



Five Cool Rooms. See p116.



Che Lulu.

Soho All Suites

Honduras 4762, entre Malabia y Armenia (4832 3000/www.sohoallsuites.com). Bus 39, 57, 168. Rates US\$120-\$170 superior/junior suite; US\$190-\$200 suite with terrace; US\$250 penthouse with terrace. Credit AmEx, DC, MC, V.

No messing around with silly names here. Soho All Suites, quite simply, offers suites in the centre of Palermo Soho, an unofficial sub-barrio of Palermo Viejo. The hotel's greatest strength is indeed its location in Buenos Aires' most hip and fashionable barrio, an area defined as much by its all-night bar and restaurant scene and cutting edge boutiques as by its tree-lined, cobblestoned streets. The establishment itself is best described as a boutique hotel for people who are wary of boutique hotels: it's unpretentious, stylish without being over-stylised, and will please your Aunt Maude and Uncle Trev as much as the Tyler Brülé brigade. The cream and beige rooms are soothing rather than striking, and the staff are well-trained, friendly and happy to share their local knowledge with guests. It's worth restating the point: the location couldn't be better.

Moderate

Casa Bloody Mary

Volta 1867, entre Arce y Baez, Las Cañitas, Palermo (4777 7106/www.casabloodymary.com). Bus 29, 59, 60. Rates US\$60 single; US\$85-\$95 double. Credit AmEx, MC, V.

The name alludes to England's Protestant-burning queen rather than to the cocktail; the *casa* in question is a mock-Tudor residence down a pretty Las Cañitas side street. Recently opened as a B&B, this gay-owned lodging boasts spacious air-conditioned rooms in a great location – it's within walking distance of Baez street, the popular Las Cañitas bar and restaurant strip.

Posada Palermo

Salguero 1655, entre Soler y Paraguay, Palermo (4826 8792/www.posadapalermo.com.ar). Subte D, Bulnes/39 bus. Rates US\$60 single; US\$75 double. No credit cards.

After a visit to this B&B you won't be surprised to learn that it's owned and managed by an architect. The tasteful Italian-influenced design scheme preserves the aura of the building's former life as a lodging for Italian immigrants in the early 20th century. The four bedrooms, all with bathrooms en suite, boast careful attention to detail. Wind down in the hammock on the terrace or relax in the homely living room where Chungi, Marie and Laila, the three purring house cats, set the pace. A solid choice for those seeking a cosy retreat in the heart of Palermo.

Budget

Che Lulu Trendy Hotel

Pasaje Emilio Zola 5185, entre Justo Santa Maria de Oro y Godoy Cruz, Palermo Viejo (4772 0289/www.luluguesthouse.com). Subte D, Palermo/39, 55, 111 bus. Rates US\$35-\$50 single/double. No credit cards.

Hidden down an inconspicuous side street, Che Lulu is a pioneer of the Palermo Viejo guesthouse scene. All areas, including the eight bedrooms, are air-conditioned and benefit from abundant light. They are given extra colour by local artists and plentiful plant life. The dining area with TV is a good spot to plan the day's activities; nearby excursions include Palermo parks, zoo, golf course and race track. The owner has just opened a new, more luxurious lodging called Onzé Trendy Hotel in the Recoleta district.

Como en Casa B&B

Gurruchaga 2155, entre Paraguay y Guatemala, Palermo Viejo (4831 0517/www.bandb.com.ar). Subte D, Plaza Italia/29, 39 bus. Rates US\$35-\$55 single/double; US\$65-\$85 suite. Credit AmEx, MC, V.

Como en Casa was one of the first guesthouses established in Palermo Viejo. Long and narrow, most of the 11 rooms sit on the ground floor along a corridor. They're a little samey, but the rest of the building is dressed up in a warm, colonial style, with lots of rugs and heavy wood – perfect for winter. Most of the socialising takes place in the kitchen and lounge or, in summer, in the delightful little garden.

Cypress In

Costa Rica 4828, entre Borges y Gurruchaga, Palermo Viejo (4833 5834/www.cypressin.com). Bus 34, 36, 55, 93, 161. Rates US\$54 double. Credit AmEx, MC, V.

The cypress trees that tower in the back garden inspired the name for this highly recommendable B&B. Located on an atmospheric cobbled street in

the middle of Palermo Viejo, Cypress In boasts eight slickly designed rooms at bargain rates, especially considering its prime location just minutes from Plazoleta Cortázar. Book in as quick as you can – with an upgrade in progress, the rates are set to rise.

Garufa

Fitz Roy 1925, entre Costa Rica y Nicaragua, Palermo Viejo (47716431/www.garufabuenaosaires.com). Bus 39, 93, 166. Rates US\$30-\$60 single/double. No credit cards.

The tangerine walls of this charming B&B surround antique furniture and warm, traditional Argentinian decor. There are two double and two single rooms, all facing the inner glass-roofed courtyard. Best of all is the large roof terrace for *asados* (barbecues) and summertime lounging.

La Otra Orilla

Julián Alvarez 1779, entre Costa Rica y Soler, Palermo Viejo (4867 4070/www.otraorilla.com.ar). Subte D, Plaza Italia/39, 60, 152 bus. Rates US\$35-US\$65 single/double; US\$85 suite. No credit cards.

During the 2001 banking restrictions, Cecilia and Agustina decided to put their money in a more secure financial institution: their own home. They went out and bought some stylish furniture and reopened it as a comely, five-bedroom bed and breakfast. Two of the top rooms have small balconies which overlook a typical Palermo cobbled street. It's the suite, however, with a view of the garden and a lovely en suite bathroom that, for just a fistful of dollars more, is the real catch.

Las Cañitas

Moderate

Casa Las Cañitas

Huergo 283, entre Arévalo y Clay (4771 3878/www.casalascañitas.com). Subte D, Carranza/60, 152, 160 bus. Rates US\$95-\$130 double; US\$195 apartment. Credit AmEx, DC, MC, V.

This new boutique hotel in Palermo's most glam sub-district offers great value for money in a superb location. The stylish and well-equipped rooms all have queen-sized beds, air conditioning and Wi-Fi. Just as good are the shared spaces which include a wine bar (open 24 hours), a lovely terrace and garden (with barbecue, natch) and a business centre. In-house services include yoga and tango classes, massages, a babysitting service, and – a first for us this – loom classes. The welcome and hospitality is as warm as the BAA summer.

Expensive

248 Finisterra

Baez 248, entre Arguibel y Arévalo (4773 0901/www.248finisterra.com). Subte D, Carranza/60, 152, 160 bus. Rates US\$135-\$160 double; from US\$215 suite. Credit AmEx, DC, MC, V.

They used to grown sugar cane in Las Cañitas, hence the name. There's no sweetness anymore, just a lot of light: over the last ten years the barrio has become a neon-lit, late-night adult theme park, packed with restaurants and bars that attract BA's brash and beautiful. And now, with the opening of 11-room 248 Finisterra hotel, you can spend the night there. The design follows the boutique gospel, all clean lines and unfussy fittings, a few well-chosen antiques, lots of white and beiges. Sink into the Jacuzzi on the roof, toy with a glass of champagne and listen to the in-crowd's frantic bar-hopping beneath. Now that's hedonism. You may or may not like to know that the cast of Latin American Idol stayed here during the filming of the recent series. It must have been quite a wrench for the ones who got voted out.

Belgrano

Expensive

My BA Hotel

Zapala 1925, entre Arribeños y 11 de Septiembre (4787 5765/www.mybahotel.com). Subte D, Olleros/63, 152, 168 bus. Rates US\$140-\$175 double; US\$220 suite. Credit AmEx, DC, MC, V.

A part of the burgeoning NA hotel chain which specialises in small boutique hotels, the latest, My BA Hotel, sits in the quiet and leafy suburbs of Belgrano, close to Palermo and the colourful wining and dining zone of Las Cañitas. The peace and easy charm of the barrio extends into all of