

101 HOTELS

THE BALMORAL

Edinburgh, Scotland

Floating above Waverley Station, The Balmoral is the original jewel in Sir Rocco Forte's crown. It remains a treasure, with chic decor that whispers rather than shouts – especially in the suites with sofas that you sink into and never want to leave. Some are still marinated in nostalgia: you can imagine Queen Victoria and Prince Albert ensconced here en route to the other Balmoral; equally, the enfilade of rooms that make up the Scone & Crombie Suite serves modern royal glamour for any 21st-century A-lister. And those views – stretching from the Old Town to the New, like Hogwarts meeting Ancient Rome. At Brasserie Prince, Gary Robinson conjures delicious Parisian-Scottish classics such as fish pie, while new members club Scotch has become the city's most exclusive social hub. *Doubles from £180, including breakfast (roccofoorthotels.com).*



The Scone & Crombie Suite at The Balmoral

The Woodward sits resplendent on Lake Geneva. Below, private dining at Le Jardinier



PALÁCIO PRÍNCIPE REAL

Lisbon, Portugal

This beautiful pink *palácio* is the home of British owners Gail and Miles Curley. Swapping law for hospitality, the couple created 28 bedrooms, with Nespresso machines, complimentary minibars (try the ginger health shots) and fresh flowers. Bathrooms envelop you with heated floors, large tubs, rain showers and Byredo products. Downstairs, the bar allows you to explore Portuguese wines with Miles as a knowledgeable companion; try his favourite sparkling Berbereta or white Vila Nogueira. Dinner, inside or under the stars (there's a heated swimming pool), is simple and seasonal, accompanied by the Curleys' own olive oil. A home from home. *Doubles from £250, including breakfast (palacioprincipereal.com).*



THE WOODWARD

Geneva, Switzerland

In a lakeside stretch where luxury hotels stand shoulder to shoulder, The Oetker Collection has opted for less is more to mark its arrival in the Geneva scene. There are just 26 suites offering exceptional views of the lake, the Jet d'Eau and Mont Blanc beyond. Interiors come courtesy of Pierre-Yves Rochon; beds are framed by Fromental wallpapers and Nespresso stations are hidden behind lacquered doors inset with mother-of-pearl. In the white marble and onyx bathrooms, where Guerlain Orchidée Impériale graces the rain showers, the handles are formed by Lalique glass medusas. Beneath lies Switzerland's only Guerlain spa – and the longest pool in town. Above is the domain of executive chef Olivier Jean, long a disciple of the late Joël Robuchon in Taipei, who delivers dishes faithful to the master's repertoire, such as seared blue lobster with Malabar pepper and pak choi. For a fresh interpretation of Geneva on a plate, Jean's vegetable-centric menu at Le Jardinier is not to be missed. *Doubles from £985 (oetkercollection.com).*



With its lush garden, terrace and pool, Palácio Príncipe Real is an oasis in Lisbon