

# Viewpoints on sleep: "...A surrealist dreamscape"

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## Basque Boutique

Bilbao | Design boutique | From €50

Bilbao's most elusive boutique is coily tucked in between the buzzing pinchos bars and restaurants of the Old Town, meaning you'll likely walk straight past the first time you look for it. But cross the threshold and you'll understand why this place is a favourite of those in the know.

Every door leads to a new world, as the design of each bedroom celebrates a different theme from the northern Spanish region. The industrial beams and brickwork of the Karola Crane room support a model of a 1950s ship-building crane above the pillows. Txakoli venerates the Basque Country's favourite white wine with a conceptual headboard shaped like a bunch of grapes. Some rooms are more out there than others: Gernika is a surrealist dreamscape in black and white, decorated with jagged cut-outs from Picasso's tortured masterpiece. Wackier still is Marijaia, where a clown-like figure is suspended behind the headboard, as if bursting out to surprise you as you drift off.

If this is all too much, opt for Caserío, with traditional tiling and stripped-down floorboards that guarantee a good night's sleep - just in case you don't find a clown looming from your bedstead conducive to blissful slumber.

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## Hotel Graffalgar

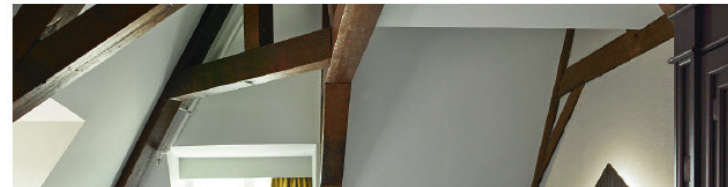
Strasbourg | Art hotel | From €90

When actor Vincent Faller took over the old family hotel, he decided that, rather than bringing in an interior designer, he'd call on different artists, giving each one complete freedom to decorate a bedroom. With a name that riffs on the word 'graffiti' (and possibly 'Tralfalgar', though we don't know why), you know what's coming: rooms range from slightly scary comic strips to endearing, cuddly gremlins, colourful street art to subtle black and white drawings. In fact, if you visit 38 times, you could feel you're staying in a different place each time. Bedheads and desks are plain, so as not to detract from the art, bathrooms are white tiled and practical and the coat hangers, made from recycled car tyres, come from a job-creation scheme. In the reception and breakfast area, videos show some of the works in progress, while in the new café, under a web of lights from a Fab Lab design co-

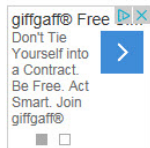
op, chef Philippe's inventive take on brunch is a masterpiece in itself.

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### Hotel News



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**Pulitzer**  
Amsterdam | From €324

The Pulitzer is an Amsterdam institution. Set in a 400-year-old terrace of 25 canal houses, all joined by a labyrinth of corridors, its 225 guest rooms and suites have, for the past 45 years, played host to many a visiting dignitary.

This month, a major phased restoration comes to fruition with a distinct nod to the five-star's past life. Recalling the trade merchants and aristocrats who once dined, danced and dozed within these walls, the hotel now celebrates original features and fireplaces, with brass details and avant-garde art pieces providing a contemporary edge.

**Pullman Hotel**  
Liverpool | From €111

Earning the European Capital of Culture title in 2008 kick-started Liverpool's regeneration of its King's Dock waterfront - and the ribbon cutting next month of the four-star Pullman Liverpool proves that this port area has made the big time. The hotel's 216 swanky bedrooms put up business travellers next to the Exhibition Centre, while tourists can revel in the riverside views and proximity to the Tate and Beatele museums.

**Modern Times Hotel**  
Geneva | From €156

Charlie Chaplin lives again in a new hotel in Vevey, an hour from Geneva, which is named after one of his most famous films. Close to the house where the star spent his last quarter century bringing up eight children and just ahead of a new museum dedicated to the comic actor, its 138 rooms, many with views of the forested mountains, are sure to satisfy even the most hardened fans. A gym, gourmet shop and restaurant with an open grill provide the entertainment - to date, no screening room has been announced.

### 3 of a kind Space-age hotels



**Barceló Sants Hotel**  
Barcelona

You might as well be on a space station in one of the Orbital rooms, but the on-site restaurants - Oxygen, Hydrogen and Nitrogen - serve up food that's more than a step up from vacuum-packed astronaut grub.

From €112, book at [hotels.easyJet.com](https://hotels.easyJet.com)



**Silken Puerta América Hotel**  
MADRID

The neo-futuristic architect Zaha Hadid designed this hotel's Space Club floor, whose sleek, minimalist, monochrome décor feels like the set of a sci-fi film. Choose between two colour themes: black or white.

From €136, book at [hotels.easyJet.com](https://hotels.easyJet.com)



**Kameha Grand**  
Zurich

The Space Suite features photographs of galaxies and out-of-this-world furnishings, right down to a floating bed that looks uncannily like the black monolith in 2001: A Space Odyssey.

From €1,470 (1,600CHF), book at [hotels.easyJet.com](https://hotels.easyJet.com)