

# HOTELS

## WHERE TO STAY AND WHICH ROOMS TO BOOK

In the noughties, Argentina's weak currency triggered a tourism boom. New hotels sprang up to meet the demand, and the city's established five-star colossi, such as the Four Seasons (Posadas 1086-88, T 4321 1200) and Alvear Palace (see p043), received lavish facelifts. The Palacio Duhau-Park Hyatt (see p020), a gorgeous neoclassical palace from the 1930s, is an example of investment and restoration working in harmony, as is the newer Algodón Mansion (see p030). These luxury properties, with their large pools, marble lobbies and white-glove service, are located in Recoleta, long the destination of choice for discerning visitors.

However, the truly eye-catching developments took place away from the centre, with bijou accommodation options springing up in Palermo Viejo and gleaming hotels opening in the converted docklands of Puerto Madero. The geographical expansion continues thanks to properties like Moreno Hotel (see p022) and Mansión Vitraux (see p024), recycled buildings that now attract hipsters to San Telmo, a barrio traditionally associated with cheap crash pads and youth hostels. Meanwhile, design-led options such as the Faena Hotel + Universe (see p028) remain extremely popular. The luxury apartment sector is burgeoning too, with a raft of stunning properties to rent, including Casa Espectacular (see p018) and the rock-star hangout Homeville, part of Hotel Home (see p025).

*For full addresses and room rates, see Resources.*



### Hotel Dissors

This is a *telo*, or 'love' motel, where rooms are booked for two to four hours and sometimes overnight. But there all similarity to the usual tackiness ends. Created by architect Moni Steffani and opened in 2009, Dissors is aimed at design-conscious hedonists who value fixtures and fittings over vibrating beds. The huge rooms are accessed from an underground car park for privacy, and

have features including candlelit outdoor terraces – such as in the Dissors Suite (above) – dining areas, hot tubs and, of course, plenty of mirrors. Room service is delivered to an anteroom and announced over the intercom. And you won't get a complimentary feather and blindfold at the Four Seasons.

*Avenida General Paz Altura 900,  
T 4653 0314, [www.dissorshotel.com.ar](http://www.dissorshotel.com.ar)*



### **Casa Espectacular**

This property in Palermo Soho, one of many excellent rentals managed by Oasis BA, does not fail to live up to its name. The house was designed by the late interior architect Juan Ricci and its double-height living and dining room (above) is hung with original artwork, including a Paul de Lussanet painting and an Andy Warhol screen print of Muhammad Ali. The 425 sq m space sprawls over four levels, with four bedrooms (right), and is packed with state-of-the-art home entertainment and chic furnishings, such as cowhide-covered ottomans, ochre Tibetan rugs and Balinese artefacts. A patio terrace overlooks a long lawn and swimming pool. Oasis has a portfolio of apartments across the region; we also recommend My Way, a modernist beach house designed by Chilean architect Mathias Klotz, in Punta del Este (see p096).  
*T 4774 1489, [www.oasisba.com](http://www.oasisba.com)*





### Palacio Duhau-Park Hyatt

This hotel broke the mould for five-star accommodation in Recoleta when it opened in 2006. The property is refined, but is also rigorously contemporary, and foregoes the extravagant flourishes that characterise the neighbourhood's other luxury options. Architects Caparra Entelman & Petrocchi Conte-Grand were responsible for both the new wing and the conversion of the existing 1934 palace

(lobby, above), designed by Frenchman León Dourge and formerly the home of the aristocratic Duhau family. The signature Hyatt colour palette has been used in most parts of the hotel, with the occasional flash of pumpkin and crimson. The ceiling of the 25m indoor pool features a Barrisol lighting system that simulates daylight. *Avenida Alvear 1661, T 5171 1234, [www.buenosaires.park.hyatt.com](http://www.buenosaires.park.hyatt.com)*



### Tailor Made Hotel

Sleek and intimate, Tailor Made is the purist's boutique hotel. It's the work of locals Tamara Grüber and Florencia Echaide (architecture and interiors), Alejandro Sticotti of Net Muebles (furniture and fittings) and Horacio Gallo (graphic design). The five rooms (No 2, above) are simple spaces, their white walls offset by wooden floors, dark drapes and alpaca-wool throws. Room 5 has an

outdoor hot tub overlooking the back patio. Each room is equipped with a Mac mini, the use of which is included in the room rate, as are soft drinks, laundry and overseas calls. The hotel is located in Las Cañitas, a lively barrio next to the polo ground. Arce 385, T 4774 9620, [www.tailormadehotels.com](http://www.tailormadehotels.com)



### **Moreno Hotel**

A short walk from the Microcentro, the Moreno is housed in one of the city's finest art deco buildings, designed by German-Hungarian architect Johannes Kronfuss in 1928. It was restored by Fernández, Huberman and Otero in 2007, and has a stone-and-tile façade and a central European flavour. Inside, the caged elevators and colourfully tiled stairwells (right) take you past original stained-glass windows into communal areas that are half-Gatsby, half-gaucha, with jazz-age fainting couches sharing space with cowhide upholstery. The 39 suites are surprisingly large and many have stunning views of the Basílica de San Francisco. We recommend the J Loft (above) on the smoking floor, where you can toke on a Montecristo while wallowing in the jacuzzi.

*Moreno 376, T 6091 2000,*

*[www.morenobuenosaires.com](http://www.morenobuenosaires.com)*







### **Mansión Vitraux**

Trad plus rad often equals bad, but this 2009 San Telmo retreat shows it can be done. Working to a brief from owner Rodolfo Hernández, architect Juan Muñoz Rivera and designer Paola Rossi have blended the best features of this 1898 property – the stained-glass skylights that give the hotel its name, a wrought-iron column in the central atrium (above) – with eclectic, contemporary elements. Most striking is

the backlit communal table in the wine cellar/dining room, with its hand-crafted oak legs and gold-veined Calcutta marble top. We also adore the spa, where womb-like basket chairs swing over a dipping pool. In the Empire-themed Room 206, gilt Victorian night-stands cohabit with a 95in projector screen. *Carlos Calvo 369, T 4300 6886, [www.mansionvitraux.com](http://www.mansionvitraux.com)*



### Hotel Home

The bar was raised high for BA boutique hotels when Home opened in 2005. Designed by Rodrigo Cunill and Juana Grichener, the formula of retro furniture, vintage wallpaper and hand-woven wool rugs, as seen in the lobby (overleaf), has stood the test of time. Yet owners Patricia O'Shea and Tom Rixton haven't sat on their laurels. To the 18 original rooms – our favourite is the Garden Suite (above), with

its French windows opening onto a private shallow pool – they have added a pair of lofts and, in 2010, Homeville, a nearby 1905 mansion for rent, featuring furniture by the Eameses, Roberto Matta and Alberto Churba and murals by local street artist Pum Pum. The hotel's pool garden is the perfect spot for an aperitif. *Honduras 5860, T 4778 1008, [www.homebuenosaires.com](http://www.homebuenosaires.com)*









### **Faena Hotel + Universe**

The travel cognoscenti swooned over the Faena when it opened in 2004, and while the buzz has diminished, the Philippe Starck-designed property remains BA's most immersive hotel experience. The early-20th-century Manchester-brick grain silo was saved from the wrecking ball in the late 1990s by fashion entrepreneur Alan Faena. Within is a somehow coherent mélange

of crushed velvet, Chesterfields, Tuscan-marble baths, cut-glass mirrors, poolside divans, and, most hallucinatory of all, unicorn heads (animal activists, relax – they're fake) mounted in the El Bistró restaurant (see p046). The Porteño River Suite (above) would be our choice of accommodation.

*Martha Salotti 445, T 4010 9000,  
[www.faenahotelanduniverse.com](http://www.faenahotelanduniverse.com)*



### Algodón Mansion

This 1912 French-style property in Recoleta was remodelled by German architect Gerhard Heusch and was *the* hotel opening of 2010. A blind arcade leads into the public areas (right) – bar, restaurant and cigar/cognac lounge – which evoke prohibition-era New York, where elegant staff dressed in assassin-black glide across the marble floors. The 10 suites come with personal butler service and are furnished with dark wood, Italian Calacatta marble and, in the Royale Suites (above), four-poster beds, baby grand pianos and dining tables. All have Côté Bastide toiletries and Nespresso machines, a complimentary bottle of wine from the hotel's own vineyard in Mendoza and TV in the bathroom mirrors, so you can watch CNN while plucking your eyebrows. *Montevideo 1647, T 3530 7777, [www.algodonmansion.com](http://www.algodonmansion.com)*

