



## Hotel Cort

### *Palma de Mallorca*

Words: Dominique Afacan Photography: Courtesy of Hotel Cort and Design Hotels

Taking inspiration from the Mediterranean coastline, interior designer Lázaro Rosa-Violán breathes new life into a former bank in Mallorca's Old Town.

Designed by Lázaro Rosa-Violán, self-proclaimed 'urban archeologist' and founder of Barcelona-based Contemporain Studio, Hotel Cort opened in July of last year in a century-old building that was formerly the Banco Atlantico. Located in Plaça Cort, a bustling cobbled square in the city's Old Town which houses the pretty central government building and a handful of local shops and cafés, first-time visitors could almost miss the hotel, which has no obvious signage other than the tell-tale crimson shutters only recognised by those in-the-know.

Just ten minutes walk from Palma's seafront, the hotel is styled as an 'island within an island', and there is plenty of evidence of this nautical concept, from the many maritime prints on the bedroom walls to the scrubbed timber floors and colour scheme seen throughout.

"The blue and ultramarine colours represent the Mediterranean Sea, and warm materials such as wood, leather and linen mixed with *llenguas* [traditional Mallorcan fabrics] give the whole hotel an up-to-date ▶



► and sophisticated atmosphere,” explains Rosa-Violán, whose other projects include the acclaimed Hotel Pulitzer in Barcelona and the Only You in Madrid.

A member of Design Hotels, Hotel Cort has 16 guestrooms, 14 of which are suites. The most exclusive is The Island, a penthouse duplex featuring a split-level terrace with its own Jacuzzi, sunbeds and panoramic views over the city. Others include the Plaça Suite overlooking the square, and The Private Terrace, which looks onto the hotel’s small but perfectly formed plunge pool and nautical blue-and-white tiled deck for sunbathers. That signature tiling extends throughout the hotel, uniting rooms, restaurant and miniature lobby.

“On the floors we created a great pattern composed out of more than 15 different mosaics with geometrical motifs that have a strong visual effect,” says Rosa-Violán.

Straying from the many minimalistic hotels in the capital, the designer strove instead to create a homely ambience. “In general, the decoration was intentionally very loaded, filling the interiors with shelves, mirrors and carpentry that visually interconnect the different ambiances.” The result is a hotel that feels cool yet cosy, with plenty to draw the eye.

A joint venture between Ramon Andreu Mulet, a Majorcan gastronomic entrepreneur, and two Swedish investors Ture Stendahl and Joachim Odqvist, the hotel has influences from both parties. Mulet’s magic touch – whose other projects include celebrated tapas chain Tast – is evident in the restaurant, which serves some of the best market-fresh food in the city. Guests can take their pick from tables, booths and benches, or grab a stool up at the raw oyster bar. By day, the space doubles as a buzzy café, with tables spilling ►

**THIS PAGE & PREVIOUS:** Signature tiling extends throughout the hotel, from the restaurant and Raw Bar to the nautical blue-and-white tiled deck

BELOW: In guestrooms and suites, ultramarine colours representing the Mediterranean Sea combine with warm materials such as wood, leather, linen and traditional Mallorcan fabrics



► outside onto the square where a huge ancient olive tree serves as a popular meeting spot for many locals.

Unusually, Rosa-Violán was also heavily involved in all aspects of the bar and restaurant, including the lighting. He explains: “The interior designer is an actor. He must dress up and change roles, understand new identities and integrate them with his own.”

Subtle nods to Scandinavia’s rich maritime history – as influenced by the hotel’s Swedish investors – can be found in the spacious guestrooms and suites, with framed maps on the walls and timber boards under foot.

The hotel receives more leisure tourists than business travellers and there is no real business centre to speak of, but German hotel manager Barbara Wunderlich points out “there is a small meeting room, the Altillo on the mezzanine floor which can be used for private dining as well as meetings”.

Wunderlich describes the hotel as a ‘cosy, cosmopolitan secret in the middle of the city’, and she might just be right. ■

#### EXPRESS CHECKOUT

##### Hotel Cort

Plaça de Cort 11  
07001 Palma de Mallorca  
Spain  
Tel: +34 971 21 33 00  
[www.hotelcort.com](http://www.hotelcort.com)

- 📍 16 guestrooms
- 🍴 Restaurant Hotel Cort, Raw Bar
- 🍹 Bar Altillo
- ☀️ Sun terrace, plunge pool

**Owner / Developer:** Joint venture between Ramon Andreu Mulet, Ture Stendahl and Joachim Odqvisti  
**Architects:** Vicente Alcover Ripoll and Luis Alcover Ripoll  
**Interior Design:** Contemporain Studio