

Masseria Trapana Conde Nast Traveller July/August 2016





ITALYMASSERIA TRAPANA, PUGLIA

There are more oranges and lemons at Masseria Trapanà than you'll find in the entire nursery-rhyme canon. They hang like baubles from the greenery in its six gardens, scenting the air and sending bees into a frenzy. The trees that bear them were here long before Rob Potter-Sanders arrived in 2014 to turn this stunning 16th-century former olive mill into a nine-suite hotel. And indeed the terrace beneath its toffee-coloured tufo-stone walls was built to incorporate them, rather than the other way around. Guests get to spend plenty of time on this terrace, sitting in dappled sunlight at lunchtime, tucking into plates of cucina povera food prepared in the traditional way by local cook Maria Carla, or sipping a Trapanà cocktail, made with juice from those ubiquitous oranges. The suites, created by Australian designer Freya Salter, are an ingenious blend of original Pugliese features - vaulted ceilings, stone alcoves, tiled floors and Asian-inspired touches, such as Balinese outdoor baths and wet-room-style showers. The beautiful baroque city of Lecce and some of southern Italy's most glorious beaches are slightly further afield, and totally accessible, but you might not want to stray too far from the masseria's lovely pool or the hammocks strung beneath all those trees. FLASH POINT The owner spent his life working for some of the best hotels in the world, so he knows exactly what makes a great property tick. +39 0832 183 2101; trapana.com. Suites from about £285





USA HOTEL EMMA, SAN ANTONIO

Set in a factory built in the 1890s for the Pearl Brewing Company, this handsome new hotel is the centrepiece of a sensational restoration project which has seen the once-derelict grounds converted into a vibrant urban precinct now filled with independent restaurants and contemporary lofts. Interior designers Roman and Williams (also responsible for the Ace hotels in New York and New Orleans) have struck a perceptive balance between maintaining the structure's industrial bones and creating a sophisticated modern space. Original pour-in concrete columns support the living room's soaring ceilings; an old bottle capper serves as a chandelier. Checkered floors and brick walls have been restored and polished, and webs of painted pipes are now a creative backdrop for a pour-over coffee bar. Hide away in intimate seating areas carved out of former brew tanks, or sip Margaritas, served in hand-blown glasses, in the elegant library's club chairs. The bedrooms are every bit as good: local shop Larder stocks the fridges with cheeses and charcuterie, and the impressive bathrooms have beautiful painted tiles. There's also a third-floor pool, small gym and the in-house Supper restaurant, which overlooks the city's famous River Walk, for a sensational chorizo Scotch egg or pancakes served with Meyer-lemon preserves and pine nuts. FLASH POINT An architectural wonder and foodie destination in one, Emma has introduced a welcome dose of edgy elegance to San Antonio. +1 210 448 8300; thehotelemma.com. Doubles from about £275