

Noble niche

On a quiet street, set back from the thrumming city center, **Baudon de Mauny** is a palatial 18th-century town house turned boutique hotel. The moment you step inside, you feel as if you've entered the home of a local aristocrat or wandered onto a period movie set. Owner Alain de Bordas, whose family has lived in this mansion for seven generations, has stylishly refurbished the eight bedrooms and suites spread over two floors into an artful mix of old and new. No detail has been overlooked, from the ornate white plasterwork and painted ceiling frescoes to bold contemporary furnishings and splashy print wallpaper ablaze with poppies, butterflies, birds and flamingos. Breakfast is served in the 14th-century conservatory, but serious foodies or families who want to shop in the markets nearby and whip up their own feasts should book the largest suite, an apartment with a fully equipped kitchen. Come sunset, guests lounge by the fireplace in the clubby atmosphere of the elegant grand salon for cocktails. Rooms from €165, suites from €215. 1 Rue de la Carbonnerie. Tel +33 4 67 02 2177. www.baudondemauny.com

Bed in the boughs

If sleeping closer to the stars, four meters up a cedar tree, appeals to your inner child, **Les Cabanes de l'Arbousier**, a family run B&B and vineyard just 10km northeast of Montpellier, is a dream come true. Ecologically minded owners Nicolas and Catherine Viguié will provide you with everything you need, from electric candles for a romantic dinner to flashlights for reading in bed. All four tree houses (each sleeping two to five



Comme à la maison:
The grand salon at Mauny
de Baudon where guests
gather for sundowners