

Lisbon

Every part of the Portuguese city feels fresh: Once-dilapidated palaces are now boutique hotels or gourmet food courts. There's a slew of intriguing museums, and homegrown designers are taking shopping up a notch. There's never been a better time to visit Europe's latest capital of cool. **BY KEVIN RAUB**



From left: Lisbon's central square, Praça do Comércio; the art-themed Valverde hotel.



Bed Check

The city is going through a hotel boom, with 40 new properties opening by the end of next year.

Valverde

This 25-room hotel, in a converted early-20th-century town house on the posh shopping street Avenida da Liberdade, is flush with Midcentury Modern flair: black-hued halls lead to rooms filled with serious art and furniture—no two pieces the same. There's also a small pool and a peaceful reading lounge. valverdehotel.com; doubles from \$223.

Santiago de Alfama

A derelict 15th-century palace in Alfama is now a 19-room boutique property by Dutch hotelier Heleen Uitenbroek, who's given the place a distinctly Portuguese vibe, with Santiago-cross-inspired tile flooring and Sampedro linens draping the beds. santiagodealfama.com; doubles from \$247.

Memmo Príncipe Real

Memmo's second Lisbon hotel, in hopping Príncipe Real, is a modern take on a classic palace, with 41 rooms; choose between city views or open-air terraces with fireplaces. All are full of bespoke vintage-style furniture and modern art. memmohotels.com; doubles from \$234.

Martinhal Lisbon Chiado Family Suites

This new property doesn't sacrifice style for kid-friendly design: Murphy bunk beds disappear in the spacious, tropical-accented apartments, and the living spaces have stylish cork coffee tables and colorful local textiles. martinhal.com; doubles from \$558.

/ TRENDING STREET ART /

Lisbon's graffiti is so popular that the Four Seasons Hotel Ritz Lisbon now offers tours (fourseasons.com/lisbon; tours from \$301). Look for murals by Vhils, which are etched—not painted—into concrete buildings.

PORTUGAL



Claus Porto
The coveted brand's first retail store stocks irresistible soaps and perfumes in chic retro packaging. clausporto.com.



Cortiço & Netos
This is the place for a wealth of amazing discontinued Portuguese tiles, selected by Pedro, João, Ricardo, and Tiago Cortiço from their father's collection, which spans 37 years. corticoenetos.com.



WHERE A TOP CHEF EATS

Bairro do Avillez, the newest spot from **José Avillez**, chef of Michelin two-starred Belcanto, is Lisbon's hottest dining destination (bairrodovillez.pt). Avillez tells us where he dines out.

A CEVICHERIA

"The concept and the fish are beautiful. Chef Kiko Martins doesn't accept reservations, and it's a very small place, so I go there for a late lunch or early dinner." chefkiko.com.

GO JUU

"Go Juu has Portuguese sushi chefs, but they worked for several years with one of the best Japanese chefs in Lisbon. It's a beautiful restaurant with great food near the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum."
54 Rua Marquês
Sá da Bandeira;
351-21-828-0704.

CERVEJARIA RAMIRO

"I love the seafood here. It's where we shot part of Anthony Bourdain's *No Reservations*, and afterward, business grew by 30 percent. Now there is a queue every day." cervejariaramiro.pt.

Lisbon

Back to Their Roots

For their latest lines, boutique owners are looking inward for inspiration, from vintage tile work to an almost-extinct wool industry.

Loja do Burel

Burel, a black wool fabric made only in the Serra da Estrela mountains, is the specialty of this shop, which turns it into handbags, shoes, and furnishings. burelfactory.com.



A Vida Portuguesa

Catarina Portas's emporium showcases Portuguese design. Look for ceramic swallows made from molds by Rafael Bordalo Pinheiro, the country's most celebrated 19th-century artist. avidaportuguesa.com.



/ TRENDING CRAFT BEER /

Lisbon's first two brewpubs, Duque (duquebrewpub.com) and Chimera (6 Rua Prior do Crato), opened this year, serving hoppy IPAs from local brewer Oitava Colina, as well as their own creations.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY OF CLAUDIUS PORTO; COURTESY OF CORTIÇO & NETOS (4); NUR PHOTO VIA GETTY IMAGES; ALVARO LEIVA; COURTESY OF LOJA DO BUREL

Lisbon

Museum Makeovers

The latest institutions are causing a stir with eye-opening exhibitions.

Museu de Arte, Arquitetura e Tecnologia
maat.pt
(pictured).

The Building

U.K.-based Amanda Levete has revitalized Lisbon's waterfront with this arching structure. Its exterior has reflective scales that play with perceptions of water and light.

Museu do Aljube
museudoaljube.pt

The military dictatorship that ruled Portugal for the better part of the 20th century used this building as a political prison.

Museu do Teatro Romano
museudelisboa.pt

The well-preserved ruins of a Roman theater, abandoned in the fourth century and buried in the 1755 earthquake, opened to the public after a two-year renovation.

The Program

Visual arts, new media, architecture, and science are the focus. One of the inaugural shows is an audiovisual fairy tale from French artist Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster.

Three floors of exhibitions detail the rise and fall of fascism in Portugal between 1890 and 1976—expect haunting tales of oppression, coercion, censorship, and torture.

The theater and next-door gallery paint a vibrant picture of life as an actor under Emperor Augustus.

Don't Miss

Engineers and industrial buffs should check out the adjacent Tejo Power Station, which has a large 1909 thermo-electric power generator.

Stop for lunch at the rooftop café and balcony. The museum's subject matter is important and heavy, so you'll be grateful for a rest and a panoramic view.

The museum across the street houses videos and 3-D renderings to help visitors imagine the full scale of the Roman spectacle.

GETTING AROUND



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Lisbon's metro, bus, and tram system (*carris.transportelisboa.pt*; day pass \$6.70) includes the famed Tram 28 (which goes to the city's top attractions) as well as historic funiculars and elevators.



TRAIN

Comboios de Portugal (*cp.pt*; from \$6.70) runs trains to day-trip places like the beaches of Cascais (from Cais do Sodré station) and Sintra, a UNESCO site for architecture (from Rossio station).



WALKING TOURS

Lisbon Walker (*lisbonwalker.com*) does fascinating themed tours; other, free tours leave from Praça Luis de Camões.



BIKING

Bike paths connect Cais do Sodré with Belém (4.3 miles) and Santa Apolónia with Parque das Nações (5 miles). Bike Iberia (*bikeiberia.com*) offers bikes, maps, and tours.

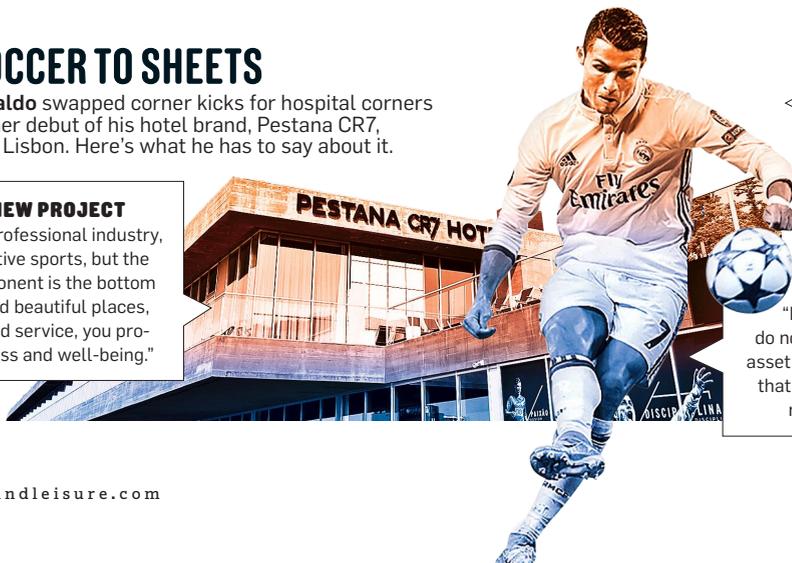
FROM SOCCER TO SHEETS

Cristiano Ronaldo swapped corner kicks for hospital corners with the summer debut of his hotel brand, Pestana CR7, in Madeira and Lisbon. Here's what he has to say about it.

ON HIS NEW PROJECT

"It's a highly professional industry, like competitive sports, but the human component is the bottom line. You build beautiful places, and with good service, you produce happiness and well-being."

PESTANA CR7 HOT



ON HIS LOVE FOR HOTELS

"I always knew I wanted to have a hotel one day. Hotels are places you go to find a new energy, discover new destinations, meet new people, and learn new cultures."

ON PET PEEVES

"I don't know why some hotels still do not understand that the most valuable asset for guests is time. They offer services that waste my time, rather than allowing me to make the most of my visit."