

Forbes

Living Like a Local: 7 Great 'Home-Tels'



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Travel

I know the difference between expensive travel and the truly luxurious

f Personally, I like the theatricality of a grand hotel. But maybe not all the time. Especially not in a compelling city. In a place like Tel Aviv, Lisbon **in** **tw** or Rome, I want my senses to be dazzled by the city itself, not overwhelmed by my accommodation. (And I say this as a proud luxury hotel junkie.)

I've dabbled in the world politely known as "home sharing," with mixed results. I would rather know what I'm getting. And I want at least a *little* handholding when I'm in an unfamiliar place, even if I don't want to be showered with five-star attention.

So it pleases me to see the rise of what one savvy hotelier (home-telier?) calls the "home-tel." These small places are intimate and cozy, full of personality but accessible, somewhere between lightly serviced apartments and full-service hotels. They have residential architecture and furnishings, plenty of space, shared spaces that can feel private, and gracious hosts who are anything but obtrusive. Guests are treated as friends and made to feel at home. Here are seven of the best right now.

Atemporal, Lima

The owners of the impossibly dreamy Titilaka on Peru's Lake Titicaca, opened this boutique home-tel in Lima a few years ago to accommodate guests who were en route to more remote locales. Atemporal occupies a restored 1940s mansion in the posh Milaflores district. It has nine stylish, playful rooms and a home-from-home sensibility that extends to a shared living room and garden with complimentary coffee, tea and evening cocktails; a house car on call for neighborhood excursions; bikes to borrow; and a mobile hotspot to use around Lima.

