

Villa Augustus

Dordrecht, The Netherlands





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DESIGN STAYS

Hidden in the heart of Charlottenburg is Wilmina, a hotel in a former women's prison. A place with a rich history where resistance heroines were imprisoned during World War II and where, after the prison's closure in 1985, *The Reader*, starring Kate Winslet and Ralph Fiennes, was filmed. The idea of spending the night there, with bars still on the windows, may not appeal to everyone – until you find out that Grüntuch Ernst Architects was in charge of the renovation, which took several years. Previous projects of this renowned Berlin-based architectural firm include the former Jewish Girls' School and the Hackesches Quartier in Mitte. Reconstructing a prison is far from easy. How do you turn an anti-social place into a social place while retaining the bars, prison doors with tiny shutters, and ultra-thick doors and walls? But they pulled it off, as today it's safe to call this a luxury hotel, while the property's history has been admirably preserved. Check-in takes place at the reception on busy Kantstrasse, after which you walk through the courtyard of the former courthouse and arrive at a large gate. When these doors open, you enter a peaceful, verdant oasis with greenery everywhere you look, bird-song in the background and a view of Lovis, Wilmina's restaurant. The path takes you to the hotel entrance, from where you can explore different areas: the breakfast room, a communal living room, the gym, and the outdoor courtyard where prisoners used to



go for a walk and where they have now installed some tables for sunny days. The lift takes you upstairs to a cell block with a corridor where the original cell doors conceal luxurious rooms. If you want more space, floor-to-ceiling windows and a bath, then the Penthouse Suite is the way to go. Another luxury the inmates did not have is access to the rooftop terrace and a swimming pool and sauna. You can dine at Lovis, where chef Sophia Rudolph, who formerly worked at Panama restaurant, promotes German gastronomy. And if you want to explore more of the surrounding area, there are always the restaurants and bars around Savignyplatz, or you can immerse yourself in nature. Forest Grunewald is just a 20-minute trip by bike.



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WILMINA



FROM
230 euro
 A NIGHT

2 boulevard
 Alexandre Delabre,
 village des Goudes
Marseille
www.tuba-club.com

BEST ROOM:
 The Villa Suite is the largest, but room 3 is the only room with a private terrace.

NEARBY:
 Discover the Calanques Natural Park and its beautiful azure waters.

TAKE HOME:
 The handmade ashtrays with the Tuba or Le Bikini's logo.

SUSTAINABLE EFFORTS:
 Help keep the sea clean by taking a bin bag with you when you go for a dip. If you return with at least five plastics, the hotel will offer you a drink on the house.

Tuba is in Marseille, even though some locals describe it as being at “the end of the world”: from the old port of Marseille, you drive about 30 minutes to get to a small fishing village called Les Goudes, close to the picture-perfect Calanques natural park. The entrance to Tuba is hard to find: at the street level there’s nothing more than a door, which opens into a small stairwell where the artist Emmanuelle Luciani of Southway Studio created the wall and ceiling paintings. As you make your way downstairs you realise that this was once a diving school, as a long, narrow corridor with old flippers and pictures of the olden days leads to the lobby. Prepare for your jaw to drop, because the view of the sea and the surrounding mountain ranges is breathtakingly beautiful. Throw in some salty sea air and a fresh breeze, and you can imagine what it must have been like in the days when divers slipped on their suits, walked down the steps, and leapt into the water from the rocks. Today, however, a sunny terrace and restaurant with a 60s vibe await. Yellow and white loungers, white parasols, and old director’s chairs beckon, encouraging you to sunbathe, read, and enjoy good food. The restaurant’s menu reads like a best of the region. They cook with the catch of the day, combining this with other Mediterranean influences. A Greek salad, Sicilian sweets, it’s all there, but the emphasis is clearly on seafood. As you enter, you’ll be asked what you want to drink. At Le Bikini’s, a bar in an old ship’s hull, they whip up cocktails all day, serving them with some light fare. The perfect option if you’re looking to spend the day on your sun lounge enjoying the surroundings. The hotel opened in the summer of 2020 and is a popular haunt with tourists as well as with the local creative crowd. It was designed by Marion Mailaender, who has her roots in Marseille but has since established her architecture firm in Paris, although she still travels back and forth regularly. She used the property’s



history as inspiration for the interior, pairing local materials with vintage furniture. There are three villas and five rooms. The 15-m² rooms all have views of the sea and rocks surrounding the hotel, with snorkels and flippers waiting for you in the closet. The villas are much more spacious (from 18m² to 55m²) and have large windows with the best views and additional seating. Who would think the end of the world looks a lot like paradise?

Casa de las Flores

Lanzarote, Spain



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Sometimes life can take a strange turn. One day, you have a successful fashion label in Copenhagen, then you discover a passion for photography, and next thing you know, you find yourself in Portugal because you've taken up surfing, only to open a hotel on the coast north of Lisbon with friends. It's just part of the life story of Mikkel Kristensen, who is happy to share the story of the house he found. Usually, hotel owners tend to completely refurbish an old property, with or without an architect, but this house already had tons of character, which Kristensen decided to preserve as is, accentuating it with mid-century modern furniture. Originally, this was the holiday home of a successful civil engineer who liked spending weekends here with friends and family, lounging around the pool or even dancing in the disco he had built in the house, which dates from the 80s. In any case there were plenty of rooms, seeing that these days the four floors hold eight hotel rooms. Some rooms give out onto the garden, while others are higher up in the building and have panoramic views. This is the case for the Deluxe Balcony Double where you can enjoy the sound of the singing birds from the terrace and gaze at the ever-changing skies. Marqí is near Praia Grande, a vast sandy beach. You can sometimes even see clouds drifting into the green valley from the balcony, which also overlooks the pool below, where the

handsome clientèle likes to pose for a photo session. The communal living room and dining room, where breakfast is served – inside or outside on the terrace in the sun – are on the ground floor. Kristensen has succeeded in creating a casual atmosphere that makes it easy to strike up a conversation. Early in the morning, surfer guests set off together to the most beautiful beaches, while guests who love vintage cars admire the Mercedes in the driveway. At the communal table people share their favourite tips for the area over a tasty green risotto. You can easily walk to the beach, where there are several beach clubs, and one of the largest saltwater pools in Europe.





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VILLA ARNICA

pariliohotelparos.com
 Kolymbithres,
 Naoussa
 Paros
 FROM 350euro A NIGHT
 DESTINATION STAYS

BEST ROOM:

The Uranus Suite has a hot tub and panoramic views.

NEARBY:

Kolymbithres Beach and the photogenic village of Naoussa, with its many restaurants and shops.

TAKE HOME:

One of the ceramic bowls or plates in their on-site shop The Anthologist.

SUSTAINABLE EFFORTS:

They use an innovative water filtration system that purifies local tap water by extracting the impurities but retains the essential salts and minerals, resulting in very high-quality water.



COUNTRYSIDE

Casa Cook

Samos, Greece

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