

ROOMS WITH A VIEW

Mallorca

THE SUNNY MEDITERRANEAN ISLAND OF MALLORCA IS KNOWN FOR ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS GOTHIC CATHEDRALS, IDYLIC SWIMMING COVES AND GREAT HIKING TRAILS. YOU ALSO FIND ENCHANTING LODGINGS – FROM GRAND CASTLES TO FINCAS (CONVERTED FARM ESTATES). HERE ARE FOUR OF MALLORCA'S BEST...

GEORGE AND JANICE MUCALOV





LA RESIDENCIA

Perhaps the island's best, this Orient-Express property is gloriously nestled in 30 acres of olive and citrus groves within the town of Deia. Home to artists and poets (Robert Graves lived here for the last 50 years of his life), Deia is so perpendicular as it clings to the mountainside, with so little flat land, that villagers are buried standing up. Designed to complement the surrounding village, La Residencia's 76 rooms are clustered within four stone buildings; two are ivy-clad manor houses, dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries, set around a large inviting pool. Persian carpets add warmth to red stone floors, original oil paintings adorn the walls, fresh-cut flowers are delivered to your room after check-in, and turn-down chocolates come in mesh jewellery bags. But for all its splendor, La Residencia isn't stuffy – a yellow rubber duck greets you in the bathtub. Don't miss dining in its brilliant, Michelin-recommended El Olivo restaurant (try the lamb with aubergine caviar in rosemary sauce). Cool activities nearby: walking with donkeys to a mountain picnic and swimming at the hidden pebble cove of Calle Deia.



FINCA CANCELL

Mallorca is blessed with many rural fincas – farm estates converted into delightful escapist accommodations, typically offering organic country-style breakfasts. From Palma, a one-hour ride on a 1912 narrow-gauge train deposits you in the village of Soller and nearby Finca CanColl. A restored, butter-yellow manor house, the finca has nine, individually decorated rooms. Spoil yourself with a suite; the Oliva suite has a huge outdoor terrace overlooking the mountains and terracotta tile roofs of Soller. Max, the owners' retriever, is a permanent fixture at Finca CanColl – he likes to sleep on the cobble outdoor front porch. Delicious breakfasts of homemade blackberry yogurt, egg dishes and date-and-nut bread are taken in the shady garden, where there's also a pool for enjoying sunny lazy afternoons. A talented new chef whips up gourmet dinners, served outside by six-foot high candelabras or inside the bodega (wine room). To burn off all that great food, hike along an ancient trail through bucolic countryside to Fornalutx, dubbed "Spain's prettiest town."





CASTILLO HOTEL SON VIDA

Bed down where Michael Douglas, super-model Claudia Schiffer and the Spanish royal family have rested their heads. A peaceful retreat surrounded by cypresses and pines – yet only 15 minutes by bus from the maze of Palma de Mallorca's shopping streets – the Castillo Hotel Son Vida perches high above the Bay of Palma. Part of the Starwood Luxury Collection, the 13th century castle hotel (complete with a knight statue in full shining armor in the lobby) has 164 rooms and suites. Interiors include gilt-framed mirrors, Juliet balconies overlooking the city, and fresh-cut long-stem roses on antique dressers. By day, take a dip in the grand pool or tee off on three nearby championship golf courses. At night, dine on the outdoor stone terrace, lit by crystal oil lamps.



HOTEL TRES

A member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World, this minimalist boutique hotel is ideally located smack in the old town of Palma de Mallorca. You can easily walk to the landmark cathedral, perched overlooking the seaside, from here. Hotel Tres' 41 moderately priced rooms are split between two buildings, one a 16th century palazzo (which we prefer) and the other a modern block. In the middle is a stone courtyard sprouting a towering palm tree, under which 30-something guests (which the hotel tends to attract) linger checking out emails on their computers. Guestrooms are snug, but the open bedroom/bathroom design helps make them feel bigger, and the Tres signature table that rolls over the bed is a clever space-saver. Lots of glass, white walls and wood floors lend a clean look. Several rooms have king beds – hard to find in Mallorca. The rooftop terrace boasts a small splash pool and fab views over Palma's rooftops.

To learn more about Mallorca, call your Cruise Holidays vacation expert.