

The Big Six

By
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Beds in Barcelona



The Serras Passeig de Colom

This 19th-century building was home to Pablo Picasso's first studio, where he painted *Ciencia y Caridad* in 1897. It has been restored to create a stylish 29-room hotel, which opens in January. Bedrooms feature classic Spanish tiling while the informal restaurant will serve up tapas cooked by a Michelin-starred chef. For great views, head to the rooftop terrace for a soak in the infinity pool overlooking the sea.

► *Passeig de Colom 9 (00 34 933 151 528; hoteltheserrasbarcelona.com). Doubles start at €255, including breakfast.*



H1898 La Rambla

Named after the year it was built, H1898 was reborn as a boutique-style retreat in 2005. The hotel's biggest selling point is its spa pool, located in the brick-vaulted basement which was once used as storage by a tobacco company. There is a second heated pool on the 7th-floor terrace. The lobby acknowledges the building's past, with stylish photos of cigars and cigar-rollers. The restaurant serves tapas made using ingredients from the nearby Boqueria Market.

► *La Rambla 109 (00 34 935 52 95 52; hotel1898.com). Doubles start at €265, including breakfast.*



Murmuri Eixample

The interiors at this central hotel come courtesy of *Dragon's Den* star and designer Kelly Hoppen. Retro lamps and black-and-white photographs sit alongside textiles from the Spanish brand Gastón y Daniela, mostly in muted tones. There are 53 rooms and two suites. Or you could check into one of the hotel's five apartments named after the city's top theatres. They sleep up to five, and some feature private terraces.

► *Rambla de Catalunya 104 (00 34 935 500 600; murmuri.com). Doubles start at €151, including breakfast.*



Ohla Hotel Barri Gotic

Located on the site of the former palace of the first Count of Barcelona, the modern rooms of the Ohla Hotel sit in stark contrast with its Neo-classical façade. Glass-walled shower cubicles sit in the middle of rooms in the Design and Design Deluxe categories, while the Dome and Penthouse Suites are split over two levels. The terrace, complete with swimming pool, offers great views of the city, and the Boutique Bar is popular with both guests and locals.

► *Via Laietana 49 (00 34 933 41 50 50; ohlahotel.com). Doubles from €204, B&B.*



Praktik Vinoteca Eixample

Oenophiles will be right at home in this new wine-centric hotel, located in the Eixample district. At Praktik Vinoteca wine is even used as decor, with bottles stacked in the reception and bar, and wine-themed artwork in the bedrooms. Rooms are neutrally decorated and many come with views over the hotel's courtyard. There is complimentary wine tasting with the hotel's sommelier on certain days of the week, or else head out for a taste of Eixample's lively nightlife.

► *Carrer de Balmes 51 (00 34 934 54 50 28; hotelpraktikvinoteca.com). Doubles from €55, room only.*



Hotel Majestic Diagonal

On the Passeig de Gràcia, close to some of Gaudi's most famous creations, this hotel lives up to its name. Grand columns and a chandelier decorate the entrance and lead the way to the lobby lounge, bar and piano. Rooms are calm and stylish, and suites offer four-poster beds. There is also a rooftop pool and lounge from which to admire views of the Sagrada Família. The hotel also has a spa for a spot of relaxation after exploring the city.

► *Passeig de Gràcia 68 (00 34 93 492 22 44; hotelmajestic.es). Doubles start at €267, including breakfast.*