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# El Palace Hotel Barcelona

## Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

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9/10

Telegraph expert rating

" The last word in opulent stateliness, the Palace makes no attempts to disguise its roots as a former Ritz, and its common areas are straight out of The Great Gatsby. Bedrooms are more restrained, with a subtly neo-classical feel. Eating and drinking options cover most needs and budgets, with the Amar restaurant and Bluesman cocktail bar attracting as many locals as guests. "

Check availability

Rooms from  
**£250** per night

CHECK-IN

Tue 28 Feb



CHECK-OUT

Wed 19 Apr



OCCUPANCY

1 room, 2 adults, 0 children



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Telegraph Review

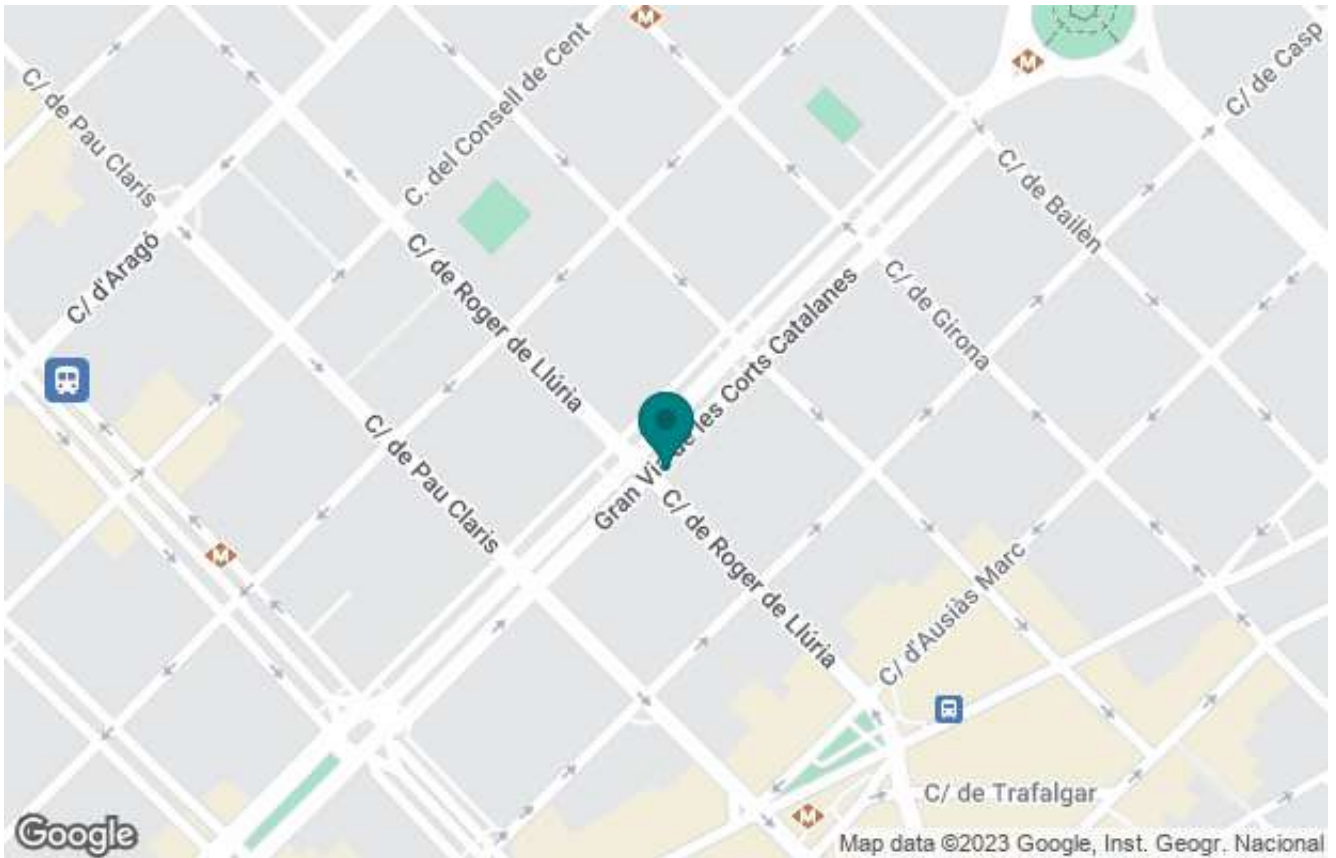


By Sally Davies, DESTINATION EXPERT

## Location

7/10

A couple of blocks from the Passeig de Gràcia, the Palace is great for upmarket shopping and some of Barcelona's best examples of Modernista architecture, but less well situated for many of the traditional sights, the Old City or the beach. Cabs are plentiful, however, and metro and bus stops are not far away. Sitting on the corner of two busy streets, it's too noisy to throw your windows open, but rooms are well soundproofed otherwise.



## Style and Character

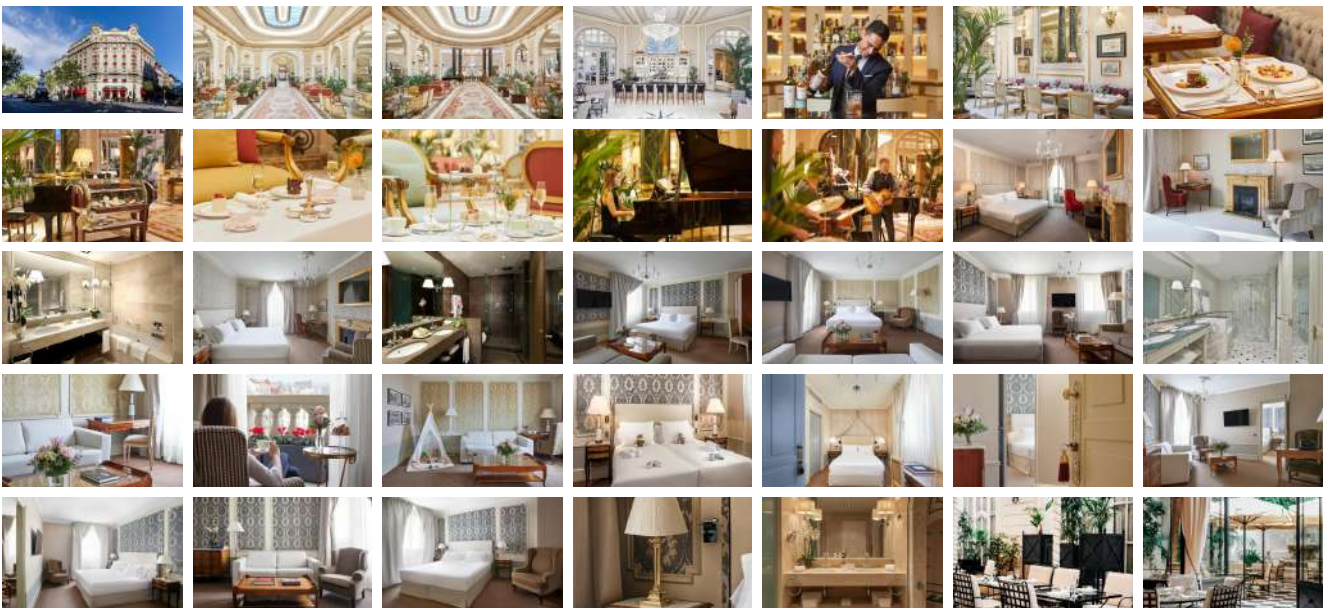
9/10

Dazzling opulence greets you around every corner, and the legacy of a previous incarnation as a Ritz is still evident in the thick swirly carpets and luxurious drapes, gathered up with silk ropes. The 'Hall', which serves as both lobby and bar, is a riot of Versailles-style ornate furniture, oriental vases, hand-painted wallpaper and gilt clocks, while the breakfast annexe goes for a monochromatic elegance, with oversized iron street lamps, Greek statues, a Berber tent housing the kitchen and a small garden at one end.

The hotel is also steeped in rock 'n' roll history as one-time temporary home to Ronnie Wood, and the first meeting place of Freddie Mercury and Montserrat Caballé.



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## Service and Facilities

9/10

A properly old-school concierge assures discreet and efficient service – this was, after all, the place where Dalí famously had a horse sent up to his room. More prosaically, he can get you tickets for a Barça game, print your boarding pass and arrange your onward travel. A 14-metre pool on the roof is just about long enough to swim in, and there is a Mayan-themed sauna downstairs with six treatment rooms, specialising in volcanic stone treatments, along with a small gym.

- ✓ Bar
- ✓ Fitness centre
- ✓ Laundry

- ✔ Parking
- ✔ Pool
- ✔ Restaurant
- ✔ Room service
- ✔ Sauna
- ✔ Spa
- ✔ Wi-Fi

## Rooms

9/10

The sober neo-classical lines come as something as a relief after the baroque excesses of the common areas, but still exude an air of luxury. Ivory and cream predominate, with discreet flock wallpaper and wide marble fireplaces, above which television screens hide within grand gilt mirrors. Complimentary water is provided in all rooms, as are locally made Lab Noma toiletries in large eco-friendly bottles, and kettles. Nespresso machines are available on request. The suites, with their 'Roman' mosaic bathrooms, are appropriately spacious and sumptuously furnished, but Classic rooms also have elegance to spare.

The themed suites are legendary – the Ronnie Wood, partly designed by the guitarist himself, contains a 1900 Wurlitzer jukebox and some of his own artwork.

## Food and Drink

9/10

In 2022, former El Bulli head chef Rafa Zafra took over the main restaurant, Amar, bringing his ingenious ways with seafood. The navy and gold dining room is spectacular, but a parade of exceptional and only delicately adorned anchovies, oysters, langoustines and daisy-fresh fish is easily its match. The Hall is open for more casual hotel-type fare and tapas, as is the Rooftop Garden, a romantic leafy spot for shared plates of ham, cheese and croquettes. Both also function as a bar, or there is the wonderfully cosy Bluesman Bar downstairs, presided over by the eponymous painting created and donated by Ronnie Wood. Check for seasonal events and pop-ups in the Hall and on the roof – these include afternoon tea, harvest feasts, and wintry raclettes under the stars.

## Value for Money

9/10

Double rooms from €290 (£258) in low season; and from €375 (£334) in high. Breakfast €39 (£35). Free Wi-Fi.

## Access for guests with disabilities?

Two junior suites are completely adapted, while two are semi-adapted. The pool is also accessible, though the breakfast room is a little trickier to navigate.

## Family-Friendly?

Children under 12 stay free, and child-sized slippers and dressing gowns are provided, along with a 'welcome kit' with cookies, juice and colouring books where age-appropriate. When available, small children are given the use of a teepee. Extra beds for older children are €100 (£89), and there are connecting rooms for families. Breakfast is free up to four years old, then €20 (£18) up to 12.

📍 Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes 668, 08010, Eixample, Barcelona, Spain.

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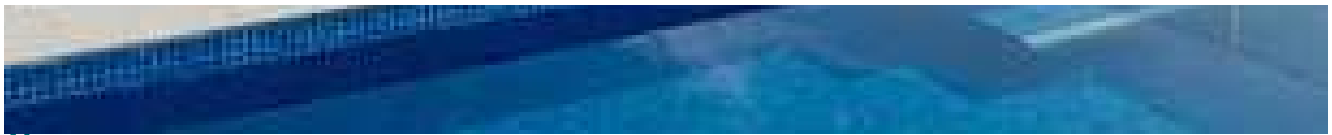
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