

# BAZZAAR

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# TRAVEL GUIDE 2009

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hideaways, villas and lodges

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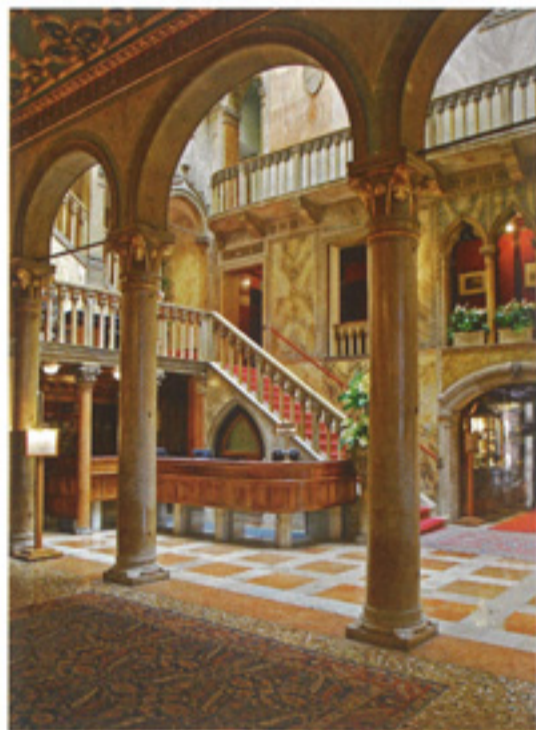
## Hotel de Rome, Berlin

If the vast spaces, giant marble columns and vault-like doorways give this hotel an air of austere grandeur, that's because it used to be the headquarters of the former GDR's central bank. Lavishly remodelled by Italian architect and interior designer Tommaso Ziffer, it still has the original wood-panelled walls, glazed ceilings and 19th-century terrazzo flooring, but these are now fused with contemporary dark grey, glass and chrome decor. Overlooking the historic Bebelplatz and flanking the State Opera House, it is a few steps away from Unter den Linden, the gorgeous boulevard that leads to designer fashion houses and the Brandenburg Gate. Weary sightseers can take advantage of the many airy lounges or the cavernous basement spa.

**Who goes** Affluent tourists, business travellers and trend-seeking art dealers.  
**Top tip** Sip aperitifs on the fourth-floor terrace, while admiring panoramic views of Bebelplatz.

**Must-do** Take a dip in the gold-flecked pool built into the old vault.

**Downside** HDTV aside, there is surprisingly little technology in the rooms. *Three nights, from about £774 a person B&B, including flights, transfers and a guide to restaurants and sightseeing, with Kirker Holidays (020 7593 2283; www.kirkerholidays.com).*



## REFURB Hotel Danieli, Venice

Until recently, this hotel was a faded jewel, but it has now been restored to its former glory. The bedrooms are light and airy, yet authentically Venetian. La Terrazza Danieli, the rooftop restaurant, is famed for its views, and offers diners a fresh take on local specialities. Casanova, once imprisoned next-door, would surely approve.

**Who goes** Lovers, New Englanders, architecture buffs.  
**Must-do** Inspect the Doge's Suite, barely changed in three centuries.  
**Top tip** Make full use of the best concierge in Venice.

**Downside** Tourists wandering around in the lobby. *Three nights, from £899 a person B&B, including flights, private water-taxi, hotel transfers, entrance to the Doge's Palace and a guide to restaurants and sightseeing, with Kirker Holidays (020 7593 2283; www.kirkerholidays.com).*



## Puro, Palma de Mallorca

Palma city centre has been enjoying a renaissance over the past few years, led by a wave of revamped mediaeval stone palaces, including Puro hotel. Backing onto the old fishmarket-turned-cultural centre, La Lonja, its white, uncluttered rooms reflect its Swedish ownership, but an earthy, bohemian vibe emanates from the exotic artefacts placed in all 26 rooms: tribal parrot-feather hats from Cameroon above the beds; goose-feather lampshades from Guinea; and cushions fashioned from saris. On the roof deck, ambient music lulls you into a sunbathing stupor, but a dip in the plunge pool will reawaken sun-sleepy senses.

**Who goes** 'Global nomads' (rich thirtysomething Brits and Germans).  
**Top tip** Go to the Opio Bar & Restaurant for an Asian twist on Med seafood.

**Must-do** Visit the glam Puro Beach, a 15-minute ride away on a free shuttle bus, for open-air massages, 9am yoga sessions and a typical island dance party come nightfall.

**Downside** There's no escape from the piped music.

*Puro (+34 971 425 450; www.purohotel.com), from about £235 a person a night B&B.*