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MADRID BASICS

Where to stay

Rates below are for a double room per night in November.

The recently opened chic&basic Mayerling (0034 91 420 1580, www.chicandbasic.com; from £82 b&b) lives up to its name. The former textile house in the heart of old Madrid, a short walk from several of the best eating and drinking areas, has minimalist bedrooms with excellent showers, and an innovative "help yourself" area downstairs for simple DIY breakfasts and free juice and hot drinks round the clock. Also new is sister property chic&basic Atocha (0034 91 369 2895; from £68 b&b): similar style bedrooms, very

convenient for the art museums, but on a noisy street and breakfast in a bag delivered to the room.