

MONEY WEEK

Chic & Basic Born

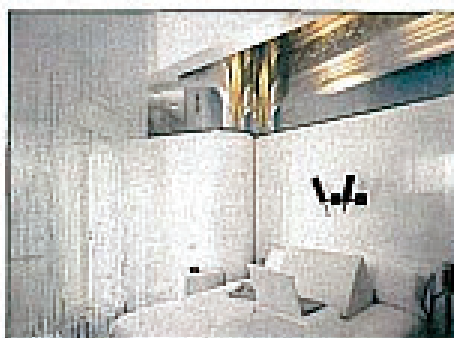
What's so special?

This is a stylish, modern hotel with an air of class despite the bargain-basement price tag. Located in Barcelona's El Born quarter, you've got history on your doorstep in the form of the Gothic Santa Maria del Mar church.

What people say

It's a "cheeky little number inhabiting a high-ceilinged, swirly staircased old building", says The Sunday Times Travel magazine. The interior "definitely divides the ranks: some guests adore the near-fetishistic obsession with lighting, which plays on surfaces, turning them neon/psychedelic; others recoil from the shiny fabrics and iridescent bead curtains in the hallways". All in all, this place is "camper than Christmas with Alan Carr".

The rooms The hotel may be cheap, but it's more bargain than basic. Some rooms are small, but "they've not Scrooged on quality". The beds are "downy" and there are "statement showers" and free tea, coffee and water. The rooms are split into three categories XL, L and M. The XL rooms come with kingsize beds and more space, while L and M rooms both have queen-size beds.



The cost

Doubles cost from £81, including breakfast. To find out more visit www.chicandbasic.com, or call 00 34 93 295 4652.