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Best new hotels and hostels for 2018 Europe

Grand designs

Fancy staying in a converted convent or an old post office that's been given a new stamp of style? *Joanne O'Connor* picks 20 new places across Europe, from affordable dorms to sea view suites



1898 The Post Ghent, Belgium

Doubles from	€150 room-only
Opened	September 2017
Bedrooms	38

With its gothic-style turrets and gargoyles, clock tower and dark, cosy decor, this boutique hotel in Ghent ticks all the boxes for a romantic winter escape. It's hard to believe the building once housed something as humdrum as a post office, but the room categories are a nod to its former life: "stamp", "envelope" or "letter", depending on size. Dark green walls, bookcases, antiques and sloping ceilings create an intimate, clubby atmosphere. The homely Kitchen restaurant serves waffles for breakfast and tea and cake in the afternoons. In the evenings you can work your way through the cocktail list in the Cobbler bar. ● [zannierhotels.com](#)

Generator Madrid

Dorm/room	from €15/€49
Opening	April
Sleeps	542

Hip hostel chain Generator continues its pattern of converting unusual buildings. This one is a former carpark and petrol station on the edge of the trendy Malasaña district and will have 51 double and family rooms and 78 dorms. There'll also be a rooftop lounge with whirlpool baths, and a restaurant and cocktail bar decorated by local artists. ● [generatorhostels.com](#)

Icon Rosetó Palma de Mallorca

Doubles from	€129 B&B
Opened	October 2017
Bedrooms	34

A converted convent in Palma's old town is the latest boutique hotel in the Petit Palace group. With rooftop pool and location a few minutes' walk from La Seu cathedral and the Paseo del Borne, it's an ideal base for exploring Mallorca's capital on foot or on a bike hired from reception. Bedrooms are simple with white walls and linen, exposed beams, and iPads available on request. ● [petitpalace.com](#)



Torel Avantgarde Porto

Doubles from	€90 room-only
Opened	September 2017
Bedrooms	47

As the name suggests, this new boutique hotel celebrates avant-garde artists and pioneers in the fields of music, literature, design, fashion and architecture. Each room takes its inspiration from a different visionary: the Frida Kahlo room has vibrant hues and tropical prints; Andy Warhol has a splash of pop art colour. It may sound gimmicky, but it's all done with flair and good taste, and the views from the pool terrace over rooftops and the Douro river are some of the best in the city. The in-house Digby restaurant offers contemporary dishes with the flavours of Portuguese gastronomy. ● [torelavantgarde.com](#)

COVER IMAGE: 1898 THE POST HOTEL, GHENT, BY ALEX STEPHEN TEUSCHER



Hotel des Grands Boulevards Paris

Doubles from	€200 room-only
Opened	19 January
Bedrooms	50

This is the second Paris hotel from the Experimental Cocktail Group, the collective behind some of the city's most popular bars and restaurants. It also runs the Grand Pigalle Hotel, which opened in 2015. The design of this latest property gives a nod to its 18th-century roots, with features like canopy beds, cast iron stoves and blue faience tiles, and mixes these with contemporary elements such as espresso machines and mirrors that are actually televisions. Sample signature cocktails in the roof terrace bar or venture out to one of the many bars and brasseries of the second arrondissement, famous for its belle époque boulevards and covered passages. ● [grandsboulevardshotel.com](#)



Meininger East Side Gallery Berlin

Dorm/room	from €9/€47
Opened	December 2017
Sleeps	835

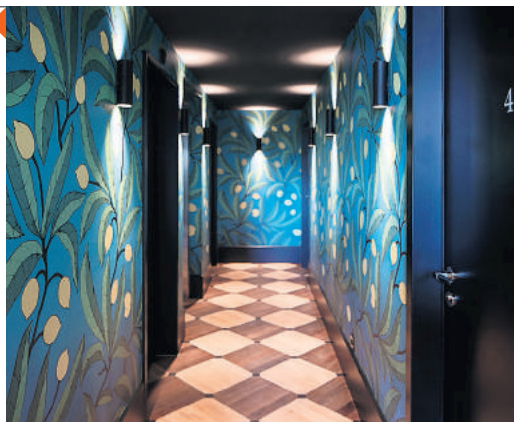
This fifth Meininger group hotel/hostel takes its name from the longest stretch of the Berlin Wall still standing, which has been transformed into an open-air gallery with colourful murals and street art. It offers a mix of private and shared accommodation (singles, doubles, family rooms and dorm) in lively Friedrichshain. The proximity of the Berlin Wall has also inspired the interior design - exposed concrete, colourful graffiti and slogans - in the public areas, which include a lounge, guest kitchen, and gaming zone. ● [meininger-hotels.com](#)



Hotel Helvetia Zurich

Doubles from	£150 room-only
Opened	October 2017
Bedrooms	37

The long marble bar at the Helvetia - known for well-kept Zurich beer and posh cocktails - has been a gathering place for Zurich's musicians, artists, students and journalists since the 1970s. Today it's at the heart of a classy and understated boutique hotel which has recently been relaunched with a fresh new look and a brand new wing in an adjacent building. This has more than doubled its bedroom count, from 16 to 37. Like the original hotel, the new wing is in a listed art nouveau building and boasts immaculate, airy bedrooms in crisp shades of white, grey



and blue, and in-room treats such as Swiss chocolate and Kiehl's beauty products. The new lobby doubles as a contemporary art gallery, the acclaimed first-floor restaurant serves gourmet cuisine fused with traditional Swiss fare, and there's now also a rooftop bar with 360-degree views over the city. ● [hotel-helvetia.ch](#)



Magnolia Hotel Quinta do Lago, Portugal

Doubles from	€78 B&B
Opened	October 2017
Bedrooms	84

Quinta do Lago is one of the Algarve's most exclusive golf resorts, with five-star hotels and villas, so not the place you'd expect a budget "Miami-

style" motel with neon signs and "the hottest Café del Mar-style beats". But a run-of-the-mill hotel has been given a makeover to appeal to a younger crowd. Bedrooms, plus three suites and seven cottages, are simple and unfussy with private verandas. There's a pool, all-day teppanyaki grill, cocktail bar and the fancy sport and leisure facilities of Quinta do Lago on your doorstep. ● [themagnoliahotelqdl.com](#)

MarBella Nido Corfu

Doubles from	€153 B&B
Opening	5 May
Bedrooms	70

The Greek islands have seen a wave of upmarket adult-only hotels, with MarBella, opening on Corfu this spring, the latest. Bedrooms have floor-to-ceiling windows and terraces or balconies overlooking the Blue Flag beach, and there are two restaurants, a pool with daybeds, spa and gym. MarBella is in low-key Agios Ioannis Peristeron, 10 miles from Corfu Town. ● [marbellanido.gr](#)

St George Helsinki

Doubles from	€212 room-only
Opens	15 March
Bedrooms	153

One of the best-loved historic buildings in the Finnish capital is to reopen as a design hotel. The handsome 19th-century pile opposite beautiful Old Church Park has over the years been the headquarters of the Finnish Literary Society and a printing house for the first Finnish newspaper, Suometar. But this is perhaps its most exciting incarnation yet. There will be the usual blend of effortless Nordic cool and understated elegance, but what sets this place apart is its heavy-hitting art collection - guests will be greeted by a huge white dragon sculpture by Chinese artist Ai Weiwei in the lobby - and its gorgeous Winter Garden, a lush courtyard conservatory with bar. Rooms range from opulent suites to "Cozy Studios" with porthole windows and abstract art. There will also be a spa with sauna and pool, a restaurant and a basement bakery, deli and bar. ● [stgeorgehelsinki.com](#)

