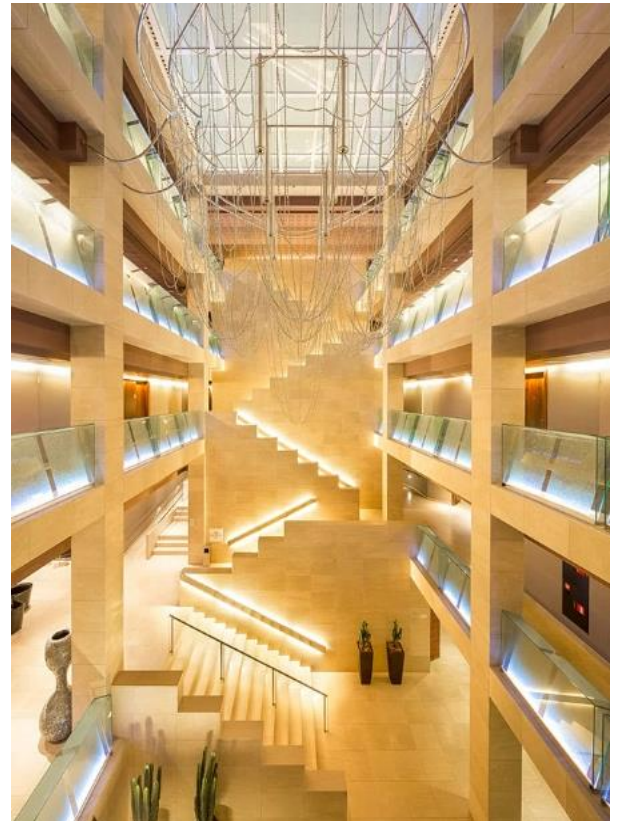




# Spain: Hotel Miramar, Barcelona

KATIE GATENS 03 October 2015

Just a stone's throw from the hustle and bustle of Barcelona, this gloriously revamped palace is the very definition of tranquility. Katie Gatens is full of praise



## THE LOWDOWN:

Previous visitors to [Barcelona](#) will already know how fast-paced and animated a place it can be, the Gothic Quarter, magical Park Güell and Barceloneta beachfront in particular. But that doesn't mean staying here need feel hectic. Step forward [Hotel Miramar](#). Perched halfway up the grassy Montjuic Mountain overlooking both port and city, it is a veritable oasis of calm.

The hotel was originally built as a palace for the 1929 Barcelona International Exposition and the charming 1920s Art Deco pink façade remains, looking like something from the French Riviera. The rest of the 75-room hotel has since been carefully refurbished with the addition of an innovative extension, which blends seamlessly into the surroundings.

Well thought-out design continues inside, with a huge open-plan lobby dominated by a gigantic metal art installation, a clever contrast to the hotel's all-marble staircase.

Contemporary bedrooms are spacious, but are definitely designed with couples in mind — all that separates the bathroom and sleeping area is a sheer curtain and the egg-shaped freestanding bath is in the middle of the room.

“The charming 1920s Art Deco pink façade remains, looking like something from the French Riviera”

Outside, a misshapen angular pool may not be so good for doing lengths but it's perfect for lounging around. As I settle in for the afternoon I feel a million miles away from the bustling metropolis, surrounded as I am by pristine lawns, sweet smelling plants and bronze sculptures in the hotel's Mediterranean gardens.

It's worth venturing out the grounds and exploring the Montjuic hillside, with its Greek amphitheatre, cascading fountains and lush plants. A short stroll away you'll come across the botanic gardens, Olympic park and hip Fundació Joan Miró — the latter being a hub of modern art honouring the Catalanian artist and a must-see in this bold, creative city.

**THE GOOD:**

The cable car right in front of the hotel takes you straight down to the beach.

There are a couple of places to eat nearby to alternate from the hotel's Forestier restaurant, with its Catalan and Mediterranean inspired menu.

**THE NOT-SO-GOOD:**

The indoor pool definitely needs refurbishing.

**THE VERDICT:**

A beautifully restored hotel, which offers a welcoming respite from the buzz of Barcelona.

**BOOK IT:**

Doubles from £161 a night. Hotel Miramar, Plaça de Carlos Ibáñez, 3, 08038, Barcelona. (+34 932 811 600; [hotelmiramarbarcelona.com](http://hotelmiramarbarcelona.com)). Hotel Miramar is a member of Preferred Hotels & Resorts LVX ([preferredhotels.com](http://preferredhotels.com)).