool and black walls in the womb-like spa. Six suites have beds lit from beneath and decadent bathrooms. On the roof, chocolate daybeds are scattered with killims, and come with glorious views of the Djemma El Fna. Doubles from £240, B&B (00 212 2437 6173, www.maisonmk.com).

FRONT HOTEL Copenhagen

Right on the city's waterfront (hence the name) and minutes from the canals of Nyhavn, this place radiates Scandi-cool, but still maintains a friendly vibe. Staff are catwalk-gorgeous but all smiles; the lobby is minimalist but fun, with pink furniture and squishy leather cube stools. Rooms are cosily chic with snuggly carpets and restful shades of aubergine, black and white. Flooded with light thanks to huge windows, the best rooms overlook the Opera House across the water. Doubles from £210, room only (00 45 3313 3400, www.front.dk).



FORESTERIA MONFORTE Milan

Lovely, low-cost options in Italy's

'fashion capital' are rarer than ladies-who-don't-lunch, so this boutique B&B should go straight into your little black book. Designer details - a Phillippe Starck chair here, a Biedermeier desk there - against fancy French paintwork give four-star frills to the three rooms. Each comes with free broadband, in-room CD players, a make-yourown-coffee corner - all this just 10 minutes walk from shopping central. Doubles from £120, B&B (00 39 02 7631 8516, www. foresteriamonforte.it).



GANSEVOORT SOUTH Miami

The mothership might be its sister hotel in

New York, but Gansevoort South adopts Miami's louche vibe to perfection. The designer behind ever-hot Nikki Beach has put teepees and firepits poolside: the trendy Opium group has done the hotel's nightclub; and New York STK steakhouse serves up mouth-watering meat in the restaurant. To recline, head to the rooftop pool where a cart plies bathers with 10 different brands of champagne.

Doubles from £160, room only (00 1 305 604 1000, www. gansevoorthotelgroup.com).

TIGERLILY Edinburgh

Is it a hotel? A trendy bar? A private club? It doesn't matter – just grab a glass of something pink and bubbly (which also describes the decor) and join the well-dressed crowd. The hotel is a converted Georgian townhouse, and rooms are high-ceilinged, with box-fresh bathrooms. Better yet, all rooms come with fully loaded iPods. Doubles from £195, B&B (0131 225 5005, www.tigerlilyedinburgh.co.uk).

THE BOWERY New York

With the New Museum of Contemporary Art open - and the streets of trendy Nolita on the doorstep - Manhattan's Bowery is the new 'it' neighbourhood. The Bowery has the look just so: downstairs it's all hunting-lodge antlers and Ottoman rugs, while the bar has a gorgeous flowerwalled terrace (those New Yorkers will smoke). Rooms flaunt mohair chairs, velvet bedheads, marble tubs, and exposed brick walls. Doubles from £444, room only (00 1 212 505 9100, www. theboweryhotel.com).>

