

# ROOM AT THE TOP

**Bored of the same old naff rainbow B&B? QX's touring toff ADRIAN GILLAN straddles the gay globe to sample some of the queer world's most unique and extraordinary homo-friendly lodgings.**

## UK

**EDINBURGH:**  
**Prestonfield**  
**Priestfield Road**  
**Tel: 0131 225 7800**  
**www.prestonfield.com**

VELVETY chocolate rich boudoir-style palace-cum-hotel just south east of Edinburgh's centre: this is pure colourful extravagant indulgence enjoyed by the likes of Elton John and



Joan Collins! Sip champagne served by cute young waiters in jet black kilts in one of the many drawing room bars; fine dine at the Rhubarb Restaurant surrounded by art and antiques; luxuriate amidst mounds of silk cushions in bedrooms looking out onto Arthur's Seat and grounds full of peacocks all strutting their stuff. An utterly unique stunner! So amazing you'll scarce want to venture into Edinburgh itself to sample the city's fab scene and historic sites.

**BRIGHTON:**  
**Montpelier Hall Hotel**  
**17 Montpelier Terrace**  
**Tel: 01273 203 599**

RELAX in a large, listed Regency Villa of Italianate style with period drawing and dining rooms and a beautiful exotic garden where - if you're lucky - you might just get the grand treatment by charming owner Roger during parties and BBQs surrounded by cute uni-

formed servant boys. Little advertised and moderately priced, it's a real Brighton gem, a short walk yet a far cry from the roar of the sea and the madding Kempdown crowd. Just an hour from London!

**ORKNEY:**  
**Woodwick House Evie**  
**Tel: 01856 751330**  
**www.woodwickhouse.co.uk**

BRACE yourself for a true treat: a stay at Woodwick House in tiny Evie on the north coast of Orkney - one of the most isolated parts of the British Isles. Your gay-beckoning hosts - lovely young James and Thorfinn, his snow white Viking cat - will lavish you with attention in front of cosy fires and over delightful home-grown suppers. This warm, welcoming and comfortable historic country house boasts its own private beach at the foot of a lovely garden. Gay wedding ceremonies are possible in the garden's dovecot chapel! An oasis of calm and the perfect base from which to explore the glorious, haunting millennia of natural and man-made beauties that surrounds these Northern Isles.

**TORQUAY:**  
**Cliff House Hotel**  
**St. Mark's Road,**  
**Meadfoot Beach**  
**Tel: 01803 294 656**  
**www.cliffhousehotel.co.uk**

RETREAT to Torquay's Cliff House in Devon on Britain's dramatic south west coast - the longest-running exclusively-gay hotel in England, with its celebrated Locker Room sauna complex and theatrically-themed rooms. The garden gate leads to Meadfoot Beach, views of the East Shag and cliff walks to Daddyhole Cove, the old harbour and gay life as only Torquay knows it.

## EUROPE

**AUSTRIA/SALZBURG:**  
**Blaue Gans Hotel**  
**Getreidegasse 41-43**  
**Salzburg**  
**Tel: 0043 (0) 662 842491**  
**www.blauegans.at**

THE "Blue Goose" is only a few yards from Salzburg's famous Festival Theatres and mere doors from Mozart's Birthplace. Built in the 14th century, it was recently converted - splendidly blending the old and the new - into an "art hotel" bulging with modern sculptures and paintings, all for sale. Ella Fitzgerald has sung in the hotel's ancient basement bar. Fab restaurant too! The thrills are alive...



**SWITZERLAND/LUCERNE:**  
**The Hotel**  
**Sempacherstrasse 14, Lucerne**  
**Tel: 0041 (0)41 226 8686;**  
**www.the-hotel.ch**

NICELY nestling in Lucerne's gay district and a short walk from the town's eponymous lake, sumptuous yet minimalist gay-friendly 5-star The Hotel's lounge lobby bar is a bit of a queer haunt in its own right. Rooms all have huge images of scenes from art-house movies on their ceilings, gazing down; service is professional yet sexy; and the basement restaurant is out of this world! One of the classiest hotels on Earth in its own right - on the very doorstep of the Alps.





GRAN CANARIA WINTER SUN



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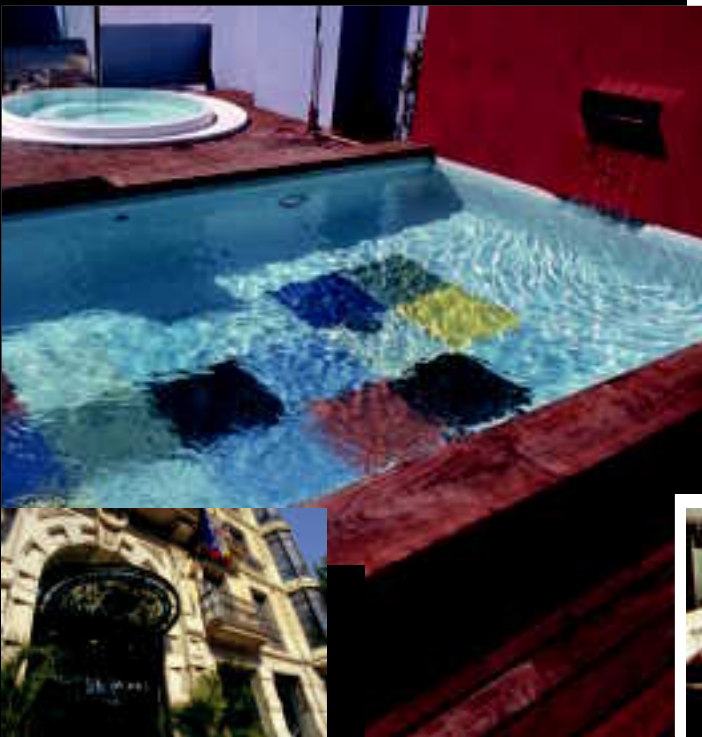
**NORWAY/OSLO:**  
**Radisson SAS Plaza Hotel**  
**Sonja Henies Plass, Oslo**  
**T: 0047 22 05 80 00**  
**www.radissonsas.com**

WHY keep your feet on the ground when surrounded by horny hoards of blue-eyed blondes? Check out the plush, central and utterly gay-friendly SAS Plaza in Oslo - Scandinavia's tallest hotel. It offers dizzy views of both city centre and Fjord, whether from your lofty room, the Sky Bar, roof top golf putting corridor or glass-walled sauna suites! Standard Rooms include laptop safe, three phones, wireless networking and heated bathroom floors. Pay a modest room upgrade for additional free Pay-TV, free newspaper and extra large towels and pillows! If you've several grand to spare, stay at the roof-top Presidential penthouse suite, luxuriating in the mammoth Jacuzzi that's lured everyone from Clinton to Elton.



**SPAIN/BARCELONA:**  
**Hotel Axel**  
**Aribau 33, Barcelona**  
**Tel: 0034 93 323 93 93**  
**www.hotelaxel.com**

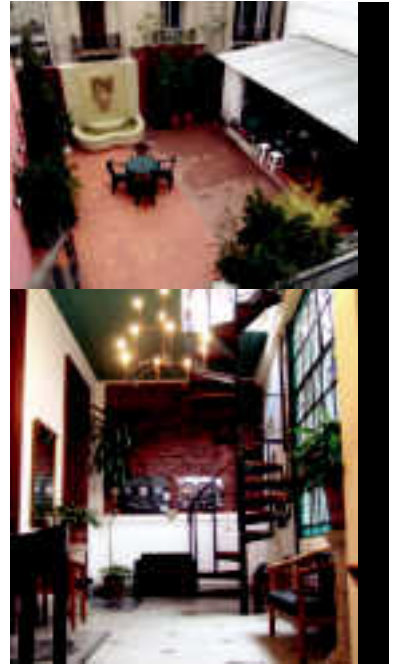
THE Axel is an exclusively gay hotel in Barcelona, located in the heart of the queer quarter, a mere ten minute walk from La Ramblas and the town centre. Designed with a taste for exuberance, it oozes personality whilst offering a tailored, genuine and professional service where all boy-needs are met by friendly staff. All Axel rooms are soundproofed, air conditioned and crafted for full-on comfort, with en-suite bathrooms and queen-size beds. The hotel also offers a chill-out area, library and spa-cum-gym. On the roof, you'll find the Sky Bar plus plunge pool, Jacuzzi and loads of loungers.



## WORLD

**SOUTH AMERICA/BUENOS AIRES:**  
**LugarGay**  
**Defensa 1120;**  
**Tel: 0054 11 4300 4747**  
**www.lugargay.org**

NEAR the famous San Telmo Market, fab gay-eatery Farmacia and the awesome Palacio homo club: this is the only gay men-only joint in Buenos Aires, with spacious rooms, hearty breakfasts and hosts who do everything to make your stay special. Lugar is as much an LGB community hub as it is a hotel, offering a range of activities - you haven't really arrived 'til you've tried the Gay Tango classes held here every Sunday 5pm-7pm. And what with luscious Latinos round every corner with jaws to die on, don't cry for me! Roll over Rio!



**SOUTH AFRICA/CAPE TOWN:**  
**Glen Hotel**  
**3 The Glen**  
**Tel: 0027 21 439 0086**  
**www.glenhotel.co.za**

IN the Sea Point district, the casually chic and perfectly located four-star Glen is Cape Town's première gay lodge - a shining hotel harbour amidst an onshore sea of B&Bs - offering a discreet and friendly haven for the more discerning gay traveller. In the very shadow of Table Mountain, where two mighty oceans collide, the Glen is gay-owned, managed and staffed, fitted to international standards and has its own exquisite restaurant.



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\* reabsorbable  
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