

LUXURY WITHOUT COMPROMISE

# Robb Report

A stylized, high-contrast illustration in shades of blue and white. It depicts a man and a woman in profile, facing each other as if in conversation. The woman, on the left, has her lips painted a vibrant yellow. The man, on the right, is shown from the chest up. The background is a solid dark blue, and the figures are rendered with bold white and light blue shapes.

## *Have You Heard?*

The 33 people, places  
and things to know  
right now.\*

\*and the 5 to avoid

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## Mellow in Majorca

MAJORCA HAS ALWAYS suffered from multiple personalities. It's possible you've only witnessed the Balearic island's boisterous side—the raucous beach party scene set within a string of high-rise hotels lined up one after another along the Mediterranean coast. But there's a calmer side to this Spanish isle, in the capital city of Palma. More soulful, more authentic, it has long been a quieter counterpart to the coast's noisy beach resorts—so much so that almost nobody cared enough to visit. But this summer, Palma is stepping out of the shadows and ascending as the island's buzzy (and, we'll say it, better) place to stay.

A collection of new five-star hotels is largely to thank for the transformation. But it wasn't the usual case of big-box luxury-brand takeovers—Palma's strict zoning laws make that kind of overdevelopment impossible—as much as it was a series of calculated renovations that have reclaimed Majorca's history and culture. Take Hotel Glòria de Sant Jaume ([gloriasantjaume.com](http://gloriasantjaume.com)), which, like most of the new-wave properties that opened here in the last year, claims one of the resort city's most storied landmark buildings. Located in a restored manor house dating to the 16th century, the hotel proudly shows off its elegant old bones—original frescoes and beamed ceilings included—but it also adds 21st-century amenities, such as a sauna, hammam and pool.

Further proving that old buildings can make for the best hotels is Palacio Can Marques ([palaciocanmarques.com](http://palaciocanmarques.com)), an 18th-century mansion set along Palma's marina. Its 13 suites are furnished with Murano chandeliers and hand-woven carpets, and some have private terraces. We're particularly smitten with the hotel's epic patio framed by alabaster Gothic columns (where a crisp Negroni has never tasted better), not to mention its private yacht available for ➤



### ROBB RECOMMENDS...

#### Belmond Cadogan Hotel

If the Belmond Cadogan Hotel's ([belmond.com](http://belmond.com)) stylish new look isn't enough to lure you over to London for a few nights, perhaps the ghosts of its storied past will. The Chelsea property, which has been renovated over four years and combines a former bank and four townhouses, has played host to everyone from Oscar Wilde, who was arrested here for the antiquated offense of "gross Indecency" in 1895, to Lillie Langtry, the British-American socialite who set the city ablaze with her romantic frissons (including a not-so-secret one with the Prince of Wales). For all of its history, however, the new Belmond is a modern retreat where out-of-towners feel like insiders, whether sipping afternoon tea in the lounge, cutting into Highland Wagyu beef at chef Adam Handling's restaurant or strolling through the nearby Cadogan Place Gardens, one of the city's largest private gardens usually reserved for locals. **Jemima Sissons**



GLORIA DE SANT JAUME BAR: PHILIPPE DEGRÖOTE;  
CADOGAN: HELEN CATHCART





PALMA DE MAJORCA: STUART PEARCE; LUTHERAN ART: JIM KIMMEL

pleasant cruising on the Mediterranean. If that can be topped—and we're dubious it can—it will surely be at Can Sordany Grand House & Garden ([canbordany.com](http://canbordany.com)). The newest kid on Palma's block opened in January in a restored 19th-century estate with 24 acres decorated in velvet and marble. Bring your leather when you're ready for a dip in the pool, and he'll prepare a chaise within the historic private garden, which has been replanted with cherry and olive trees.

Palma is stealing the dining spotlight on Majorca, too. No longer content to turn out mediocre tapas in tired restaurants, a younger generation of local chefs is giving the capital its culinary due. *From Michelin star Andrius*

Gematria—who just opened his second outpost, Sala Sala, at the Hotel de Princeps ([princeps.com](http://princeps.com))—to Andrius Gematria, whose eponymous restaurant ([andriusgematria.com](http://andriusgematria.com)) recently earned Palma its second Michelin star. At Can Sordany's historic Andrius Gematria is planting the seeds of further star potential with his fresh Mediterranean cuisine, much of it sourced from the island itself.

And at the art-filled Fera ([ferapalma.com](http://ferapalma.com)), Simon Petutschnig is twisting old Majorcan staples with modern Asian accents, as evidenced by his smoked suckling pig doused in hoisin and orange. It's an island classic that's been given a new lease on life, much like the revitalized city of Palma itself. *Raphael Kadushin*

## Q&amp;A



## Ian Schrager

*The silver-tongued hotelier takes his industry to task.*

Hotels are serious business for Ian Schrager. "Actually, they're a matter of life and death," he says. "Every detail of every hotel is a matter of life and death to me." If it sounds a bit overdramatic, that's because Schrager—the cocreator of Studio 54, the self-proclaimed inventor of the "boutique hotel" and the mastermind behind more than 30 properties over the last 35 years—is passionate about every aspect of his prolific business. He isn't one to mince words about it, either, as we found out in just four questions. **J.C.**

**What's the secret behind your successful hotels?** I know how to respond to change. Most luxury hotels are antiquated. They're still thinking of luxury in the old-fashioned way, providing the same things we used to provide 30 years ago—white gloves, gold buttons, lobby bellmen. Literally every other luxury industry has changed—fashion, autos, even refrigerators—but hotels haven't. Except for mine, and maybe a few others.

**What about hotels that are targeting millennials? That's change, right?** No, that's a joke. That's a mistake of big business. You don't do something for a demographic—you do it for a psychographic. You have to make something that resonates with people regardless of their age. People who do things for millennials are talking to marketing and focus groups. They don't have a clue.

**What's different about the hotel industry today?** It used to be that staying in a certain kind of luxury hotel signaled some kind of stature. I don't see that very often anymore. Today, everything is about lifestyle. The real luxury is feeling comfortable, feeling recognized and having your needs tended to—without pretension or obsequiousness.

**Do you think you'll ever get tired of building hotels?** Never. I'll be doing this for 20 more years at least. For me, every new hotel is personal. It's a reflection of who I am. And I love upsetting the status quo—that's never going to change.