

# hotel reviews

## THE LEVIN HOTEL, LONDON

With just 12 bedrooms arranged around a spiral staircase it's immediately obvious that this Knightsbridge hotel is a classy joint. My room is small but lovely, with fantastic lighting and finest Egyptian-cotton bedding. The bathroom is compact but swish, with marble surrounds and under-floor heating.

Dinner is in the basement restaurant, Metro. Full of little nooks and bright, striped banquettes, it has a cheerful, bistro feel and is tremendously good value.

Breakfast was also served in the Metro and it was outstanding, a great buffet of cereals, yoghurt and fresh fruit with fantastic croissants and pastries from the London Bakery, owned by the hotel group.

For such a busy part of town, the Levin manages to seem like the soul of discretion — a quiet, grown-up retreat. **Jo Fletcher-Cross**



📍 28 Basil Street, London, SW3 1AS  
📞  
From £265 per night, B&B  
🌐 thelevinhotel.co.uk

## SAVOIA EXCELSIOR PALACE, TRIESTE



Ever since it opened in 1911, the Savoia Excelsior Palace has been the best address in town. Trieste was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in those days, and there remains a timeless, classical feel to room décor. Somehow, though, the effect still feels contemporary. Excellent service from hotel staff really enhances the experience.

Room pricing is dynamic, of course, but often it's not a huge stretch between doubles and 'junior' (balcony) suites.

Many amenities are pitched at the hotel's business clientele. There's an international buffet breakfast; reliable wi-fi; and the Italian fine-dining Savoy restaurant, which has picture-window views over the quayside. Pretty much everything in the city is an easy walk from the front door. **Donald Strachan**

📍 Riva del Mandracchio 4, Trieste, 34124 Italy  
📞  
Double rooms from £170 per night B&B; balcony/junior suites from £215  
🌐 preferredhotels.com

## ALMAHA MARRAKECH

Off a quiet alleyway in the Kasbah district, behind a modest wooden door is a dreamy place — a white, arcaded courtyard with billowing curtains, a mirror-like reflection pool and plants spilling from the surrounding balcony.

A lounge-cum-bedroom is kitted out with Egyptian-cotton sheets, fireplace, desk, flatscreen TV and mini-fridge. The design is what really impresses — patterned lanterns, local art, geometric stucco, carved cedar and polished stone floors. Bathrooms are equally lavish with twin vanity sinks, marble floors and walls and rain showers.

Steps lead to a private roof terrace area where I have breakfast the next morning. There's also an 18sq metre rooftop pool and subterranean spa with plunge pool and Jacuzzi. **Stephanie Cavagnaro**



📍 Derb Ben Zina 55, 40040 La Kasbah, Marrakech, Morocco  
📞  
Accommodation, breakfast and transfers from £270 per room per night, B&B  
🌐 almahamarrakech.com