

EUROPE FOR LESS

SPECIAL ISSUE

TRAVEL + LEISURE

22

EUROPEAN HOTELS YOU'LL LOVE

(FROM \$115 TO \$250 A NIGHT)

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**VENICE
PROVENCE
NORWAY
BALTIC COAST
LONDON
PARIS
MADRID**

APRIL 2009 | \$4.50

Display until April 24, 2009
\$4.50



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The suite at Rome's Casa Montani, above left. Right: The hotel's lobby, with hand-painted walls.

\$130 MADRID For a hotel chain known to be business-friendly, Vincci has been having plenty of fun lately. Witness its newest outpost, **Vincci Via 66** (66 Gran Vía; 34/91-550-4299; vinccihotels.com), right on the Spanish capital's ornate thoroughfare. Old-fashioned Hollywood glamour—with a touch of Almodóvar camp—inspired the public spaces and the 116 guest rooms, each decorated with photos of silent-era stars, vampy lipstick-red accents, and cutout patterns on the wall that evoke Spanish lace. Don't miss the tapas bars of lively Chueca, five minutes away by taxi.

\$206 FLORENCE In the bohemian Oltrarno neighborhood, **Floroom 1** (7 Via del Pavone; 39-055/230-2462; floroom.com; breakfast included) is run by members of the families behind budget airline Blu-express and fashion company Save the Queen. Though small in size (there are only four suites), the hotel is high on style. Stark white walls are hung with black-and-white photographs of Old Florence; handcrafted wood furniture and restored ceiling beams are a nod to the Tuscan region. A sister property—Floroom 2—is set to open in July near the shops on Via Tornabuoni.

\$200 ROME In the heart of the Italian capital, the five-room **Casa Montani** (9 Piazzale Flaminio; 39-06/3260-0421; casamontani.com; including breakfast) is a blissful hideaway, thanks to a state-of-the-art soundproofing system that hushes the noise from the Piazza del Popolo. Inside, beds are fitted with towels by Frette, furniture was designed by architect Liliana Sciacca, and breakfast (fresh *cornetti* with organic jams) is served on fine porcelain. Although room service isn't available for after-hours cravings, owners Giuseppe and Charlotte Montani give out their cell phone numbers for late-night restaurant queries.

\$155 ATHENS Some of Greece's most influential names—including Greek *Vogue* fashion director Michalis Pantos—are behind the design of **Classical 2 Fashion House Hotel** (2 Pireos St.; 30-210/523-5230; classicalhotels.com; breakfast included). The 110 rooms (some fuchsia and dark green; others sky blue and brown) have faux tiger-skin rugs, while Room 415 is painted with a mural of winged angels.

\$139 BUDAPEST Amid the Romanesque and Gothic buildings of Buda, **Lánchíd 19** (19 Lánchíd Utca; 800/337-4685 or 36-1/419-1900; designhotels.com) stands out for its contemporary aesthetic. The 48-room property lights up the Danube River with a luminous glass façade (it's composed of 150 panels that rotate and change color throughout the day). Glass bridges connect the guest rooms to the lobby, which has a transparent floor revealing Roman ruins underneath.

\$180 ISTANBUL The modern interiors created by Turkish firm Autoban are attracting design aficionados to the new 17-room **Witt Istanbul Suites** (26 Defterdar Yokusu; 90-212/393-7900; wittistanbul.com). Laser-cut floral motifs, reflective subway tiles, and unusual furnishings (like a pumpkin coffee table) add whimsy to the loftlike 600-square-foot rooms. Best of all is the surrounding neighborhood: Cihangir, an olive's toss from Beyoglu's busy restaurants and nightlife. +

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