

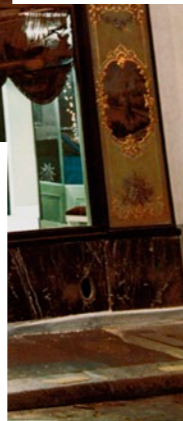


FRANCE  
HÔTEL DU PETIT MOULIN, PARIS

Anything designed by the great Christian Lacroix is going to be a hit with us, and this Paris bolthole is no exception. The 17 rooms are a riot of colour, pattern and toile de Jouy, and even though it opened in 2005, the style hasn't dated. In case you didn't guess from the old boulangerie sign hanging outside, it is housed in a former bakery – the city's first – and still retains some of the 17th-century features, such as the original shop front. Minimalist it is not, but it is just what you want for a quintessential Parisian weekend. *Doubles from £150, B&B; [hotelpetitmoulinparis.com](http://hotelpetitmoulinparis.com). Return train fares from London to Paris start at £68, [eurostar.com](http://eurostar.com)*

MEET ME IN...

We love Paris in the spring time – and New York, and London, and Amsterdam...



HOTEL DU PETIT MOULIN  
*Quirky, decoratively riotous and fun, it's everything you want your Paris hotel to be*

COLLAGES by GUS & STELLA

UK  
THE AMPERSAND HOTEL, LONDON

This pretty, Victorian-era boutique hotel is privately owned, and it shows in the cosy atmosphere and homely touches, such as the library and games room. Interiors take inspiration from local culture – the Royal Albert Hall, as well as the V&A, Science and Natural History museums, are all nearby – with botany, birds, music, geometry and astronomy-themed rooms. Decor is fresh and pretty, with Victoriana mixed with contemporary art pieces. The award-winning Science Afternoon Tea is a big deal here: planet- or rocket-shaped cakes, anyone? And down in the cellar, Aperò serves up inventive Mediterranean/fusion dishes to a lively crowd. And if there is a better hangover cure than Sunday's Pranzo della Nonna – granny's brunch – we have yet to discover it. *Doubles from £216, room only; [ampersandhotel.com](http://ampersandhotel.com)*



THE AMPERSAND HOTEL  
*Pretty luxury in the heart of South Kensington*



KIMPTON DE WITT  
*The perfect blend of sophisticated luxury and whimsical design*

NETHERLANDS  
KIMPTON DE WITT, AMSTERDAM

This luxury arty hotel, opposite the central station, is just a few minutes' pedal (on the free bikes) away from the pretty canals. Converted from three period houses, inside is all modernist cool, while the courtyard garden and lobby wall of florals creates an urban-oasis feel. The best of the 274 rooms are the nine suites with terraces, but all are large and bright, many with Escher-cube tiling in the bathrooms – our favourite design treat in a hotel awash with style. *Doubles from £152, room only; [kimptondewithhotel.com](http://kimptondewithhotel.com). Return flights from London to Amsterdam from £120, [ba.com](http://ba.com)*

THE WHITBY  
*This arty New York hotel is a modern Midtown masterpiece*

USA  
THE WHITBY, NEW YORK

The Whitby, like its nine Firdale siblings, is big on art, design and texture, so expect bold prints, vibrant colour and lots of talking-point art works. The Midtown location is handy for MoMA, too. The 87 rooms are light and spacious, some with floor-to-ceiling windows and most with free-standing baths in luxurious bathrooms. You'll find a reading room (take your pick of around 2,500 books), a 24/7 gym, two screening rooms and a lively bar/restaurant, which is a big hit with the locals, creating a neighbourhood vibe. This might just be our new favourite New York crash pad. *Doubles from around £367, room only; [firdalehotels.com/thewhitby](http://firdalehotels.com/thewhitby). Return flights from London to New York from £350, [ba.com](http://ba.com)*



Words: Susan Ward Davies. Illustration: Gus & Stella. Photographs: Getty Images