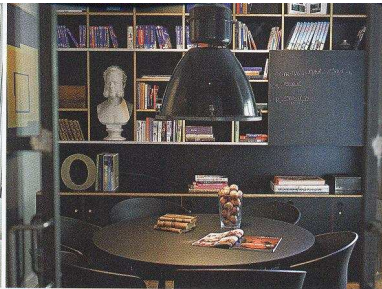




Part two
next month:
**THE 50 BEST
BEACH HOTELS
IN EUROPE
UNDER £199**

JULY 2014 SUNDAYTIMES TRAVEL 107



Sleeping quarters: clockwise from top left, it's all white at Abalu; the arty IbSENS; regal stopover at Loggiato dei Serviti; the flamboyant Palazzo Zichy. Opposite, the Villa Dubrovnik is built into a precipice over the Adriatic

UNDER £100
PALAZZO ZICHY BUDAPEST
Doubles from £65, B&B
Location: Józsefváros district, blending streets lined with Neo-Classical palazzi and an edgy frisson. Think boho living in student cafes and pop-up bars.

Why you'll love it: The hotel unites Habsburg grandeur (high ceilings, flamboyant columns) with sharp, Milanese-mod furnishings. Bedrooms are less awesome, but comfy. Ask for a room overlooking the quiet square.
Travel's tip: While priced the same, standard rooms vary in size from 16sqm to 20sqm – so be sure to ask for the largest possible. *Lórnyc Pap Tér 2; hotel-palazzo-zichy.hu*

IBSENS HOTEL COPENHAGEN
Doubles from £115, B&B
Location: In big old Nansensgade, a leafy parade of galleries, cafes and vintage boutiques; close, too, to the superb Torvehallerne food markets.
Why you'll love it: Lined with paintings and artefacts by local creatives, IbSENS brims with weird and wonderful one-offs. If you're a dab hand with a paintbrush, the hotel accepts payment in 'artmoney' – see the website.)

You'll need sunglasses for the eye-waterringly bright installation of safe-boxes in the lobby. Rooms are simple, but crisply turned out; while niches, including a small library, get guests mingling, as if home-from-home. There's even a vintage record player for old vinyls.
Travel's tip: Drinks are served free round the fire nightly during 'Cozy Hour'. *Vendersgade 23; arthurhotels.dk/ibSENS-hotel*

UNDER £100
ABALU MADRID
Doubles from £65, B&B
Location: Minutes on foot from sweeping Gran Via, almost mingling with Malasaña, the district that has hosted Madrid's 'alternative' scene since the '80s, when movie director Pedro Almodóvar was just getting into his *outré* stride.

Why you'll love it: For starters, in Malasaña, you're never more than an outstretched arm's reach from a loud bar and a Spanish-sized gin and tonic. And when you need to sleep, Abalu offers something cutesy: '50s-retro, with candy-coloured, cartoon-flavoured lobby furnishings. OK, rooms aren't palatial, but as an upbeat crash-pad, it does the trick.
Travel's tip: Standard room No. 4 is much larger than the others – almost the size of a grand luxe – but costs no more. *Colle Pez 19; abaluhoteles.com*

LOGGIATO DEI SERVITI FLORENCE
Doubles from £116, B&B
Location: On Piazza della Santissima Annunziata, in sight of the cathedral dome, it's the business for nightlife, too, with the bars and restaurants around Santa Croce and Sant'Amrogio the briefest stroll away.

Why you'll love it: The building is a masterpiece, designed almost 500 years ago as a convent guesthouse by Renaissance architect Sangallo. Corridors turn this way and that, leading to rooms of antiques, armchairs and canopy beds once owned by a baroness, canvases by Florentine painter Raffaello Sorbi. They were collected by the Budini Gattai family, owners of the building since the 1800s.
Travel's tip: Out front, Florence's prettiest piazza is in the process of getting a facelift. So ask for a room facing Brunelleschi's dome or overlooking the Accademia's workshop garden. *Piazza della Santissima Annunziata 3; loggiatodeiservitihotel.it*

VILLA DUBROVNIK DUBROVNIK
Doubles from £125, room only
Location: Built into a precipice 20 minutes on foot from the Old Town, pines, orange and lemon trees one side, Adriatic Sea the other.
Why you'll love it: Take to a lounge by the cliff top pool in time for sunset, when the

PHOTOS: ZICHY: ANDREA MARIANI; IBSENS: ANDREA MARIANI; PALAZZO ZICHY: ANDREA MARIANI; ABALU: ANDREA MARIANI; LOGGIATO DEI SERVITI: ANDREA MARIANI; DUBROVNIK: ANDREA MARIANI



All of them under £199! And all the result of rigorous research. Travel's trusty team has criss-crossed the continent, sidestepping mildewed mattresses and rancid shower curtains in pursuit of perfection. We're convinced you'll sleep easy in any one of these affordable beauties. Why don't you send us a postcard and let us know?

THE 50 BEST CITY HOTELS IN EUROPE