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**AWARD  
WINNING**

# TRAVELLER

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**THE 2015**

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## SLEEP

# Los Angeles

Follow in the footsteps of movie greats and beat a path to La La Land. From historic Downtown properties to cosy Hollywood cottages and the faux New England boltholes of Santa Monica and Venice, you'll feel like a star on a stay in the City of Angels

WORDS: Nick Boulos



## DOWNTOWN

LA's oldest neighbourhood, Downtown was once known as dingy and dangerous, but is now on the up. With striking art deco facades and historic movie theatres juxtaposed against skyscrapers, Downtown has gone from troubled to trendy. Historic buildings have been given some much-needed TLC and abandoned buildings have been transformed into hip loft apartments, sparking a wave of new hotels, restaurants and cultural institutions.

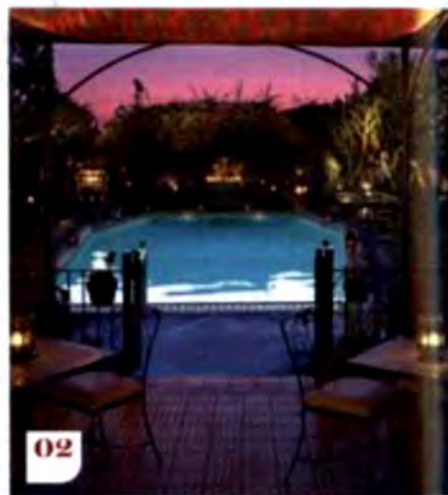


### 01 We recommend: THE LINE HOTEL

Barely a year old, The Line has already won much praise and quite a following. Its 13-storey honeycombed exterior has been used as a canvas for art installations, including a striking mural by Shepard Fairey occupying one wall. Inside, the 388 rooms are rugged, with bare concrete walls, softened by patterned chairs, colourful textiles and tables of bleached ash wood. The beds are top-class too, not just because they're super-comfy but for the superb view they offer of the distant Hollywood Hills, the Santa Monica Mountains and everything in between.

Other statement pieces are inspired by Korean design — a nod to the hotel's location in buzzing Koreatown. The same applies for the restaurant, Pot, which serves dishes such as Korean hot pot and tacos by celebrated chef Roy Choi. Elsewhere, citrus trees have been planted around the outdoor pool, while Speek, the mid-century lounge bar is a pleasant spot to spend an evening.

**Rooms:** Doubles from \$240 (£145)  
[thelinehotel.com](http://thelinehotel.com)



### 02 Best for budget travellers: FIGUEROA HOTEL

Casablanca comes to California at this decadent Moroccan-inspired hotel housed in a former YWCA building from 1925. The beautifully tiled bar overlooks the small pool, exotic lamps hang low from the hand-painted ceilings and the rich red walls support intricate tapestries, studded mirrors and glass mosaics, all helping to make the Figueroa Hotel one of LA's most unusual. **Rooms:** Doubles from \$149 (£90)  
[figueroahotel.com](http://figueroahotel.com)

### 03 Best for solo travellers: ACE HOTEL

Occupying what was once the United Artists building — the tallest in the city when it was built in the 1920s — the new Ace Hotel has breathed fresh life into one of Downtown's most historic addresses. Rooms may be small, with bathrooms barely more than a shower cubicle, but they do the job for solo travellers. Meanwhile, the lively bar and rooftop hot tub attract a friendly crowd.

**Rooms:** Doubles from \$189 (£115)  
[acehotel.com/losangeles](http://acehotel.com/losangeles) ➤





## SANTA MONICA & VENICE

Framed by the Pacific Ocean and mountains, laid-back Santa Monica is bordered by Brentwood to the east and Venice Beach to the south. Its Bohemian and outdoorsy vibe attracts bikers, rollerbladers and dog joggers to the miles of beachside walkways. The focal point is the pier, with its amusement rides and Ferris wheel. There's high culture, too, with over 75 museums and galleries, plus some of the best restaurants and shopping in Southern California.



01

### 01 We recommend: SHUTTERS ON THE BEACH

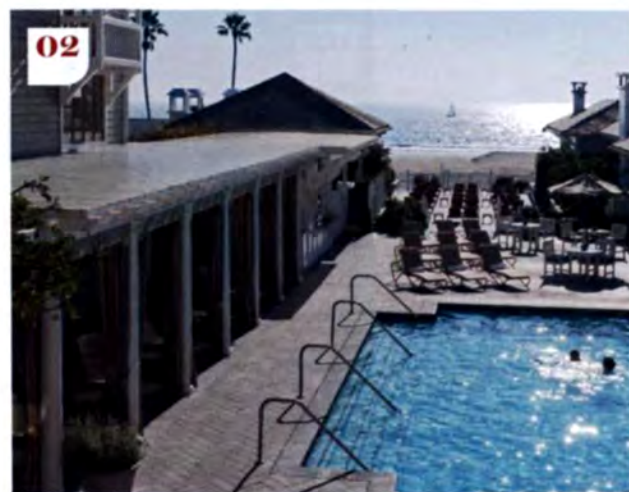
Santa Monica's most luxurious beachfront hotel has a New England beach house vibe, with blue awnings, picket fences and floral trellises. Inside, there are comfy sofas and cashmere throws, old Tibetan rugs on dark polished floors and four-poster beds with ocean views. There's an arty feel, too, with works by Lichtenstein and Hockney dotted around. Elsewhere, you can unwind at ONE the spa or use the new electric house car for free shuttles around Santa Monica.

**Rooms:** Doubles from \$625 (£379).  
[shuttersonthebeach.com](http://shuttersonthebeach.com)

### 02 Best for design: PALIHOUSE SANTA MONICA

Housed in a Moorish-influenced building from 1927, the boutique Palihouse Santa Monica opened in 2013, offering a medley of design styles. Think old portraits and antique furniture, cosy Chesterfield chairs and mounted deer heads, which together complement the building's frescoes and Mediterranean courtyard. The 37 rooms, meanwhile, feature Egyptian bed linen, flatscreen TVs and free wi-fi. And it's only a few blocks from the beach.

**Rooms:** Suites from \$299 (£182).  
[palihouse.com](http://palihouse.com)



02

### 03 Best for party animals: HOTEL ERWIN

Young, hip and fun, the uber-trendy Hotel Erwin is located in the heart of throbbing Venice, no more than a stone's throw from the beach. The 119 rooms are spacious and clean, the decor bright and bold, and there's even an 'honour bar' filled with snacks. The hotel's Barlo Kitchen & Cocktails serves up unpretentious locally inspired and sourced food and drinks. But it's the panoramic High Lounge which makes the biggest impact, with live DJs and innovative tipples up on the roof. Try the Mexican spiced hot chocolate with a splash of tequila.

**Rooms:** Doubles from \$286 (£174).  
[hotelerwin.com](http://hotelerwin.com) ➤