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## The TRAVEL ISSUE:

WHERE WILL YOU BE THIS YEAR?

Botswana **EHIME** Labuan Bajo  
Riga **HVAR**

BEST AUSSIE  
WINES IN  
MORNINGTON  
PENINSULA,  
ORANGE AND  
MUDGE

The  
gastronomy  
of Greece





Can Bordoy Grand House & Garden is housed within a 16th century building that's a stone's throw away from the sights and sounds of Palma de Mallorca.

## Secret garden

Beyond the beaches of Palma de Mallorca lies Can Bordoy Grand House & Garden, a timeless haven celebrating the island's lush botanicals and Mallorcan traditions. By Jessica Chan



Lush vegetation can be found spread across the hotel's public spaces.

You'll be forgiven for thinking you've entered a Mallorcan family home when staying at the Can Bordoy Grand House & Garden. The two-month-old hotel sports an unassuming honey beige exterior – much like the ancient monuments peppering the capital-cum-resort city of Palma de Mallorca – and blends into the historical quarter of Forn de la Glòria where it resides. It's tranquil enough yet sufficiently accessible to the city's sights and sounds. It's the closest property to the harbour and yacht mooring, and a stone's throw away from the La Seu Cathedral and Paseo del Borne. Pass its doors is a picturesque utopia designed deliberately to be, as owner Don Mikael Hall puts it, “a veritable sanctum that's almost as if a munificent Mallorcan household had just invited you over”.

### A charming spirit

Can Bordoy Grand House & Garden's antiquated grandeur could be

attributed to its own illustrious history. The former residence of the Bordoy Blanes family (from which it got its name) and Sacred Heart of Jesus, which was once a religious school for the city's elites. The medieval site has also seen numerous refurbishments and alterations over the years, the most recent being an expansion by returning emigrants at the start of the 20th century. This, surprisingly, played into OHLAB's – an award-winning architecture studio – hands, which refurbished the understated building into an exquisite home away from home.

There was little restructuring of the old building's layout. Each of its 24 suites is unique, thanks to its former functions as drawing rooms or libraries, and there still exists semi-secret corridors linking some of the more private spaces in the property.

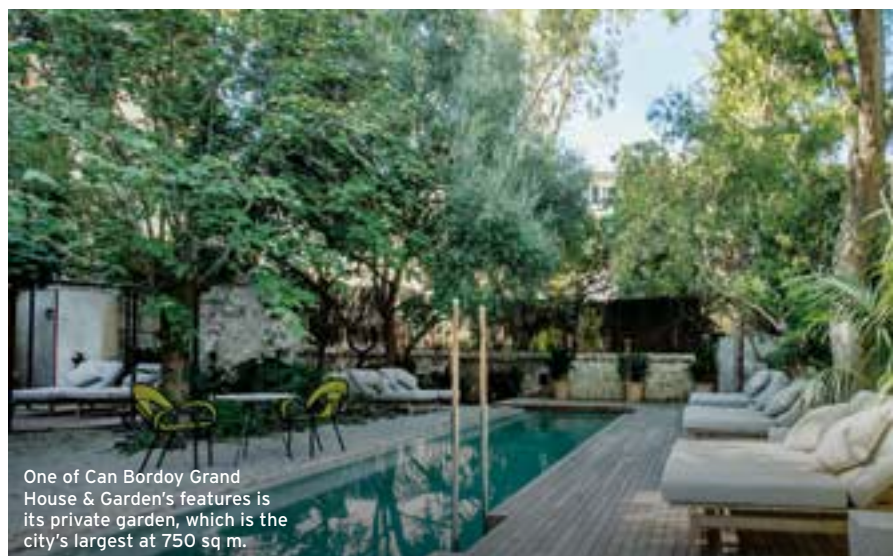
Much of the 18-month-long construction was spent preserving and polishing the space rather than completely gutting it. “What makes the property such an extraordinary one? It's its



OHLAB restored much of the infrastructure, from the walls to the hardwood floors.



Each of the 24 suites sports a unique design in terms of its floor plan (depending on the former function of the room).



One of Can Bordoy Grand House & Garden's features is its private garden, which is the city's largest at 750 sq m.

past, present and future. Inspired by *kintsugi* (Japanese restoration method where broken ceramics are mended with precious metals), we restored many of the building's original elements. There are the antique frescoes, central stairs, as well as the hardwood and tiled floors, to name a few. Even the imperfections on the walls – the wear and tear – were meticulously recreated,” says Jaime Oliver, director of OHLAB.

The design concept draws guests back to a Mallorca of yore while firmly connecting them to the present. Antique furnishings, sourced from European dealers, are juxtaposed against modern pieces from Baxter, Moroso and Thonet; Turkish carpets and Mallorcan fabric join velvet in a lush ultramarine; and bathrooms are dressed in the minimalist designs of AGAPE and Baroque mirrors. The spa, similarly, sports authentic stone walls from the 12th century while offering state-of-the-art amenities, such as a Dornbracht horizontal shower. Scattered throughout the property is also an intriguing collection of oddities that ranges from contemporary art, antiques curated from auctions and shops in Copenhagen, Paris and Turkey to ceramics from local craftsmen. It's as if the ladies of the house had slowly and subtly added their own signature style to the space over the centuries.

The towering *Iledoner* (European hackberry) tree sitting in its sprawling private garden (the largest in the city at 750 sq m) is seen as a symbol of welcome and is often found in locally-owned houses and properties. Come at the right season and you'll no doubt see Jacaranda trees looming over with its extravagant

blooms of blue and purple, olive trees adding a touch of silvery grey and fruits trees introducing pops of vibrancy in between. It comes as no surprise that OHLAB has also installed a series of accoutrements for guests to linger here. The heated 16-metre swimming pool and whirlpool aside, there's an open-air pergola for an intimate spa or dining experience.

The lush vegetation is also allowed to run wildly across the ceilings and walls of its public spaces, including its signature restaurant, Botànic. It gives diners an inkling of chef Andrés Benítez's commitment to organic and eco-friendly Mallorcan produce, where the produce's flavours and nutritional values take pride of place in each dish. Think of it as a window to the flavours characteristic to the region. It's open all day, but Benítez offers an exceptional happy hour of house made delicatessens and 1920's gramophone tunes.

Its flawless marriage of new and old, nature and man-made elements has brought Mallorca's historical charm to life while evoking a sense of inimitable intimate luxury. **e**