# The New York Times

## 100 Hotels Under $150



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Stefano Buonamici for The New York Times

Market Hotel, Barcelona

By STUART EMMRICH
Published: October 6, 2009

INITIAL signs were not promising. As I emerged from the Sant Antoni metro station on a warm Barcelona afternoon in search of the Market Hotel, a place I had booked a few days earlier on the Web, I was confronted by a busy commercial thoroughfare anchored on one corner by a ramshackle market selling everything from espadrilles to salted fish and on the other by an unpromising-looking cafe populated by a lone elderly man sipping coffee and flipping idly through a newspaper.

As I made my way up the street — past a pizzeria, a liquor store and a cosmetics shop — I came across an easy-to-miss alleyway flanked by two metal gates. Then, at the far end of the alley, past a parking garage, I spotted the Market Hotel. My first reaction was to turn back and head to the closest Internet cafe to search for a new hotel, but as I inched closer, I noticed a surprisingly elegant exterior, with orange awnings shading sleek mirrored windows, and a row of lanterns providing a spark of warmth to the otherwise industrial street.

After being greeted exuberantly by the woman at the front desk, who immediately offered me a bottle of water to slake my thirst, I headed up to the room, where more surprises awaited. The room, though small, was elegantly appointed, with gleaming wood floors, Chinese-influenced cabinets, a flat-screen TV and a good-sized, comfortable bed. The bathroom was huge, compared with others I have encountered over the years in Europe, and was well stocked with toiletries in elegantly designed packaging.

As I opened the French doors that led out to a tiny balcony overlooking the street, I had one thought: How was it possible that this room was costing me only 60 euros a night?

That's the thing about budget hotels. Sometimes they turn out to be a disaster, leaving you to lie awake at night, fighting to go to sleep as you try to shut out the noise from the busy street just beyond your window and hoping you will get to morning without having inherited a family of bedbugs. And other times, they turn out to be diamonds in the rough, places you can't wait to brag about to friends back home.

And that's what the Market Hotel turned out to be over the next three days. How had I found it? Well, it wasn't a friend who had told me about it. It was a reader of the Travel section's Web site who had recommended it on a posting on our Barcelona destination guide, saying it was "modern, inviting and simply wonderful" and that it only cost 80 euros a night. (I got an even better deal, it seemed.)



Enlarge This Image

Chris Warde-Jones for The New York Times

The Matisse B&B in Rome.

Over the last three years, thousands of readers have posted comments about their favorite hotels on the roughly 1,500 destination guides found on the Travel Web site. For this special issue, "Fall in Europe," we used that database to research and then select 100 hotels that we feel represent some of the best bargains for travelers headed to one of 14 European cities in the next few months. (In some instances, we have included reader comments explaining the reasons behind their recommendations.)

All prices listed are for a double room for a weekend in either October or November, and are based on rates found on the hotels' Web sites or on travel sites like Expedia or Hotels.com. (The $150 limit was based on the conversion rates of roughly $1.60 to the pound and $1.50 to the euro.)

## Amsterdam

**1) Hotel Prinsenhof**
Prinsengracht 810
(31-20) 623-1772
www.hotelprinsenhof.com
89 euros (private bath)

I stayed at Hotel Prinsenhof for around 65 euro/night. ... I was very happy with the accommodation. They had one of the lowest prices I could find for a 2-person private room with common bath on a summer weekend. It turned out much more comfortable than I'd expected. — *ratchford22*

**2) Hotel Nes**
Kloveniersburgwal 137-139
(31-20) 624-4773
www.hotelnes.nl
90 euros

Hotel Nes is in a charming old canal house in the center of Amsterdam. Half the rooms have a lovely canal view. — *Esther Shaya*

**3) Sunhead of 1617**
Herengracht 152
(31-20) 626-1809
www.sunhead.com
89 euros

**4) Hotel Kap**
Den Texstraat 5b
(31-20) 624-5908
www.kaphotel.nl
83 euros

We have stayed at the Hotel Kap twice now and have loved it both times. It's in a beautiful, quiet residential neighborhood, close to public transport and only minutes away from the Leidseplein and Rijksmuseum. — *Delia*

**5) Hotel Brouwer**
Singel 83
(31-20) 624-6358
www.hotelbrouwer.nl
95 euros

An absolutely beautiful canal house. Each of the rooms have a view of the canal. Prices can't be beat. — *Anonymous*

**6) Leidse Square Hotel**
Tesselschadestraat 23
(31-20) 612-6876
www.leidsesquarehotel.nl
75 euros

**7) Seven Bridges Hotel**
Reguliersgracht 31
(31-20) 623-1329
www.sevenbridgeshotel.nl
100 euros

The Seven Bridges is wonderful, and I have stayed there many times. Located on the corner of Reguliersgracht and Keizersgracht, it is on one of the best inner-circle canal spots in Amsterdam. No elevator. — *uwanrijn*

## Barcelona

**8) Hotel Spa Senator Barcelona**
Carrer del Cardenal Reig, 11
(34-93) 260-9900
www.hotelsenatorbarcelona.com
79 euros

**9) Market Hotel**
Passatge Sant Antoni Abad, 10
(34-93) 325-1205
www.markethotel.com.es
65 euros

A well-kept secret, but probably not for long is the Market Hotel in Eixample.
It's modern, inviting and simply wonderful. Paid about 80 euros/night (included a continental-style breakfast). The restaurant is great as well! — *Leelee*