



CHURCH STREET HOTEL



94DR



ROOM MATE EMMA



HOTEL VICTORIA



iROOM

EURO TRIP

You don't have to empty the coffers in pursuit of that stylish EUROPEAN SOJOURN. From the ISLANDS of Greece to central London, we track down the coolest crash pads under €100 a night

By BUTOOL JAMAL

WESTERN EUROPE CHURCH STREET HOTEL, LONDON, ENGLAND

In a city that's bursting at the seams with hotels, this one's for those who want something different. With its brightly-painted walls, wrought iron beds, Moorish-tiled bathrooms and miniature altars, this hotel offers a tantalising taste of Hispanic colour. Art students from the nearby Goldsmiths College can be found digging into the exquisite mussel and chorizo stew at the adjoining Spanish restaurant and are always up for some good conversation.

29-33, Camberwell Church Street, London SE5 8TR.
Inquiries, (0044) 2077035984.
www.churchstreethotel.com

94DR, EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

Culture vultures flock to this northern city for its postcard-perfect landscapes and vibrant arts scene, which reaches its peak during the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August. And 94DR is popular with this lot for its contemporary design, and owners Paul Lightfoot and John MacEwan's intimate pop-up supper clubs which happen twice a month.

94, Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 5AF.
Inquiries, (0044) 1316629265.
www.94dr.com



CERCA DO SUL

CLARION HOTEL CORK, CORK, IRELAND

When you're done roaming Ireland's craggy coastline and misty beaches, stay in cosmopolitan Cork. While it's famous for having been one of the last ports of call for the Titanic, the southern city is also making a name for itself with its varied cultural and gastronomic scene. The hotel is close to the city centre, has its own pool and spa facilities and is only minutes away from the 400-year-old English Market where the brave can buy local delicacies like tripe (offal) and drisheen (a blood sausage).

Lapps Quay, Cork. Inquiries, (00353) 214224900.
www.clarionhotelcorkcity.com

CERCA DO SUL, SÃO TEOTÓNIO, PORTUGAL

After a few days in Lisbon, drive 240 km south to this picturesque town where there is a view of the beach on one side and mountains on the other. Cliff-side treks, surfing or just relaxing in the spacious gardens that surround the whitewashed cottages of the guesthouse – there's plenty to keep both kids and grown-ups thoroughly entertained.

Cabeco de Arveola, Brejão, São Teotónio 7630-569.
Inquiries, (00351) 931105167.
www.cercadosul.com



CLARION HOTEL CORK

ROOM MATE EMMA, BARCELONA, SPAIN

All the hotels in the Room Mate chain are designed to make you feel like you are staying at the home of a very chic friend. In this case, one who likes cool design and is inspired by Barcelona's most famous architect Antoni Gaudí's swirling strokes in vivid colours. Plus, the young, helpful staff will point you to the hippest bars and restaurants in the city.

205 Carrer Rossello, Eixample, 08008, Barcelona.
Inquiries, (0034) 932385606.
emma.room-matehotels.com

HOTEL VICTORIA, ROQUEBRUNE- CAP-MARTIN, FRANCE

This laid-back, 32-room seaside hotel is just a 10-minute drive from swanky Monaco. A soothing blue-and-white colour scheme, wood panelling and decor inspired by Le Corbusier – whose cottage is a stroll down the beach – give it an easy, retro charm. Honeymooners should book a sea-facing room for an otherworldly view of the moonrise.

7, Promenade du Cap, 06190 Roquebrune-Cap-Martin.
Inquiries, (0033) 493356590.
www.hotel-victoria.fr

MAMA SHELTER, PARIS, FRANCE

It's not often one gets to stay at a sleek Philippe Starck designed hotel for less than €100. In his signature style, rooms are minimal, almost industrial, but come with off-the-wall accents like Batman and Robin bedside lamps. Each room also has an iMac that doubles as a TV and computer, and all-natural bath products. In the evenings, take your drink up to the airy rooftop terrace, a popular watering hole for the area's arty set.

109, Rue de Bagnolet, 75020 Paris.
Inquiries, (0033) 143484848.
www.mamashelter.com



HOTEL ROSSO

iROOM, BRUGES, BELGIUM

If you take a ride down the city's iconic canals, you'll spot this heritage building thanks to the stone bear at the entrance. Previous guests are united on this: It's owner Anne's excellent breakfast, her knowledge of the city and careful attention that makes this three-room guesthouse special. A midnight curfew means single travellers can sleep soundly at night.

Verversdijk 1, B8000, Bruges. Inquiries, (0032) 50337353.
www.iroom.be



HOTEL ROSSO, FLORENCE, ITALY

The clue is in the name; the dominant theme in the hotel is red. A bold chilli red, that appears on the walls of this 18th-century palazzo's grand staircase, on the striped carpets of the lobby and as quirky accents in the grey and white bedrooms. It's just off the bustling Piazza Santa Maria Novella square, making it perfect for those who want to be close to all the best tourist sights.

23, Piazza Santa Maria Novella, 50123 Florence.
Inquiries, (0039) 055277300.
www.whythebesthotels.com



MAMA SHELTER



HOTEL RUGENPARK B&B



MICHELBERGER HOTEL



STADTNEST BED & BREAKFAST



PALMIZANA



HERMES HOTEL

RELAIS PALAZZO TAVERNA, ROME, ITALY

Save yourself the trouble of choosing from all the accommodations on offer in the centre of Rome and just book a room at this colourful boutique hotel built in a 15th-century palazzo. Especially since it's just 10 minutes from the historical Piazza Navona, walking distance from the Vatican and around the corner from some of the best gelato in town, at the Gelateria del Teatro.

92, Via dei Gabrielli, 00186 Rome.

Inquiries, (0039) 0620398064.

www.relaispalazzotaverna.com



RELAIS PALAZZO TAVERNA

MICHELBERGER HOTEL, BERLIN, GERMANY

This über trendy hotel doubles as a graphic design studio, music festival venue, beer garden and home of the Michelberger Booze Company. It also has 119 rooms of varying sizes and themes – romantic chalet, library, loft... And if you hang out in the busy common areas, you'll definitely bump into folk from Berlin's edgy art scene.

39/40, Warschauerstrass, 10243 Berlin.

Inquiries, (0049) 302977859.

www.michelbergerhotel.com

DUM U VELKÉ BOTY, PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

The Rippl family has been running this charming bed and breakfast for over a decade. The house was originally built in 1669. And though it's now fitted with ultra-modern amenities, it still retains some of its old character with stone walls, spiral staircase, rooms filled with antiques and art, and even a cellar that now works as a lounge.

30/333, Vlašská, 11800 Praha 1.

Inquiries, (0042) 0257531360.

www.dumuvelkeboty.cz

HOTEL BRISTOL, WARSAW, POLAND

This is one of the few cities where you can be spoilt silly at a historic five-star property without breaking the bank.

A landmark in central Warsaw, this Art Deco style building boasts over 160 rooms, a posh cafe and an eminent guestlist including Pablo Picasso and Margaret Thatcher.

42/44, Krakowskie Przedmieście, Warsaw 00325.

Inquiries, (0048)22551100.

www.hotelbristolwarsaw.pl



DUM U VELKÉ BOTY

STADTNEST BED & BREAKFAST, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Your hosts at this family-run apartment will be happy to lend you a copy of Graham Greene's crime thriller *The Third Man* (set in Vienna) as a city guide. From taking a ride on the iconic Ferris wheel at Prater to indulging in Viennese coffee and chocolate Sachertorte; you'll have all your bases covered thanks to the hotel's convenient location. Couples might want to visit during the three-month winter ball season for an unforgettable evening of imperial-style music and dancing.

29, Barbara Lenz Stumpergasse, A-1060, Wien, Vienna.

Inquiries, (0043) 15454938.

www.stadtnest.at

BRODY HOUSE, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

With its mix of Turkish baths, Roman ruins and Gothic and communist architecture, Budapest perfectly straddles the divide between East and West. This stylish guesthouse is part of a gritty new Budapest. More like a home than a hotel, each of its rooms is named after a different Hungarian artist – whose work hangs on its walls.

38, Vörösmarty Utca, 1064 Budapest.

Inquiries (0036) 12661211.

www.brodyhouse.com



BRODY HOUSE



HOTEL BRISTOL

EASTERN EUROPE

PALMIZANA, HVAR, CROATIA

Since their arrival on the island in the 19th century, the Meneghello family's homestead has grown to include 17 brightly-painted villas and cottages that pepper a lush botanical garden. Come sunset, settle down at the al fresco restaurant to mingle with the luxury yachting crowd that docks here for the excellent seafood stew, delicious pasta and herb liquor.

21450, Hvar, Palmizana. Inquiries, (00385) 021717270.

www.palmizana.hr

HERMES HOTEL, ATHENS, GREECE

While this is a popular name for hotels in Athens, this one is unique for its stellar location along the busy Plaka and, if you get a room on a higher floor, views of the magnificent Parthenon. Sunny accommodation with modern interiors, clean bathrooms and a cosy roof garden give you your money's worth.

19, Apollonos, 105.57, Syntagma Plaka, Athens.

Inquiries, (0030) 2103235514.

www.hermeshotel.gr

VILLA KONSTANTIN, MYKONOS, GREECE

The island is known for its lively nightlife, and the pristine blue waters of the Aegean Sea. To make the most of your time here, set up base at this comfy bed and breakfast. The complex of earthy whitewashed studios and apartments even has the option of booking larger apartments, making it perfect for a trip with the girlfriends.

Agios Vassilios, 84600, Mykonos, Cyclades Islands.

Inquiries, (0030) 2289026204.

www.villakonstantin-mykonos.gr



VILLA KONSTANTIN



CENTRAL EUROPE

HOTEL RUGENPARK B&B, INTERLAKEN, SWITZERLAND

Breakfast is croissants and coffee in the conservatory overlooking a sprawling, flower-filled park. Views of the snow-capped Jungfrau peak will remove any doubts that you're in paradise. At walking distance from the resort town of Interlaken, it's a great base to make day trips to Geneva and Zurich or go further up the Swiss Alps.

19, Rugenparkstrasse, 3800 Interlaken.

Inquiries, (0041) 0338223661.

www.rugenpark.ch

LLOYD HOTEL & CULTURAL EMBASSY, AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

This 1920's-era building has been a prison, an immigrant hotel and an artist's studio before arriving at its current avatar as a creative hotel. For those who want to bring a sense of adventure to their travel, the hotel is full of surprises – whether it's a grand piano or a 12 ft-wide bed in your room, or what the chef serves at Sloom, the fine-dining restaurant without a menu.

34, Oostelijke Handelskade, 1019 BN Amsterdam.

Inquiries, (0031) 205613636.

www.lloydhotel.com



LLOYD HOTEL & CULTURAL EMBASSY

