

Glamping African-style:
Dehesa de las Yeguas

5 NEW SPANISH HIDEAWAYS

Sneak off for a relaxing bit of downtime at one of these serene boltholes...

1 GLAMPING DEHESA DE LAS YEGUAS, CADIZ

In the grounds of an ancient finca deep within the vast and beautiful Parque Natural Bahía de Cadiz, there are two African-style tents sleeping two to four. Each has a spacious veranda with outdoor seating, gas hob, fridge, ensuite bathroom and proper beds. Your tent comes stocked with basics like bread and eggs, and owner Amparo can prepare delicious dinners, such as paella or gazpacho, on request. She can also organise everything, from cooking lessons to horseriding. **From £80 per night, minimum two-night stay** (canopyandstars.co.uk).

2 RURAL HOTEL LA ESCONDIDA, ALICANTE, VALENCIA

Whatever you think about the fact that Terry Venables and his wife are behind this rural retreat an hour's drive from the beaches of Alicante, you'll never want to leave. This former 19th-century hunting lodge-turned-10-room boutique hotel is a little gem with the loveliest staff. Each rustic-beamed room blends historic original features with contemporary, fresh interior design. The beautifully presented, locally sourced food has both Spanish and French influences and dinner feels like a real treat. There's also a tiny spa and a fabulous outdoor pool. **Doubles from £114** (mrandmrsmith.com).

Boutique gem:
Hotel La Escondida



Eco haven with stunning seafood: Hostal Empuries



Roof-top cocktail bar and a villa vibe: Sant Francesc Singular

3 BEACH HOSTAL EMPURIES, COSTA BRAVA

Set on one of Costa Brava's loveliest sandy coves, near the seaside town of L'Escala, this hotel started life as a beach restaurant in 1914, before opening as a hotel in 1919. Recently relaunched after a huge refurbishment, it now has serious eco-credentials and is the only hotel in Europe with Gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) status. Highlights include a gastronomic restaurant run by two locally renowned chefs, with a menu laden with organic seafood, and a sleek spa with swimming pools fed by recycled water from its own spring. There are also paddleboards and bicycles to hire and yoga classes. **Doubles from €106** (l-escape.com).

4 ISLAND SANT FRANCESC SINGULAR, PALMA DE MALLORCA

Ideal for a sun-drenched city break, this converted 19th-century manor house in the heart of Palma's old town is now a lovely boutique hotel more akin to a beachy Mediterranean villa but with beautiful original features. There's also a great modern Mediterranean restaurant in the manor's former stables, a private rooftop terrace with a swimming pool and bar – the perfect spot for



Stylishly grand: Cotton House

early evening cocktails – and treatment rooms for massages. Step out of the hotel and you're in a buzzing historic square. **Doubles from about €195** (slh.com/santfrancesc).

5 URBAN COTTON HOUSE, BARCELONA

Just a few minutes' walk from La Rambla in the Eixample district, Cotton House was once the headquarters of Barcelona's Cotton Producer's Guild and feels like staying in the home of a stylishly grand great uncle – or at their private members' club. There's a cosy library-lounge, a bar-restaurant called Batuar serving delicious Catalan food all day and a rooftop pool and terrace with a view of Sagrada Família. **Doubles from about £208** (hoteltcottonhouse.com).

