

With incredible 360-degree views of Barcelona, the Mandarin Oriental's rooftop, Terrat, is a magnificent setting for a swim in the sleek pool, or an alfresco lunch. The hotel occupies a former bank premises on the city's famous Passeig de Gràcia, with its stylish boutiques and striking Gaudi architecture. It has a space-age spa with a herbal steam-room and a 12-metre pool, and a two-Michelin-starred restaurant, Moments, that serves Catalan classics. Best of all is the central courtyard planted with mimosa-trees,

which is as discreet and lovely as a secret garden.

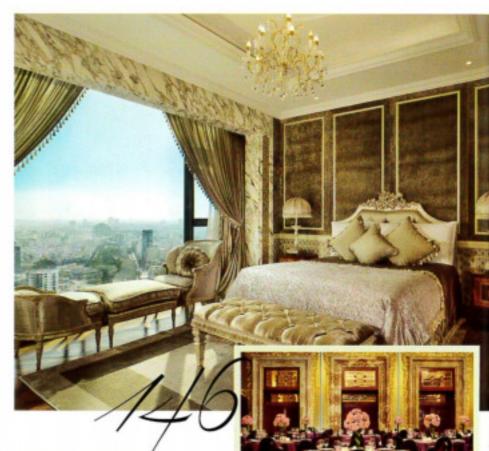
From about £385 a room a night (www.mandarinoriental.com).



Park Hyatt aris-Vendôme PARIS, FRANCE

During Fashion Week, the Park Hyatt Paris-Vendôme is the city's most central meeting point for the exotic flocks of editors, stylists and models who swoop into the interior courtyard for vodka cocktails, or sip green tea as they perch beside the fireplaces on chilly days. Follow their lead and discover contemporary bedrooms that provide a calm retreat, thanks to the excellent soundproofing behind the 19th-century façade of the hotel. With welcoming staff, a warm atmosphere and a wonderful spa, it's the perfect Parisian haven. From £724 a room a night

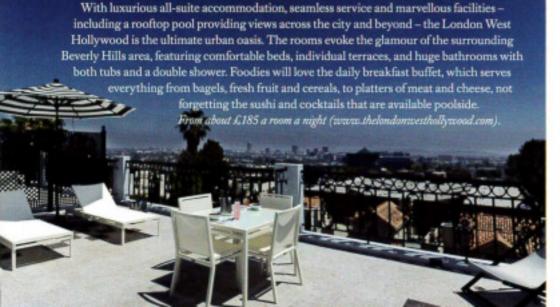
(www.paris.vendome.hyatt.com).



The Reverie Saigon HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

The owners of this recent addition to Ho Chi Minh City's ever-changing skyline spent an undisclosed amount on creating the hotel (whose rooms start from the 27th floor of the building), but judging by the five-metre ostrich-leather

substantial investment. The result is dazzling opulence, with glossy floors, mosaic-covered bathrooms and gilded walls - all with a backdrop of illuminated skyscrapers and the Saigon River visible through the floor-to-ceiling windows.



The London West Hollywood
LOS ANGELES, USA

sofa and the 20,000-crystal chandelier in the lobby, it's safe to say it was a

> From about £285 a room a night (www.thereveriesaigon.com).

