

# TATLER®

IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
CARRIER

Travel  
Guide  
2015

101 BEST HOTELS  
IF THE SHOE FITS



BOOK IT RED SAVANNAH (REDSAVANNAH.COM; 01242 787800) OFFERS THREE NIGHTS FROM £760, INCLUDING FLIGHTS AND TRANSFERS.

**PORTRAIT FIRENZE**  
FLORENCE, ITALY

Overlooking the Ponte Vecchio, Portrait Firenze (the latest addition to the Ferragamo stable) is like your very own high-fashion Florentine apartment. It has floor-to-ceiling windows, which means you could admire the wonders of this city without ever leaving your supersized bed (but that rather misses the point; you're here for the shops and sights and shops). The 34 suites are vast, with dark-wood floors and a sumptuous grey palette. And, on a more practical note, there's a kitchenette. Bathrooms are chock-a-block with silky smooth marble and Salvatore Ferragamo toiletries; iPads are here, there and everywhere, but technology is subtle. Techie highlight: link your music up to the Bluetooth sound system and twerk the night away (draw the curtains, please). The slightly sparse Caffè dell'Oro serves 'mood food' – traditional Italian recipes shoehorned into various vibes. So if you're feeling 'sexy', you'll be getting lemon air and caviar with your risotto. *Molto* chic.

**PACK  
YOUR FLATS**



BOOK IT KIRKER HOLIDAYS (KIRKERHOLIDAYS.COM; 020 7593 2283) OFFERS THREE NIGHTS FROM £935, INCLUDING BREAKFAST, FLIGHTS AND TRANSFERS.



**MANDARIN ORIENTAL  
BARCELONA** BARCELONA, SPAIN

Gently imposing, stupidly chic and slap-bang where you want to be (Passeig de Gràcia – shopping heaven), Barcelona's Mandarin Oriental is the best of all possible worlds. There are five new rooms and 17 new suites, some with their own landscaped gardens and outdoor terraces, all decked out in a glamorous but cosy style – rather like the girl or boy who looks way out of your league but turns out to be happy to sleep with you *and* makes a mean roast chicken. The rooftop café and pool, staffed by eager chino-wearing waiters, have been revamped and now pack in a hell of a scene – they come for the lip-smacking ceviche and stay to gawp at the 360° views of the city and mountains. There's a darkly labyrinthine gym, pool and spa featuring (praise his name) Bastien pedicures. It's pet-friendly too – well, for dogs and cats at least. And there's a Manolo Blahnik boutique in the lobby. Now THAT's irresistible.

BOOK IT DOUBLE, FROM £155 (HOTELURSO.COM; 00 34 914 444 458). EASYJET (EASYJET.COM) FLIES FROM LONDON TO MADRID UP TO SEVEN TIMES A DAY, FROM £35.



**HOTEL URSO** MADRID, SPAIN

Life in Madrid is joyously manic, and while we love being in the centre of the action, forget the *actual* centre. Instead, trot over to the areas of Malasaña, Chueca and Tribunal, where all the smart people are, and the best shops, bars, restaurants and galleries. Happily, this little number, claiming to be Madrid's first five-star boutique hotel, is just a few minutes' stroll from all three. The century-old building has held on to a lot of original features: handpainted tiles, stained-glass windows and a magnificent mahogany lift. Kick off the day with a very late, very carb-loaded breakfast while gazing up at the blue sky through the glass roof. A citrusy treatment in the Natura Bissé spa will set you up nicely to hit the boutiques. Flats essential. ▶

BRITISH AIRWAYS HAS HIT THE JACKPOT WITH ITS 22 NEW **DAY-TRIPPER ROUTES** FROM LONDON HEATHROW TO EUROPE'S TIPPETY-TOP SIGHTSEEING CITIES. WHIZZ OVER BRIGHT AND EARLY, WHOOP IT UP ALL DAY, AND FLY BACK LAST THING, FROM £79. (BA.COM)