

# Condé Nast Traveller

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THE TOP FAMILY  
HOTELS IN THE UK

## INSIDER MOROCCO

THE LOWDOWN ON OUR FAVOURITE SECRET HOTSPOTS

EXCLUSIVE FIRST REVIEW

IS THIS THE  
BEST HOTEL  
IN PARIS?

WEEKEND  
FIXES  
STYLISH  
EUROPEAN  
APARTMENTS  
TO RENT

TRENDWATCH

- ★ TREEHOUSES ★
- ★ VOODOO ★
- ★ COLDWATER SURFING ★

## COSTA RICA'S NEW GROOVE

THE COOLEST PLACES TO STAY IN THE JUNGLE AND ON THE BEACH

## MOLINO DEL CARMEN

GAUCIN, SPAIN

This is the sort of place where your coffee goes cold as you stare out the window, mesmerised by the view. On a clear day here, high up in the peaks of Andalucía on the western edge of Gaucin, the town that was the setting for the opera *Carmen*, you can see the Rif mountains of North Africa. The seven apartments are part of a gloriously converted olive mill, dug right into the hillside. One, Lillias Pastia, is built deep in the rock but with the clever use of skylights at the front and double-height windows looking onto the private terrace, you would have to be reminded that it is technically subterranean. The property was reimagined as a boutique hotel in the 1980s and then split into apartments in 2000. Five years ago, the current owners fully renovated it, adding a library and updating the rooms. All the apartments are cheery, with beamed ceilings, whitewashed walls and bright splashes of colour from the traditional patterned tiles in the kitchens, bathrooms and on the staircases. The largest and loveliest, Casa Carmen, contains some fantastic details: the outside table is an upturned mill stone and the oil filters are now used as place mats. In the corner stands one of the 10-foot presses and, down by the swimming pool, clay olive-oil urns have taken a new turn as flowerpots for palms and citrus trees. And Casa Carmen's terrace, its white arches an entanglement of lilac wisteria, has the most charming seating area, piled high with kilim-covered cushions that wouldn't look out of place in a riad across the straits. *Casa Carmen (sleeps six) from about £620 per week.* +34 627 229870; [www.molinodelcarmen.com](http://www.molinodelcarmen.com)

