

The ESCAPE

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*Looking for an enchanting escape?
Laura Brown explores the world's
most whimsical hotels full of
fairytale-worthy features*

VALLDALL, Juvet Landscape Hotel

In the midst of birch and pine trees in rural Norway lies the magical Juvet Landscape Hotel. Mirroring its surroundings, the hotel is home to box-shape lodges camouflaged within dense copses, and giant birdhouses perched against Valdall's steep valley incline. The hotel's spa is nestled into the lush, green hills next to a tinkling river, with a 15-metre-wide glass wall providing a stunning vista of the natural landscape.

Inside the hotel, understated materials and iconic Scandinavian furniture complement the rustic scenes outside.

Juvet boasts simplicity in its most natural form – a true less-is-more approach executed perfectly. Rooms start from *Dhs671 per person. Juvet.com*

Hôtel Le Bristol takes romantic in-room dining to the next level



PARIS, Hôtel Le Bristol

In the heart of Rue de Faubourg Saint-Honoré, the most prestigious district in Paris, stands the iconic Hôtel Le Bristol. A timeless masterpiece in French architecture, Le Bristol has attracted celebrities, diplomats and the world's most well-heeled travellers for generations.

The sumptuous structure houses 188 completely refurbished rooms, of which 92 are fully-fledged lavish suites with spacious marble bathrooms and charming Juliette balconies overlooking some of the world's most acclaimed fashion houses and distinguished art galleries. Though the hotel has undergone major renovations in its 90-year standing, it still retains its original Parisian heritage with fine fabrics and original works of art hanging throughout the premises.

The glass and wrought-iron elevator is a prominent architectural feature, and whisks

Best for
HERITAGE

guests away to a world of relaxation on the sixth floor, where The Spa by La Prairie, revered in the French capital, looks out across a beautiful interior garden. Nearby, the famous ship-shaped indoor swimming pool, designed by Professor Pinnau, is warmed with views of the city's most iconic landmarks: the Sacré Cœur on one side and the Eiffel Tower on the other.

However, if there's one thing Le Bristol is most famous for it's Le Jardin Français, one of the hotel's three exclusive restaurants serving gourmet gastronomic delights. During your stay, *Bazaar* also recommends booking a table at Epicure, headed up by triple Michelin-starred chef Eric Frechon, the highly acclaimed master of unforgettable fine dining experiences.

Le Bristol proves that if you want to be surrounded by famous icons – in architecture, culture and cuisine – there's no better city than Paris. *Rooms start from Dhs3,804. Lebristolparis.com*



Best for
WHIMSY

MIAMI, Mondrian South Beach

Named after the Dutch artist who transformed geometrical shapes into art, the Mondrian is the place to see and be seen by the inner circles of the rich and famous. Transformed into a whimsical castle with floor-to-ceiling windows and a floating spiral staircase, Marcel Wanders, a fellow Dutch designer responsible for the interior décor, pays homage to the modern-day fairytale with his visionary style. Custom-designed furniture, carpets and wall hangings give each room its own contemporary outlook while a smooth mix of provocative design and luxurious ambiance complement the calm and peaceful views of the Biscayne Bay. *Rooms start from Dhs1,760. Morganshotelgroup.com*



Sleep like a princess in this Italian chateau

MILAN, Hotel Château Monfort

Perhaps the fairest of them all, Hotel Château Monfort, with its royal colours and whimsical interiors, could very well have been the home of the Fairy Godmother herself. Located in the centre of Milan, each of the hotel's 77 rooms are filled with tailor-made furnishings and luxurious materials. The most advanced sound-proofing and air conditioning technologies have been used to ensure guests enjoy their stay uninterrupted and in ultimate comfort. Whether you dine amongst the teapot chandeliers and heart-shaped prints in the Rubacourti restaurant or have after-dinner drinks at Bar Mezzanotte, be sure to keep an eye on the Eberhard-designed clock and leave before it strikes midnight. Or not... *Rooms start from Dhs1,265 including breakfast. Hotelchateauonfort.com*

DOHA, Banana Island Resort

If uninterrupted pampering is your wish, this is the place to have it come true. Just a short boat trip from the city's shores, Banana Island Resort Doha by Anantara is the perfect place to unwind and de-stress. Modern-day structures sprinkled with cultural influences pay tribute to the local heritage while public areas are spacious and garden paths weave through the coiffured landscape. Private beach cabanas take away the heat of the day and – while there are no magic carpets in sight – there is something truly enchanting about this island retreat. *Rooms start from Dhs1,252. Doha.anantara.com*

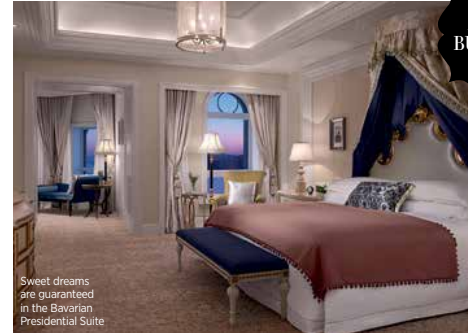


ESCAPE

Relive the drama of Queen Anne's reign in this London boutique



LONDON, 40WINKS
40WINKS, a charming Queen Anne townhouse in London's East End, could have been the place where the Grimm brothers discovered all things fantastical. The historical drama of the wood-paneled living room reveals the owner's design wit, while the light and airy bedrooms welcome any guest who stays the night. Providing the ultimate in exclusivity, the micro-boutique hotel has only two rooms. For those who like their privacy, why not book both and unwind in unparalleled discreet luxury. Each individually designed room transports A-list visitors and discerning travellers to their very own little wonderland for the night – but beware of the waiting list, 40WINKS is a desired hideout. *The double room starts from Dhs1,049 per night. 40winks.com*



Sweet dreams are guaranteed in the Bavarian Presidential Suite

Best for BUSINESS

DALIAN, The Castle Hotel

Crystal chandeliers, silk wallpapers, hand-woven carpets and velvet pillows make up the interior of this modern-day magical castle. Nestled between verdant hills and the spectacular coastline of the southern Chinese peninsula, The Castle Hotel does justice to its name. Styled as the souped-up version of Sleeping Beauty's castle, its shell reflects the majestic proportions of its surroundings, while the gold paintings and elegant wall hangings inside the hotel demonstrate a love for China's own mythical history. The rooms cater for business travellers but its location next to Asia's largest square encircled with a magical fountain sets the scene for leisure-seekers, too. Unwind in the enchanting Kaiser spa or learn to play the traditional game of Mahjong whilst overlooking the waterway vistas: how this story ends, is entirely up to you.

Rooms start from Dhs710. Starwoodhotels.com



You'll like the belle of the ball sweeping down the hotel's magnificent staircase



UDAIPUR, Taj Lake Palace

The magic starts on the banks of Lake Pichola where the boat awaits to bring you to the Taj Lake Palace. This former Maharaja palace has been restored to its former glory and offers a peek into the local history. Set on one of four islands within the lake, this white marble masterpiece is the only one to welcome guests. Ensoy yourself in the alcoves of the inner courtyard or request private dining under the perfectly carved domes. The Indian décor is beautifully charming, with mixed furniture, floral frescoes and hand-painted Hindu murals telling rich bedtime tales. *Rooms start from Dhs1,235 for two nights, including breakfast. Tajhotels.com*

Live like a Maharaja in this quaint bedroom overlooking the serene Lake Pichola