

# HOME AWAY FROM HOME

By EMMA-KATE WILSON

Casa Bonay is a true Barcelona hotel, from the mosaic tiles to the black steel-framed windows overlooking the bustling Gran Via.

A 10-minute walk from the iconic El Born district (close enough, but with distance from the tourist crowd), the hotel is a collaborative project.

“We wanted to make sure Casa Bonay felt of Barcelona, rooted in and specific to the city,” New York-based designers Studio Tack say.

“We also wanted it to be inviting for all – whether a guest at the hotel, a local patron or a visitor.”

Among the bones of the historic 19th-century single-family mansion (the Bonay family), the designers first noticed the beautiful mosaic floors in each of the rooms.

“It was important that this was salvaged to tell a bit of the building’s history,” they say. The floor also defined the entrance, where Studio Tack repurposed Barcelona’s ornate public footpath, to encourage passers-by to come in and explore.

The lobby also poses intrigue through huge green foliage by landscape gardener Alejandra Coll, who helped the hotel earn its nickname, Bonay Jungle. Coll’s work is also seen on the hotel’s rooftop, where her herb and decorative garden surround the barbecue bar, Chiringuito, and private guest lounging space.



Casa Bonay is designed and styled to be an expression of Barcelona and inviting to all.

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SALVA LOPEZ

Joining Coll are a host of Barcelona-based artisans including lighting designer Nina Maso, who was inspired by glowing cigarettes and candlelight, and Marc Morro from AOO who designed the timber pieces throughout the entire hotel, from the bedside tables to the hotel's reception desk.

Bringing a whole team of creatives on board was essential for the tone of a hotel that resists a touristy cliché, and instead becomes a place to grow

a local crowd and returning visitors.

This is evident in Studio Tack's favourite spot, the downstairs bar Libertine: "the double-height ceilings, exterior pavers and deep green hue create a garden-like atmosphere that feels at once outside and open, yet intimate and just a bit illicit." [m](#)

[casabonay.com](#)  
Room rates start at \$170 per night.



THOMAS LUJ

## WHILE IN BARCELONA ...

### Carlos and Matilda



VERENA GALIAS

Carlos and Matilda is a cosy hole-in-the-wall spot with an ever-changing cocktail menu. Perch yourself at the bar or in the courtyard next to the historic medieval Roman wall. [facebook.com/carlosandmatilda](#)

### Firebug



For tapas like you've never tried before, call on Firebug, minutes away from the Arc de Triomf. The menu is designed to be shared – don't miss the "drunken" prawns. [firebugbarcelona.com](#)

### La Condicional



La Condicional serves up the handmade linen La Mona collections, made in Barcelona by sisters Patricia and Elena. The rest of the store is a curated collection of Spanish designs. [lacondicional.com](#)

### La Sagrada Familia



BRANDON GURNEY

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