Stockholm, Sweden

By Daniel Scheffler

Trendy European cities, super-slick hotels... what better reason do you need to pack your bags?

HOTEL SKEPPSHOLMEN Gröna gången 1

hotelskeppsholmen.com

Stockholm's city space and waters attest to its ecoconsciousness, representing "urban nature" at its best. This boutique hotel is uniquely located on a petite island in the centre of the Swedish capital. In true European fashion, the modernist decor, offset against the 1700s building, presents a seamless fusion of past and present, designed to perfection by Claesson Koivisto Run.

The charming rooms, with big beds, generous bathrooms and separate lounge areas, feature pared-down colours and raw wood, celebrating the traditional Swedish ethos. Each room is dedicated to a



prominent Swedish personality, from naval heads to master shipbuilders, who lived in it centuries before.

Staying active here is easy: go for walks around the city, visit the Museum of Modern Art and the Swedish Museum of Architecture right next door, cycle to the many design and fashion stores or enjoy

from above: Outside Hotel Skeppsholmen. A bedroom. The dining area.

Clockwise,

EACH ROOM IS DEDICATED TO A PROMINENT SWEDISH PERSONALITY, FROM NAVAL HEADS TO MASTER SHIPBUILDERS.



HOTEL DANIELI HAS EVOLVED INTO THE HAVEN OF CHOICE FOR HOLLYWOOD STARS AND ROYALTY ALIKE.

a plunge in the water right outside the hotel, as recommended to guests by the proprietors. The restaurant presents the best of Swedish cuisine with a modern twist and a sense of humour. Fika (high tea) is best enjoyed with a shrimp sandwich or, for those with a sweet tooth, a delicious cinnamon roll.

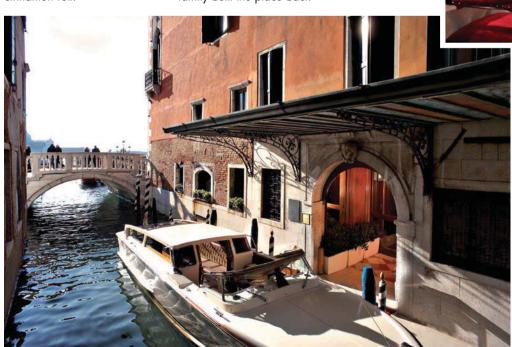
Venice, Italy

HOTEL DANIELI
Castello 4196, Riva
degli Schiavoni

danielihotelvenice.com

In the world's ultimate romantic city, just off the famous San Marco Square, lies the ultra-luxurious Danieli, perfectly situated to embody Venice's intrigue, mystery and unique energy. The Dandolos family built the place back

Clockwise, from above: The terrace at Hotel Danieli. The dining room. The entrance.



in the 14th century and since then, it's evolved into the haven of choice for Hollywood stars and royalty alike.

The restaurant, Terrazza
Danieli, is known for its
traditional Venetian fare and
hosts special dinners with
luminaries like scent expert
Chandler Burr. The views of
the ancient waterways and
iconic gondolas serve as a
reminder of a simpler time,
when slow movement and
total luxury were the preferred
way of living. The hotel's latest
edition, the Danieli Wine Suite,
offering panoramic vistas of
the lagoon, is the ideal



place to taste some of its 1 500 labels.

Barcelona, Renovated in 2008, the hotel **Spain** commissioned famous designer Jacques Garcia to merge the classic Venetian style with strong Gothic elements in the double rooms - but to include enough modernity for contemporary travellers. It's perfect. How could it not be? This is Venice, after all.

CASA CAMPER Carrer d'Elisabets. 11 08001

www.casacamper. com

Known for its offbeat quality shoes, Spanish brand Camper opened hotels in two European design capitals, Barcelona and Berlin, Germany, many years ago. Still relevant, and now with a Michelinstarred restaurant, is the



THE ECO ASPECTS OF CASA CAMPER, COMPLETE WITH SOLAR SYSTEMS, VERTICAL GARDENS AND WATER RECYCLING, ARE WHAT GIVE IT ITS EDGE.



Clockwise, from top left: Casa Camper. A bathroom. The hallway.

Casa Camper Barcelona, tucked between the gaudy architecture and avantgarde structures of the city's Raval district.

Often mistaken for an art gallery, its designers -Fernando Amat and Jordi Tio - say they wanted to create a joyful holistic space, rather than simply an establishment where clients could find a bed and bathroom.

The eco aspects of the hotel, complete with solar systems, vertical gardens

and water recycling, is what give it its edge. Some of the divided lounge and bedroom suites feature lazy hammocks, while others have vivid, toreador-red walls.

Camper's philosophy is that luxury lies in simplicity, discretion, authenticity, aesthetics and a healthy life - and it's realised those ideals in this hotel. From the heavenly beds to the fully equipped gym to the café downstairs serving coffee and tiny Spanish treats, it's a haven away from home.