

Corral del Rey, Seville: hotel watch

By Michael Kerr

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Michael Kerr checks into the Seville's Corral del Rey, a boutique hotel housed in a beautifully restored 17th-century palacio.

The location

In the Barrio Alfalfa, in the most atmospheric part of the city, a short walk from the Cathedral, the Giralda Tower and the Alcázar.

We like...

...the sympathetic restoration of this 17th-century *palacio*, bought as a ruin in 2004 and opened last Easter by the family that owns the Hacienda de San Rafael, outside the city. The atrium lobby sets the tone, with Roman marble columns and modern art, terracotta tiles and squishy sofas. There's a roof terrace with plunge pool, where meals can be served.

It's a dual-purpose property: a boutique hotel - six bedrooms - or a house-party venue, with entertainment in the vaulted basement. Staff are friendly and helpful.

Not so keen...

...on the restaurant, a narrow area screened off by glass from the rest of the lobby. It's fine for breakfast (the continental one is generous) but in such a lively city wasn't tempting at night. When the hotel is quiet, as it was during our visit, it lacks atmosphere; when it's busy, there can't be much privacy from fellow diners.

The rooms

Bedrooms, off the atrium galleries, have beamed ceilings, ochre walls, limed oak floors and a mixture of dark and pale cabinets containing mod cons such as Sony Bravia TV, DVD player and iPod with Denon speakers. Bathrooms - which have showers only in the two smallest rooms - are of limestone and marble, with his-and-hers washbasins and powerful showers.

Food and drink

The restaurant serves modern European food with a Spanish influence: pumpkin ravioli with dates and almond purée, venison fillet with quince and civet sauce.

The bottom line

From €280 per night, plus 7 per cent tax, including continental breakfast.

The details

Corral del Rey, Calle Corral del Rey, 12, 41004 Seville, Spain (00 34 954 500 708, www.corraldelrey.com)

Telegraph rating (out of 5)

4

Story from Telegraph Travel:

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