

lonely planet Hotels & Hostels

Want more Sleeping recommendations than we could ever pack into this little ol' book? Craving more detail – including extended reviews and photographs? Want to read reviews by other travellers and be able to post your own? Just make your way over to lonelyplanet.com/hotels and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

SLEEPING

top picks

- **Albergue Juvenil** (p237)
Super-new everything at this terrific youth hostel.
- **Cat's Hostel** (p232)
Backpackers hostel with a stunning courtyard.
- **Los Amigos Backpackers Hostel** (p231)
Lively traveller meeting place in the centre of town.
- **Hotel Meninas** (p229)
Designer rooms on one of our favourite streets.
- **Hotel Óscar** (p237)
Outrageously stylish rooms in a wonderful location.
- **Quo** (p233)
One of the city's longest-standing boutique hotels.
- **Hotel Abalú** (p236)
High-quality boutique hotel tucked away in Malasaña.
- **Hotel Puerta América** (p238)
Madrid's style temple with rooms by world-famous architects.
- **Hotel Urban** (p232)
Oh-so-sleek with antiques strewn amid a super-modern tower of glass.

SLEEPING

Madrid once trailed far behind Barcelona when it came to cool accommodation, but not any more. Having undergone something of a hotel revolution, the city now has high-quality accommodation across all price ranges and catering to every taste.

Each barrio has its own distinctive identity and where you decide to stay will play an important role in your experience of Madrid, although all are just a few metro stops from each other. Los Austrias, Sol and Centro put you in the heart of the busy downtown area, while La Latina (the best barrio for tapas) and Lavapiés, and Huertas (nightlife) and Atocha, are good for those who love Madrid nights but don't want to stagger too far to get back to their hotel in the wee small hours. Staying along the Paseo del Prado is ideal for those here to spend most of their time in galleries, while Salamanca is quiet, upmarket and perfect for serial shoppers. You don't have to be gay to stay in Chueca, but you'll love it if you are, while Malasaña is another inner-city barrio with great restaurants and bars. Chamberí removes you from the tourist scrum and lets you experience Madrid as the locals do.

Accommodation that caters primarily (but by no means exclusively) to a gay clientele is found on p225.

ACCOMMODATION STYLES

At the budget end of the market, there are plenty of buzzing backpacker places and cheap hostels for those who value a private room. You'll rarely pay more than €60 for a double room with private bathroom, TV and towels, which can't be said about many major European cities.

Midrange is where there's the widest variety of choice, with charming traditional architecture converted into chic designer hotels offering rooms for a fraction of the price you'd pay in most other European capitals. These *hoteles con encanto* (hotels with charm) share the market with stylish, modern monuments to 21st-century fashions. Entirely devoid of stuffiness, hotels and *hostales* (hostels) in this category enable you to feel pampered without the price tag.

At the top end of the market, the sky's the limit when it comes to luxury and price, with refined hotels valuing old-world elegance as well as innovative temples to modern design.

BOOK YOUR STAY ONLINE

For more accommodation reviews and recommendations by Lonely Planet authors, check out the online booking service at lonelyplanet.com. You'll find the true, insider lowdown on the best places to stay. Reviews are thorough and independent. Best of all, you can book online.

Three final things: in Spain a *habitación doble* (double room) usually indicates a room with two single beds. Cuddly couples should request a *cama de matrimonio* (literally, a marriage bed). All but the most basic *hostales* have free internet access. And check-out in almost all places is noon.

ROOM RATES

Some top-end places have separate price structures for *temporada alta* (high season), *temporada media* (midseason) or *temporada baja* (low season), all usually displayed on a notice in reception. But there's little agreement among hoteliers about when the seasons actually begin and end, and prices can vary on a daily basis according to occupancy, trade fairs and other major events in Madrid. Many of the top, business-oriented hotels cut good deals for weekend stays. Given this occasionally fluid price structure, accommodation prices in this book are a guide only and you should always check room charges before putting down your bags; and remember that prices can and do change with time. Booking ahead is always a good idea.

Virtually all accommodation prices are subject to 7% IVA (the Spanish version of value-added tax). This is often included in the quoted price at cheaper places, but less often at more expensive ones. To check, ask: *¿Está incluido el IVA?* ('Is IVA included?'). In some cases you will be charged the IVA only if you ask for a receipt.

LOS AUSTRIAS, SOL & CENTRO

With a wealth of historical sites, accommodation across a range of budgets, and traditional taverns, restaurants and shops within a stone's throw, this area is probably where you'll spend the most time while in town, making it a good place to be based. It's also where all the world congregates and where old Madrid meets the new; as such, it can be at once exhilarating and slightly seedy (especially along Calle de la Montera). For more information on the barrio, see p61.

CASA DE MADRID Map pp64-5 Hotel €€€

☎ 91 559 57 91; www.casademadrid.com; 2nd fl, Calle de Arrieta 2; s €220, d €240-390; **M** Gran Vía Refined, extravagantly decorated rooms make Casa de Madrid a luxurious choice overlooking the Teatro Real. The rooms are decorated in old-world style, with each built around a theme (eg the Spanish Room, the Indian Room, the Damascus Suite) and it's difficult not to feel like royalty here. It's a little like staying at the Ritz but without the price tag.

HOTEL DE LAS LETRAS

Map pp64-5 Boutique Hotel €€€

☎ 91 523 79 80; www.hoteldelasletras.com; Gran Vía 11; d from €165; **M** Gran Vía If you want to cause a stir in Madrid with a new hotel, make sure it has a rooftop bar overlooking the city. They're all the rage, but Hotel de las Letras started the craze. The bar's wonderful, but the whole hotel is excellent, with individually styled rooms, each with literary quotes from famous writers written on the walls. We don't always get the colour scheme, but it may just come down to personal taste. The build-

APARTMENTS

If you'll be in Madrid for more than a few days and you'd like the comfort and space of your own apartment, consider *Apartasol* (☎ 91 512 81 16; www.apartasol.com; apt per night per person for 1/5 persons €69/27). This traveller-friendly agency has well-equipped modern apartments scattered around the vicinity of the Puerta del Sol and Gran Vía. Prices are first-rate and there are discounts available for longer stays.

PRICE GUIDE

Throughout this chapter, accommodation is listed according to barrio, then by price range (starting with the most expensive). Each place is accompanied by one of the following symbols:

€€€	more than €150 a night per double
€€	€71-150 a night per double
€	up to €70 a night per double

ing dates from 1917 and the public areas retain original features, including mosaic tiles.

HOTEL SENATOR Map pp64-5 Hotel €€€

☎ 91 531 41 51; www.playasenator.com; Gran Vía 21; s/d from €145/160; **M** Gran Vía One of central Madrid's prettiest façades conceals some of the most attractive accommodation in the city centre. Unusually, only one room on each floor doesn't face onto the street and the views down Gran Vía from the corner rooms are brilliant. Rooms are sophisticated and come with armchairs and, wait for it, reclining beds.

HOTEL MENINAS Map pp64-5 Boutique Hotel €€€

☎ 91 541 28 05; www.hotelméninas.com; Calle de Campomanes; s/d from €109/129; **M** Ópera This is a classy, cool choice. Opened in 2005, it's the sort of place where an interior designer licked their lips and created a master work of understated, minimalist luxury. The colour scheme is blacks, whites and greys, with dark-wood floors and splashes of fuchsia and lime-green. Flat-screen TVs in every room, modern bathroom fittings, internet access points, and even a laptop in some rooms, round out the clean lines and latest innovations. We love the location as well.

HOTEL VINCCI CAPITOL Map pp64-5 Hotel €€€

☎ 91 521 83 91; www.vincchoteles.com; Gran Vía 41; d €125-180; **M** Gran Vía Opened in 2007 in the landmark Carrión building, this modern hotel has large rooms with muted tones, and some even have the novelty of circular beds. But what makes it stand out are the views – straight down Gran Vía with its life and grandeur. Not all rooms have views, but there's a 9th-floor viewing area for guests. One local newspaper gave the hotel a '9' for architecture, a '4' for decoration and a '6' for the comfort of

the rooms; they're being a little harsh, but we know what they mean.

HOTEL PRECIADOS Map pp64-5 Hotel €€

☎ 91 454 44 00; www.preciadoshotel.com, in Spanish; Calle de Preciados 37; s/d from €122/125; **M** Santo Domingo or Callao

With a classier feel than many of the other business options around town, the Preciados gets rave reviews for its service. Soft lighting, light shades and plentiful glass personalise the rooms and provide an intimate feel.

PETIT PALACE POSADA DEL PEINE

Map pp64-5 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 91 523 81 51; www.hthoteles.com; Calle de Postas 17; d €115-150; **M** Sol

This outstanding hotel combines a splendid historic building (dating to 1610), brilliant location (just 50m from the Plaza Mayor) and modern hi-tech rooms. The bathrooms sparkle with stunning fittings and hydromassage showers, and the rooms are beautifully appointed; many historical architectural features remain *in situ* in the public areas. It's just a pity some of the rooms aren't larger.

HOTEL II CASTILLAS Map pp64-5 Hotel €€

☎ 91 524 97 50; www.hoteldoscastillas.com; Calle de la Abada 7; s/d around €95/110; **M** Sol

A little bit of inside knowledge makes all the difference here. Ask for a corner room and you'll be rewarded with a light-filled space with hardwood floors and three windows – good value for the price in the city centre. We also love the heated towel rails. The location, just away from busier streets but within easy walking distance of most of them, is excellent.

ATENEO HOTEL Map pp64-5 Hotel €€

☎ 91 521 20 12; www.hotel-ateneo.com; Calle de la Montera 22; s/d from €75/107; **M** Sol

Rooms here are quiet and come with attractive parquet floors as well as private balcony; there's ample floor space and the bathrooms have designer fittings. The only drawback is that Calle de la Montera can be pretty seedy. You're probably close enough to Sol for it not to be too much of an issue.

PETIT PALACE LONDRES Map pp64-5 Hotel €€

☎ 915 31 41 05; www.hthoteles.com; Calle Galdo 2; d from €105; **M** Sol

This former palace is the ideal Madrid address – situated right in the city centre, but surrounded by traffic-free shopping streets with few bars to keep you awake at night. Rooms vary, but there are a few mainstays – modern black-and-white photos adorning the walls, light colour schemes, parquet floors, and hi-tech bathrooms with hydromassage showers and modern fittings.

HOTEL CARLOS V Map pp64-5 Hotel €€

☎ 91 531 41 00; www.hotelcarlosv.com; Calle del Maestro Victoria 5; s/d from €81/101; **M** Callao

A loyal following is drawn to this family-run hotel with an old-fashioned style, right down to the suit of armour in the lobby. The rooms are fine, though more functional than filled with charm; those on the top floors have large balconies. An added bonus is that as you're on a pedestrianised street and there are not too many bars in the immediate vicinity, noise shouldn't be an issue.

MARIO ROOM MATE

Map pp64-5 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 91 548 85 48; www.room-matehoteles.com; Calle de Campomanes 4; s €90-120, d €100-140; **M** Ópera

Entering this swanky boutique hotel is like crossing the threshold of Madrid's latest nightclub – staff dressed all in black, black walls and swirls of red lighting in the lobby. Rooms are spacious, with high ceilings and simple furniture, light tones contrasting smoothly with muted colours and dark surfaces; some rooms are pristine white, others have splashes of colour with zany murals. The first of the Room Mate chain of hotels to open, Mario prides itself on being 'intimate, elegant and serene', and we have to agree with it.

HOTEL ANACO Map pp64-5 Hotel €€

☎ 91 522 46 04; www.anacohotel.com; Calle de las Tres Cruces 3; s/d from €80/95; **M** Gran Vía

Don't be put off by the grim exterior, or even the lobby – the rooms here are great. Indeed, we like a place that spends its renovation euros on the rooms rather than the lobby – the latter is of a tired, 1970s vintage, but the rooms are decorated in neutral tones with touches of red, and include modern fixtures such as stainless-steel basins.

HOTEL LAURA Map pp64-5 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 91 701 16 70; www.room-matehoteles.com; Travesía de Trujillos 3; d €90-200, ste €150-280; **M** Sol or Ópera

Another fine offering from the Room Mate chain, Hotel Laura combines location with interiors that are the work of the famous interior designer Tomas Alia. It's all very slick, contemporary and colourful behind the somewhat staid façade.

HOTEL PLAZA MAYOR Map pp64-5 Hotel €€

☎ 91 360 06 06; www.h-plazamayor.com; Calle de Atocha 2; s/d from €65/85; **M** Sol or Tirso de Molina

We love this place. Sitting just across from the Plaza Mayor, here you'll find stylish décor, charming original elements of this 150-year-old building and extremely helpful staff. The rooms are attractive, some with a light colour scheme and wrought-iron furniture. The attic rooms boast dark wood and designer lamps, and have lovely little terraces with wonderful rooftop views of central Madrid.

HOTEL MADRID Map pp64-5 Apartments €€

☎ 91 522 00 60; www.hostal-madrid.info; 2nd fl, Calle de Esparteros 6; s/d from €57/78, apt per night/month from €100/1300; **M** Sol

The excellent apartments here range in size from 33 sq metres to 130 sq metres and each has a fully-equipped kitchen, its own sitting area, bathroom and, in the case of the larger ones (room 51 on the 5th floor is one of the best), an expansive terrace with glorious views over central Madrid. Tastefully modern wrought-iron furniture and attractive colour schemes combine with period pieces throughout. The double rooms are fairly standard Madrid fare.

HOTEL MACARENA Map pp64-5 Hotel €€

☎ 91 365 92 21; www.silserranos.com, in Spanish; Cava de San Miguel 8; s/d/tr €59.80/73.83/93.50; **M** Sol

On one of the lovely old cobblestone streets that run past the Plaza Mayor, this charming *hostal* is at once homey and loaded with impeccable, old-style charm. The rooms are nicely spacious and decorated in warm colours, with the occasional antique writing desk. The centralised location is ideal and with not too much of the traffic noise you find elsewhere downtown.

HOSTAL ACAPULCO Map pp64-5 Hostel €

☎ 91 531 19 45; www.hostalacapulco.com; 4th fl, Calle de la Salud 13; s/d/tr €52/62/79; **M** Gran Vía
A cut above many other hostels in Madrid, this immaculate little *hostal* has marble floors, recently renovated bathrooms (with bathtubs!), double-glazed windows and comfortable beds. Street-facing rooms have balconies overlooking a sunny plaza and are flooded with natural light. The staff are also friendly and always more than happy to help you plan your day in Madrid.

HOSTAL LUIS XV Map pp64-5 Hostel €

☎ 91 522 13 50; www.hrluisxv.net, in Spanish; 8th fl, Calle de la Montera 47; s/d/tr €45/59/75; **M** Gran Vía

Everything here – especially the spacious rooms and the attention to detail – makes this family-run place feel pricier than it is. You'll find it hard to tear yourself away from the balconies outside every exterior room, from where the views are superb (especially from the triple in room 820) and you're so high up that noise is rarely a problem. If you come out the door, head left onto Gran Vía, rather than seedy Calle de la Montera.

HOSTEL METROPOL Map pp64-5 Hostel €

☎ 93 231 20 45; www.metropolhostel.com; 1st fl, Calle de la Montera 47; dm/s/d €17/45/60; **M** Gran Vía

It's not that the rooms are great; in fact, they're simple and don't have a whole lot of character. But young travellers congregate here for that special something that few hostels have – an attitude, a young vibe. You'll also find art exhibitions, plenty of tourist information, young staff that merge seamlessly with the travellers, a few comfy chairs, picnic lunches, a laundry and a hint of alternative, street-wise advice. The street is not Madrid's finest, but if you turn left onto Gran Vía, you may not even notice.

LOS AMIGOS BACKPACKERS HOSTEL

Map pp64-5 Hostel €€

☎ 915 47 17 07; www.losamigoshostel.com; 4th fl, Calle de Campomanes 6; dm €17-19, d €50; **M** Ópera

If you arrive in Madrid keen for company, this could be the place for you – lots of students stay here, the staff are savvy (and speak English) and there are bright

dorm-style rooms (with free lockers) that sleep from four to 12 people. A steady stream of repeat visitors is the best recommendation we can give. Los Amigos also has another hostel a couple of blocks away, the equally excellent **Los Amigos Sol Backpackers Hostel** (Map pp64–5; ☎ 91 559 24 72; 4th fl, Calle de Arenal 26; dm €17–20, d €50; 📺 Ópera).

LA LATINA & LAVAPIÉS

Places to stay are pretty thin on the ground in these two barrios, but what's here is just back from the clamorous streets of downtown and yet still close enough to get around the centre on foot. For more information on the barrio, see p74.

HOTEL REYES CATÓLICOS

Map pp76–7 Hotel €€

☎ 91 365 86 00; www.hotelreyescatolicos.com; Calle del Ángel 18; s €99–119, d €109–129; 📺 Puerta de Toledo or La Latina

If you like to be removed from the bustle of downtown Madrid but on the cusp of fascinating La Latina, this place is a good choice. While the rooms are simple and eccentric (what's with the stripy wallpaper?), they do have bright décor and lots of natural light. They also look onto a quiet street or the Basílica de San Francisco, and the double-glazed windows should be a lesson to other Madrid hotels.

HOSTAL HORIZONTE

Map pp76–7 Hostel €

☎ 91 369 09 96; www.hostalhorizonte.com; 2nd fl, Calle de Atocha 28; s €29, with private bathroom €40, d €44, with private bathroom €55; 📺 Antón Martín Billing itself as a hostel run by travellers for travellers, Hostal Horizonte is a well-run place. The rooms have far more character than your average hostel, with high ceil-

ings, deliberately old-world furnishings and modern bathrooms. The King Alfonso XII room (€72) is especially well presented. All in all it's a good package.

CAT'S HOSTEL

Map pp76–7 Hostel €

☎ 91 369 28 07; www.catshostel.com; Calle de Cañizares 6; dm €19, d from €24; 📺 Antón Martín Now here's something special. Forming part of a 17th-century palace, the internal courtyard is Madrid's finest – lavish Andalusian tilework, a fountain, a spectacular glass ceiling and stunning Islamic decoration, surrounded on four sides by an open balcony. There's a super-cool basement bar with free internet connections and fiestas, often with live music. One small complaint: Cat's standards of maintenance haven't quite kept pace with its popularity.

MAD HOSTEL

Map pp76–7 Hostel €

☎ 915 06 48 40; www.madhostel.com; Calle de Cabeza 24; dm €20; 📺 Antón Martín From the people who brought you Cat's Hostel, Mad Hostel is similarly filled with a buzzing vibe. The 1st-floor courtyard – with retractable roof – re-creates an old Madrid *corrala* and is a wonderful place to chill, while the four- to eight-bed rooms are small but new and clean. There's a small, rooftop gym equipped with state-of-the-art equipment. Great choice.

HUERTAS & ATOCHA

If you're opening a swish new designer hotel in Madrid, Huertas seems to be the place to do it. Some of the most exciting new upmarket hotels are to be found here in a barrio that seems hellbent on reinventing itself as the Spanish capital's home of accommodation chic. Huertas nights will, however, quickly bring you back down to earth, filled as they are with the roar of Madrid at play; going to sleep in Huertas can seem like something of a lost cause on weekends, although, thankfully, most of the newer places have double glazing. For more information on the sights of the barrio, see p82.

HOTEL URBAN

Map pp84–5 Hotel €€€

☎ 91 787 77 70; www.derbyhotels.com; Carrera de San Jerónimo 34; d €200–350; 📺 Sevilla The towering glass edifice of Hotel Urban is the epitome of art-inspired designer cool. With its clean lines and original artworks

from Africa and Asia (there's a small museum to Egyptian art in the basement), it's a wonderful antidote to the more classic charm of Madrid's five-star hotels of longer standing. Dark-wood floors and dark walls are offset by plenty of light, while the dazzling bathrooms have wonderful designer fittings – the washbasins are sublime. The rooftop swimming pool is one of Madrid's best and the gorgeous terrace is heaven on a candle-lit summer's evening. If money were no object, we would need a good reason to stay anywhere else.

ME BY MELIÁ

Map pp84–5 Hotel €€€

☎ 91 701 60 00; www.mebymelia.com; Plaza de Santa Ana 14; d without/with plaza view from €200/250; 📺 Sol or Antón Martín Once the landmark Gran Victoria Hotel, the Madrid home of many a famous bullfighter, this audacious new hotel is fast becoming a landmark of a different kind. Overlooking the western end of Plaza de Santa Ana, this luxury hotel is decked out in minimalist white with curves and comfort in all the right places; this is one place where it's definitely worth paying extra for the view. Its two bars – The Penthouse and Midnight Rose (see p190) – are as lavish as the hotel.

HOTEL EL PRADO

Map pp84–5 Hotel €€

☎ 91 369 02 34; www.pradohotel.com; Calle del Prado 11; s €80–120, d €125–195, ste €165–225; 📺 Antón Martín or Sevilla This is one of Madrid's most welcoming three-star hotels, offering style and service beyond its modest rating. There's a wine theme running throughout the spacious rooms, which have parquet floors, light tones, and places to sit and write. The double-glazed windows are also important, especially if you're here on a weekend, when prices are at their cheapest.

VINCCI SOHO

Map pp84–5 Hotel €€

☎ 91 141 41 00; www.vincchoteles.com; Calle del Prado 18; d €90–470; 📺 Sevilla or Antón Martín A refined sense of style permeates everything about this hotel from the subtly lit public areas to the rooms that combine vaguely Zen aesthetics with blood-red bathrooms. As ideal a base for the museums along the Paseo del Prado as for the clamour of central Madrid, it gets just about everything right. So why wouldn't you stay here? Well, on the rare occasions

top picks

APARTMENT OR SUITE HOTELS

- Amador de los Ríos Espahotel (p238)
- Hostal Madrid (p231)
- Suite Prado Hotel (below)
- Aparthotel Tribunal (p237)
- Apartasol (see the boxed text, p229)

when a standard double room goes for €470 it's just being silly. A more normal price hovers around €125, which is worth every euro.

QUO

Map pp84–5 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 91 532 90 49; www.hotelesquo.com; Calle de Sevilla 4; s €90–160, d €90–195; 📺 Sevilla Quo is one of Madrid's homes of chic with black-clad staff, minimalist designer furniture, tall ceilings and huge windows that let light flood in. The colour scheme is black and red, with light surfaces providing perfect contrast and a resolutely contemporary look. We're also big fans of the bathrooms, with glass doors, glass benches and stainless-steel basins. All rooms have flat-screen TVs, black-and-white photos of Madrid, dark-wood floors and comfy armchairs; rooms on the 7th floor have Jacuzzis and private terraces with terrific views over the rooftops.

HOTEL ALICIA

Map pp84–5 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 91 389 60 95; www.room-matehoteles.com; Calle del Prado 2; d €90–200, ste €150–280; 📺 Sol, Sevilla or Antón Martín One of the landmark properties of the designer Room Mate chain of hotels, Hotel Alicia overlooks Plaza de Santa Ana with beautiful, spacious rooms. The style (the work of Pascua Ortega) is a touch more muted than in other Room Mate hotels, but the supermodern look remains intact, the downstairs bar is oh-so-cool, and the service is young and switched on. Two of the duplex suites have their own terrace with a little private pool.

SUITE PRADO HOTEL

Map pp84–5 Suites €€

☎ 91 420 23 18; www.suiteprado.com; Calle de Manuel Fernández y González 10; ste €90–160; 📺 Sevilla

top picks

FOR BACKPACKERS

- Albergue Juvenil (p237)
- Cat's Hostel (right)
- Mad Hostel (right)
- Los Amigos Backpackers Hostel (p231)
- International Youth Hostel – La Posada de Huertas (p235)

Ever since, it has looked out across Plaza de Neptuno at its rival, the Ritz, like a lover unjustly scorned. Its name may not have the world-famous cachet of the Ritz, but it's not called the Palace for nothing and is extravagant in all the right places. After the snooty Ritz banned actors and other public performers in the early 20th century, the Palace became the hotel of choice for celebrities – Mata Hari lived here during WWI and her ghost reportedly occupies the corridors, while Hemingway, Dalí and Lorca were all regulars in the cocktail bar. The 1999 renovations cost €144,000 per room...

HOTEL MORA Map pp92–3 Hotel €€

☎ 91 420 15 69; www.hotelmora.com; Paseo del Prado 32; s/d €60/78; **M** Atocha

Near the main museums and a short walk from the city centre, this simple, friendly hotel is a fine choice. You have to feel for the owners, who endured years of massive building works right behind the hotel. Their (and your) reward is the architecturally stunning Caixa Forum, which is already one of the great landmarks along a boulevard of many. Rooms are a bit sparse, and their furnishings a little tired, but they're spacious and clean, and some look out across the Paseo del Prado.

NH NACIONAL Map pp92–3 Hotel €€

☎ 91 429 66 29; www.nh-hotels.com; Paseo del Prado 48; d Fri-Sun €147-185, Mon-Thu €169; **M** Atocha

The excellent NH chain of hotels doesn't get any better than this place, where the stylish rooms are beautifully decorated in warm colours, and combine luxury comfort with all the necessary technology. It's also close to both Atocha train station and Madrid's big three art galleries.

top picks

LAP OF LUXURY

- Hotel Ritz (left)
- Westin Palace (left)
- Hotel Puerta América (p238)
- Hotel Urban (p232)
- Hotel AC Santo Mauro (p238)

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH HOSTEL – LA POSADA DE HUERTAS

Map pp84–5 Hostel €

☎ 91 429 55 26; www.posadadehuertas.com; Calle de las Huertas 21; d €17-21, s/d €40/50; **M** Antón Martín

There's no better place to base yourself if you've come to Madrid to party and prefer to spend your money on your drinks rather than your bed. Rooms are simple, modern bog-standard dorms, and include free internet, breakfast, locker, and your own key that lets you come and go as you please. Staff are young and live Madrid's nightlife when they're not working; they're happy to advise on the latest in places.

PASEO DEL PRADO & EL RETIRO

The artistic splendour of the art galleries along the magnificent Paseo del Prado is a fine reason for choosing to stay in this former barrio of choice for Madrid's royalty; the sophisticated Parque del Buen Retiro is another of the joys of staying in this green and relatively tranquil barrio. For more information on the barrio, see p90.

HOTEL RITZ Map pp92–3 Hotel €€€

☎ 91 701 67 67; www.ritzmadrid.com; Plaza de la Lealtad 5; d €562-675, ste €1124-5136; **M** Banco de España

The grand old lady of Madrid, the Hotel Ritz is the height of exclusivity. One of the most lavish buildings in the city, it has classic style and impeccable service that is second to none. Unsurprisingly it's the favoured hotel of presidents, kings and celebrities. The public areas are palatial and awash with antiques, while the rooms are extravagantly large, opulent and supremely comfortable. In the Royal Suite, the walls are covered with raw silk and there's a personal butler to wait upon you. We challenge you to find a more indulgent hotel experience anywhere in Spain.

WESTIN PALACE Map pp92–3 Hotel €€€

☎ 91 360 80 00; www.westinpalacemadrid.com; Plaza de las Cortes 7; d €369-470, ste €659-1265; **M** Banco de España or Antón Martín

An old Madrid classic, this former palace of the Duke de Lerma opened as a hotel in 1911 and was Spain's second luxury hotel.

top picks

DESIGNER HOTELS

- Hotel Puerta América (p238)
- Hotel Urban (p232)
- Hotel Meninas (p229)
- Hotel Óscar (p237)
- Quo (p233)
- Me by Meliá (p233)
- Bauzá (p236)
- Amador de los Ríos Espahotel (p238)
- Hotel Abalú (p236)

HOTEL VICTORIA 4 Map pp84–5 Hotel €€

☎ 91 523 84 30; www.hotelvictoria4.com; Calle de Victoria 4; d incl breakfast €75-143; **M** Sol

We like a place where you can feel like you're in an oasis of calm even as carousing crowds pass by your front door. A great location, handy for some of Madrid's best nightlife, and attractive, well-equipped rooms add up to a package that represents outstanding value for the centre of a major European capital.

HOSTAL SARDINERO Map pp84–5 Hostel €

☎ 91 429 57 56; fax 91 429 41 12; 3rd fl, Calle del Prado 16; s/d from €47/67; **M** Sol or Antón Martín

More than the cheerful rooms (which have high ceilings, air-conditioning, a safe, hair-dryers and renovated bathrooms), it's the friendly old couple who run this place that gives it its charm. They love it if you take the time to sit down for a chat – preferably in Spanish or French, as the owners speak both.

HOSTAL ADRIANO Map pp84–5 Hostel €

☎ 91 521 13 39; www.hostaladriano.com; 4th fl, Calle de la Cruz 26; s/d/tr €49/63/83; **M** Sol

They don't come any better than this bright and cheerful hostel wedged in the streets that mark the boundary between Sol and Huertas. Most rooms are well sized and each has its own colour scheme. Indeed, more thought has gone into the decoration than in your average hostel, from the bed covers to the pictures on the walls. On the same floor, the owners run the [Hostal Adria Santa Ana](#) ([Map pp84–5](#); www.hostaladriasantaana.com; d/tr €70/90), which is a step up in price, style and luxury.

The spacious modern suites at this centrally located hotel have plenty of space and are semiluxurious, although they don't have a whole lot of character; some are cavernous, as if the decorators didn't quite know what to do with so much space. All have sitting rooms, good bathrooms and kitchenettes, and the price is fine for the location.

HOTEL EL PASAJE Map pp84–5 Hotel €€

☎ 91 521 29 95; www.elpasajehs.com; Calle del Pozo 4; d incl breakfast Sun-Thu €90, Fri & Sat €110; **M** Sol

If you were to choose your ideal location in Huertas, Hotel El Pasaje would be hard to beat. Set on a quiet lane largely devoid of bars, yet just around the corner from the Plaza de la Puerta del Sol, it combines a central location with a quiet night's sleep, at least by the standards of Huertas. The feel is intimate and modern (except for the tired-coloured bedspreads – what was it thinking?), with good bathrooms, minibars and enough space to leave your suitcase without tripping over it. The twins have balconies; the doubles are on the inside of the building.

HOTEL MIAU Map pp84–5 Hotel €€

☎ 91 369 71 20; www.hotelmiu.com; Calle del Príncipe 26; s/d incl breakfast €85/95; **M** Sol or Antón Martín

If you want to be close to the nightlife of Huertas or can't tear yourself away from the beautiful Plaza de Santa Ana, then Hotel Miau is your place. Light tones, splashes of colour and modern art adorn the walls of the rooms, which are large and well equipped. It can be noisy, but you chose Huertas...

CHIC & BASIC Map pp84–5 Hostel €€

☎ 91 429 69 35; www.7colorsrooms.com; 2nd fl, Calle de las Huertas 14; s/d incl breakfast from €57/77; **M** Antón Martín

It's all about colours here at this fine little hotel/hostel. The rooms are white in a minimalist style with free internet, flat-screen TVs, dark hardwood floors with a bright colour scheme superimposed on top with every room a different shade. It's all very comfortable, contemporary and casual. Only three of the rooms look out onto the street, but those on the inside of the building don't feel quite as claustrophobic as in some places. Prices increase by €10 per room on Friday and Saturday.

SALAMANCA

Salamanca is Madrid's most exclusive address, home to suitably grand sights and the best shopping that the city has to offer. It's generally a quieter choice than anywhere else in the capital and good restaurants abound. For more information on the barrio, see p101.

BAUZÁ Map pp102-3 Boutique Hotel €€€

☎ 91 435 75 45; www.hotelbauza.com; Calle de Goya 79; s/d/ste from €150/200/340; **M** Goya Minimalist and modern, the Bauzá would be right at home in SoHo, New York. The generous rooms boast dark-wood floors, soothing greys and blues, and flashes of originality like Indian textile prints. Computers, sound systems, designer lamps and even plants add appeal without crowding the rooms.

PETIT PALACE EMBASSY SERRANO

Map pp102-3 Hotel €€€

☎ 91 431 30 60; www.hthoteles.com; Calle de Serrano 46; d from €165; **M** Serrano Part of the High Tech chain of hotels, this is the premier address for those who'll be spending their time shopping in Salamanca. On the boutique-rich Calle de Serrano, the Petit Palace has rooms classy and large enough to accommodate all your shopping bags and so much more – many have their own computer and exercise bike.

HESPERIA HERMOSILLA Map pp102-3 Hotel €€

☎ 91 246 88 00; www.hesperia.com; Calle de Hermosilla; s/d from €125/135; **M** Serrano If you're here on a mission to shop or you otherwise value quiet, exclusive streets away from the noise of central Madrid, this modern and subtly stylish hotel is a terrific choice. The furnishings are vaguely minimalist, especially in the public areas, and LCD flat-screen TVs and other creature comforts are rare luxuries in this price range.

MALASAÑA & CHUECA

Staying in Malasaña or Chueca keeps you within walking distance of (or a short metro ride from) most of Madrid's major sights but immerses you in the sometimes gritty, usually cool personalities of these two inner-city barrios. There's not a lot to see here – a few museums is about it – but both barrios are wonderful places to eat out or drink the night

top picks

HOTEL CHAINS

- Room Mate (www.room-matehoteles.com)
- Hi Tech (www.hthoteles.com)
- Vincci (www.vinccihoteles.com)
- NH (www.nh-hotels.com)
- AC (www.ac-hoteles.com)

away. It's a generally young vibe, and Chueca can be extravagantly gay, but it's almost always inclusive regardless of your age or sexual orientation.

PETIT PALACE HOTEL DUCAL

Map pp110-11 Hotel €€

☎ 91 521 10 43; www.hthoteles.com; Calle de Hortaleza 3; d from €115; **M** Gran Vía Fusing elegant old buildings with state-of-the-art rooms and hi-tech facilities is the hallmark here. The rooms boast strong, contrasting colours, polished floorboards, clean lines, comfy beds and armchairs, and plenty of light and mirrors. Each room also has its own computer with free internet connection. The hi-tech theme continues in the bathrooms, where hydromassage showers are standard.

SIETE ISLAS HOTEL Map pp110-11 Hotel €€

☎ 91 523 46 88; www.hotelesieteislas.com; Calle de Valverde 14-16; s/d from €103/114; **M** Gran Vía Rooms here are comfortable and stylish, with generous, marble-lined bathrooms and cool beige-and-navy-blue tones throughout. The owners hail from the Canary Islands and each room is themed to a different village from the islands. There's also a nautical flourish in some of the public areas.

HOTEL ABALÚ Map pp110-11 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 91 531 47 44; www.hotelabalalu.com; Calle del Pez 19; s/d from €74/105, ste €140-200; **M** Noviciado You may love the mean streets of Malasaña, but that doesn't mean you want to sleep rough. At last, Malasaña has its own boutique hotel, an oasis of style amid the barrio's timeworn feel. Each room has its own design drawn from the imagination of Luis Delgado, from retro chintz to Zen, Baroque and pure white and most aesthet-

ics in between. Some of the suites have Jacuzzis and large-screen home cinemas. You're close to Gran Vía, but away from the tourist scrum.

HOTEL ÓSCAR Map pp110-11 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 91 701 11 73; www.room-matehoteles.com; Plaza Vázquez de Mella 12; d €90-200, ste €150-280; **M** Gran Vía

Outstanding. Hotel Óscar belongs to the highly original Room Mate chain of hotels and the designer rooms ooze style and sophistication. Some have floor-to-ceiling murals, the lighting is always funky, and the colour scheme is splashed with pinks, lime greens, oranges or a more minimalist black and white. Like all Room Mate hotels, this one's themed around an individual personality, in this case Oscar, who describes himself as 'nocturnal, cosmopolitan and ready for anything'.

APARTHOTEL TRIBUNAL

Map pp110-11 Aparthotel €€

☎ 91 522 14 55; www.aparthotel-tribunal.com, in Spanish; Calle de San Vicente Ferrer 1; s apt €60-100, d apt €70-120; **M** Tribunal

If you're looking for apartments for short stays (there are no cheaper weekly rates), Aparthotel Tribunal is a good choice. All the rooms come with kitchenette and satellite TV, and sizes range from 25 sq metres to 50 sq metres; they're more like studios than apartments. They're well maintained, although some are starting to show their age.

HOSTAL SAN LORENZO Map pp110-11 Hostel €

☎ 91 521 30 57; www.hotel-sanlorenzo.com; Calle de Clavel 8; s €45-75, d €59-98; **M** Gran Vía

Hostal San Lorenzo is generally an excellent deal: original stone walls and some dark-wood beams from the 19th century in the public areas, and modern, comfortable and bright rooms (some with splashes of old-world charm) that you'll be more than happy to return to at the end of the day. Some of the rooms could be larger and, depending on who you encounter, the service can be a little off-hand.

HOSTAL AMÉRICA Map pp110-11 Hostel €

☎ 91 522 64 48; www.hostalamerica.net; 5th fl, Calle de Hortaleza 19; s/d €40/55; **M** Gran Vía Run by a lovely mother-son-dog team (the dog's called Ronnie and has quite a fol-

lowing among guests), the América has superclean, spacious and IKEA-dominated rooms. As most rooms face onto the usual interior 'patio' of the building, you should get a good night's sleep despite the busy area. For the rest of the time, there's an expansive terrace – quite a luxury for a hostel in downtown Madrid – with tables, chairs and a coffee machine. There's free wi-fi, but if you're too far down the hall, the connection can be a little tenuous.

HOSTAL DON JUAN Map pp110-11 Hostel €

☎ 91 522 31 01; 2nd fl, Plaza de Vázquez de Mella 1; s/d/tr €38/53/71; **M** Gran Vía

Paying cheap rates for your room doesn't mean you can't be treated like a king. This elegant two-storey *hostal* is filled with original artworks and antique furniture that could grace a royal palace, although mostly it's restricted to the public areas. Rooms are large and simple but luminous; most have a street-facing balcony. The location is good, close to where Chueca meets Gran Vía.

ALBERGUE JUVENIL Map pp110-11 Hostel €

☎ 91 593 96 88; www.ajmadrid.es; Calle de Mejía Lequerica 21; dm €18-24; **M** Bilbao or Alonso Martínez

If you're looking for dormitory-style accommodation, you'd need a good reason to stay anywhere other than here while you're in Madrid. Opened in 2007, the Albergue has spotless rooms, no dorm houses more than six beds (each has its own bathroom), and facilities include a pool table, a gymnasium, wheelchair access, free internet, laundry and a TV/DVD room with a choice of movies. All the facilities are supermodern, and breakfast is included in the price. Yes, there are places with more character or a more central location, but we'd still rate this as one of Madrid's best hostels for backpackers.

CHAMBERÍ & ARGÜELLES

Chamberí has bars, shops, cinemas and restaurants in just the right measure, and you'll quickly feel less like a tourist and more like a local by staying here. There aren't many places to stay, but those that are here are excellent, and you're only a short metro ride from the main sites of interest. For more information on the barrio, see p115.

HOTEL AC SANTO MAURO

Map pp116–17

Hotel €€€

☎ 91 319 69 00; www.ac-hoteles.com;
Calle de Zurbano 36; d €279-355, ste €425-1070;
M Alonso Martínez

Everything about this recently renovated place oozes exclusivity and class, from the address – one of the elite patches of Madrid real estate – to the 19th-century mansion that's the finest in a barrio of many. It's a place of discreet elegance and warm service, and rooms are suitably lavish, with Persian carpets on the floor and the latest technology at your disposal; the Arabian-styled indoor pool isn't bad either. David Beckham may well be derided for many things, but the fact that he chose to make this his home for six months certainly suggests he has a higher degree of taste than people usually give him credit for. Madonna and Richard Gere have been other notable guests.

AMADOR DE LOS RÍOS ESPAHOTEL

Map pp116–17

Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 91 310 75 00; www.espahotel.es; Calle de Amador de los Ríos 3; s/d €120/150; M Colón

Tucked away in an exclusive corner of Chamberí and just set back in behind the Paseo de la Castellana, Amador de los Ríos is a terrific hotel where all the rooms are apartments or suites. The interior design by Pascual Ortega blends the classic with the contemporary and the rooftop swimming pool is pure luxury. The rooms themselves are bathed in warm colours with soft lighting.

HOTEL TRAFALGAR Map pp116–17 Hotel €€

☎ 91 445 62 00; www.hotel-trafalgar.com; Calle de Trafalgar 35; s/d from €93/132; M Quevedo
If you asked madrileños where they would most like to live, the chances are it would be within a 1km radius of this hotel. The hotel itself is modern and comfortable, with good-sized rooms and all the mod-cons (in-room movies, internet and good bathrooms). There's not a lot of character, but you'll love strolling down to the Plaza de Olavide for breakfast.

NORTHERN MADRID**HOTEL PUERTA AMÉRICA**

Map p123

Hotel €€€

☎ 917 44 54 00; www.hotelpuertamerica.com;
Avenida de América 41; d from €239; M Cartagena

When the owners of this hotel saw their location – halfway between the city and the airport – they knew they had to do something special, to build a self-contained world so innovative and luxurious that you'll never want to leave. Their idea? Give 22 of world architecture's most creative names (eg Zaha Hadid, Sir Norman Foster, Ron Arad, David Chipperfield, Jean Nouvel) a floor each to design. The result? An extravagant pastiche of styles, from zany montages of 1980s chic to bright-red bathrooms that feel like a movie star's dressing room. Even the bar ('a temple to the liturgy of pleasure'), restaurant, façade, gardens, public lighting and car park had their own architects. It's an extraordinary, astonishing place.

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