

# 15 affordable and stylish new hotels in Europe

You don't need to blow the budget to stay in a place with head-turning design or heaps of character – you just need to know where to go. Your next holiday begins here



## SPAIN

**HOTEL CONSOLACION, ARAGON**  
Being miles from anywhere of consequence, the Hotel Consolación is an unlikely but happy find – one that successfully combines a 14th-century hermitage with zippy modern architecture in a breathtaking landscape. The main part of the hotel houses a restaurant, open-plan kitchen (where breakfast is served), lounge and library as well as a couple of double rooms, which have all had a contemporary facelift. But it's the 'Kube' suites – a short walk from the main house and a long way from the trials and tribulations of daily life – that people come for. These freestanding, cube-shaped structures are dotted along the top of a lonely ridge, each façade with a wall of sliding glass doors that open onto a small, decked terrace. The interiors are almost Quaker-like in their simplicity, with huge built-in beds, sunken slate baths and cast-iron fireplaces suspended from the ceiling. A daily delivery of firewood makes it easy to stay put, especially if you come while there's still snow on the ground. But there

are plenty of walks straight off the property, numerous charming villages of this little-known Matarranya region to explore, plus a secluded pool for the summer months. Foodies take note: the restaurant makes innovative use of local products. **TARA STEVENS**  
*Carretera N232 km 96, Monroyo, Teruel (00 34 97 885 6755; www.consolacion.com.es). 'Kube' suite from €155*

## FRANCE

**BLC DESIGN HOTEL, PARIS**  
Short for *blanc*, the BLC continues where its Parisian sibling, the Color Design Hotel, left off. All this whiteness is warmed up with subtle lighting and striking photographs by Lise-Laure Batifol (eyelashes; wispy locks; the back of a neck) in each of the 29 bedrooms. There are also minimalist, sheet-metal bedside tables, funky illuminated cubes (but no wardrobe, just drawers under the bed) and a number of large chrome hooks. Plus points include separate loos and an excellent rainshower (once you get used to the bathroom's mirrored walls, which multiply your reflection to infinity). There's also been a real effort to ensure a good night's sleep: efficient double-glazing, firm beds



Pool with a view at Hotel Consolación, opposite top, in north-eastern Spain. Opposite bottom, BLC Design Hotel, Paris. Right: top, Hôtel la Résidence du Vieux Port, Marseille; bottom, La Suite in Cassis

# Short breaks

Great getaways in Spain ★ France ★ Germany ★ Italy ★ Portugal ★ Serbia ★ Belgium ★ UK

and a Night Cove – an intriguing gadget you can programme to lull you to sleep or wake you up with changing colours, varying light intensity and lots of subliminal hums, clicks and whirrs. Friendly reception staff are on hand to serve a glass of wine, but the a-bit-too-designer bar soon runs out of space at breakfast. **NATASHA EDWARDS**  
*4 rue Richard Lenoir, 75011 Paris (00 33 1 40 09 60 16; www.blcdesign-hotel-paris.com). Doubles from €180, breakfast €12*



## LA SUITE, CASSIS

Built into a slab of rock above a coastal road, this dazzlingly white, three-bedroom guest house could be mistaken for a sumptuous, ultra-modern private villa, which is precisely what the owner, interior designer Herbert Hufnagel, had in mind when he decided to reinvent one of Cassis's oldest run-down houses. When lounging on the vast deck overhanging the cliff, or lying by the plunge pool, you might as well be on a cruise ship in the middle of the Mediterranean. Each of the bedrooms (which all have private terraces) is decorated with an unusual mix of handpicked antiques from the Marseille flea market and Marrakech souk, along with chairs and sofas by Mark Brazier-Jones, Charles and Ray Eames and Jean-Michel Wilmotte; the sleek bathrooms have slate-lined showers and sinks. All of which adds up to an uncluttered, stylish look with a hip, friendly



## HOTEL LA RESIDENCE DU VIEUX PORT, MARSEILLE

There's nothing remotely Provençal-looking about the geometric gold-and-grey concrete façade of this hotel, right on the quay of the old port. A landmark building designed in 1954 by the young architect André-Jacques Dunoyer de Segonzac, it was inspired by Le Corbusier. Picture-perfect views from the hotel – of little wooden fishing boats and the spires of Notre-Dame de la Garde basilica on a distant hilltop – haven't changed much since the 1950s. And now current owner Marc Boré has spruced up this eight-storey gem into a friendly, 1950s vintage-style urban retreat and brasserie. The Technicolor effect kicks in as soon as you step into the lobby (check out the monumental original Jean Lurçat tapestry), with a fuchsia, violet and yellow sofa by Kwok Hoi Chan and psychedelic, stained-glass windows. Each of the airy, almost identical 50 bedrooms (including apartments and suites) was designed by Franz Potisek in splashy primary colours, with faux Calder or Miró-inspired paintings and no-fuss furnishings (à la Charlotte Perriand or Jean Prouvé). Bathrooms are smart, and huge bay windows open onto terrific private terraces for sea-gazing at breakfast or sipping a pastis at sunset. **LANIE GOODMAN**  
*18 quai du Port, 13002 Marseille (00 33 4 91 91 91 22; www.hotel-marseille.com). Doubles from €150*