

CHIC RETREAT

Petit Ermitage, Los Angeles

Our beauty director Cassie Steer indulged her inner starlet on a mini-break in West Hollywood



SO, IS IT REALLY PETIT?

Yep, it's a genuine little beauty. I was a teensy bit nervous about staying in LA on my own, but this quirky 80-room boutique hotel is a total home-from-home. It had me at the oversized birdcage in reception.

SOUNDS COSY...

My suite, with its Moroccan-inspired shabby-chic décor, was hard to leave - but I made it up to the wisteria-cloaked roof terrace with views of the Hollywood Hills. I even caught a screening under the stars (blankets and popcorn provided).

CAN I DO LA WITHOUT A CAR?

If you stay here, totally. The hotel is a location hotspot (as Kirstie and Phil would say). It's within walking distance of Hollywood highlights such as Chateau Marmont, The Viper Room, the Beckhams' fitness establishment of choice Soul Cycle (I spotted Al Pacino on the way there) and Mel's Drive-In, a junk-food must.

BUT WE'RE BRITS. WE NEED A BEACH!

No problem, hop in an Uber and hit Venice Beach. Doing a little Baywatch bonding with the sun and sea was the perfect antidote to the Hollywood scene. And I checked out the nearby shopping area, the super-tip Abbot

Kinney Boulevard - think LA's answer to London's Spitalfields. Back at the hotel I rounded things off with a cardamon-infused cocktail by the rooftop pool.

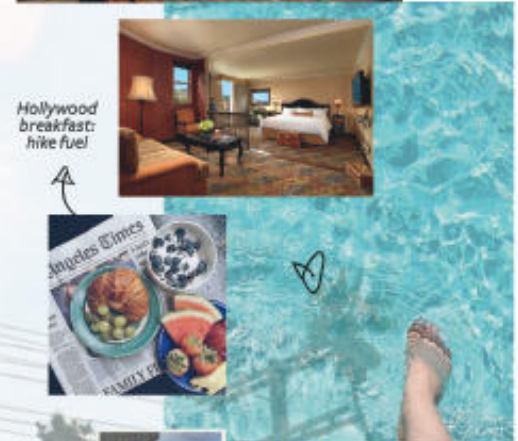
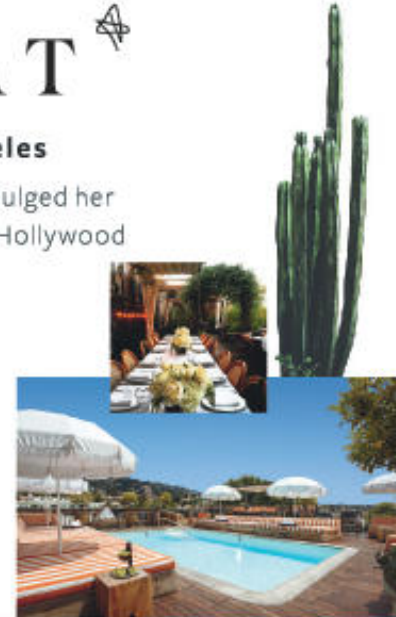
I'M NOT THAT KEEN ON KALE. WILL I STARVE?

I say, hail to the kale. But don't panic, there's a whole lot of choice at the Rooftop restaurant, which comes into its own at night - all mismatched furniture, tea lights and romantic foliage. I had pancakes and berries for breakfast, and oysters and Aspen Ridge prime rib-eye for dinner, washed down with Californian white. And in the words of Cali girl Katy Perry, I liked it.

ANY CELEB SPOTTING?

This place is extremely discreet, but also very well known by the right people. It's where Dior launched Robert Pattinson as its face of men's fragrance, and where Victoria Beckham hosted Harper's rooftop baby shower. And obviously now that InStyle has stayed here? I think we can say that it's totally arrived.

Rooms start at about £220 a night. For more information or to book, visit petitermitage.com



Hollywood breakfast: hike fuel!

Nice hot dogs



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