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Travel

Luxury for less



Fancy five-star style with a two-star price tag? We pick out 15 top-notch short-haul hotels at prices that don't go through the roof

Words **NICOLA ISEARD**

1 ST MORITZ HOTEL, NEAR ROCK, CORNWALL

Following a modest £15m makeover in 2008, this is now one of Cornwall's chicest boltholes. Each of the 48 bedrooms boasts oak floors, whitewashed walls and crisp furnishings – all in shades of sand, aqua and pale blue. Watch the chef whip up seafood classics in the open kitchen, be pummelled in the glossy Cowshed spa, or raid the selection of buckets, spades and surfboards piled up in the lobby and head to the beach. The Cornwall Coastal Path is on the doorstep, too.

Book it Doubles from £99 per night, including breakfast (01208 862 242; stmoritzhotel.co.uk)

2 HOTEL LOS CASTAÑOS, ANDALUCIA, SPAIN

Tucked away in the tiny mountain hamlet of Cartajima (population 100), this gem of a hotel makes a great base from which to explore Andalusia, with the historic town of Ronda just 10 miles away and Marbella – a holiday choice of Michelle Obama – 35 miles away. It has six bedrooms

with tiled floors, Moroccan fabrics and small balconies, three of which overlook the valley. The best views are from the rooftop terrace, complete with plunge pool. There's also a relaxation and massage room, a Moorish patio, sitting room and dining room serving home-cooked suppers. Tracks from the front door lead into the forest, and the village swimming pool opens at 4pm every day in summer.

Book it Doubles from €80 (£68) per night, including breakfast (00 34 952 180 778; loscastanos.com)

Get there Monarch (monarch.co.uk) flies from London Luton and Gatwick to Malaga from £60 return

3 HOTEL CORTE ALIAVILLA, PUGLIA, ITALY

Located in the historic centre of Conversano, an ancient town in Bari province, this hotel is housed in a building that dates back to the 11th century, parts of which were the court of the Counts of Altavilla. It has 32 elegant rooms (some with self-catering facilities) – with exposed stone walls, wood beams and wrought-iron furniture – as well as a restaurant, roof terrace and newly opened "wellness" centre built in the court's old stone basements. The dramatic cliffs of Polignano, underground caves of Castellana and *trulli* (unique architectural structures, with conical roofs) of Alberobello are all nearby.

Book it Doubles from €98 (£83) per night, including breakfast (00 39 080 4959668; cortealtavilla.it)

Get there Ryanair (ryanair.com) flies from London Stansted to Bari from £50 return

4 LA VILLA, LOPUD, CROATIA

This 16th-century stone villa gets the crown for the best location: right by the sea on the tiny car-free island of Lopud, just an hour's ferry ride from Dubrovnik. There are six stylish rooms – with whitewashed walls, wicker chaise-longues and colourful Indian cotton bedcovers. Relax in the lounge, with its library and internet corner, follow the footpath that winds its way across the island to Sunj beach – one of Croatia's rare sand beaches, set in a sheltered horseshoe bay – then return for supper made using La Villa's homegrown vegetables and herbs.

Book it Doubles from €70 (£59) per night, including breakfast (i-escape.com/lavilla.php)

Get there Easyjet (easyjet.com) flies from London Gatwick to Dubrovnik from £57 return. Then take a ferry from Dubrovnik to Lopud. For timetables and prices visit jadrrolinija.hr

5 CASA GRANDE DE BACHAO, GALICIA, SPAIN

This 12-bedroom hotel is situated in a 14-hectare estate, with direct access to the River Tambre. The buildings which make up the hotel are typical of 18th-century Galician architecture, with two houses, corn granaries and spacious stone terraces. It has a mix of singles, twins and doubles, combining exposed stone walls and classic furnishings. There's also a sauna, library, games room, restaurant and outdoor pool. Make use of the free bike hire and head to the historic city of Santiago de Compostela, just 15km away.

Book it Doubles from £85 per night, including breakfast (01223 328 721; casas.co.uk)

Get there Ryanair (ryanair.com) flies from London Stansted to Santiago de Compostela from £40 return

Visit guardian.co.uk/travel for extra suggestions for five-star hotels at two-star prices

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