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(Travel)

The Best European Castles You Can Book A Stay At Now



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From the rolling hills of Tuscany to the verdant English countryside.



Immersive hotel stays are fodder for travelers who seek out novelty — with clever options ranging from house boats, treehouses or even historic estates. The latter category hits its stride in Europe, where centuries-old castles have been reimagined into regal accommodations. Booking a room in one of the best European castles is like stepping back in time, when candlelit corridors and unspoiled landscapes reigned supreme. And although many of these properties have changed ownership over hundreds of years, many of them still feel frozen in time (just with the added conveniences of things like electricity and running water, of course).

France



Hotel Château du Grand-Lucé

Le sigh, what's not to love about France? It's a country with boundless seemingly boundless history and culture and also a beautiful location for palatial properties. One such destination is the Neoclassical Hôtel de Crillon (now part of the Rosewood Hotel portfolio). It was originally built in 1758 as a private residence to host the world's great ambassador and overlooks the Place de la Concorde. This building has remained through the reigns of two French kings, the French Revolution, and the rise and fall of the Napoleonic Empire; eventually becoming a luxury palace hotel in 1909.

In the Lorie Valley, Hotel Château du Grand-Lucé is another majestic Neoclassical property and was built between 1760 and 1764 by Baron Jacques Pineau de Viennay. The 80-acre property is surrounded by an original medieval wall and offers manicured French gardens for guests to explore. The former stables were converted into a ballroom and the old laundry house is now a spa with garden views and a private courtyard. Limestone floors and French white oak serve as a backdrop for the interiors, with crystal chandeliers and fine Persian rugs accentuating the royal ambience. Lastly, Chateau de Mirambeau located between Bordeaux and Cognac is a Renaissance style hotel that was built on the site of a medieval fortress dating to the 11th century. Absorb the lush upholstery, antique furniture, and marble bathrooms and enjoy seasonal bites from the property's one star Michelin restaurant by Chef Maxine Deschamps.