

FYi
 In Portugal, Valentine's Day is called Dia dos Namorados, or Lovers' Day. A local tradition is to give gift baskets, which can be filled with chocolates, wine or something more personal...



ABOVE The hotel's famous oval pool. RIGHT A fire in a Loft guest room makes a dramatic focal point. BELOW The Spanish colonial-style lobby.



AREIAS DO SEIXO Portugal

The lowdown Dramatic design on the Atlantic seaboard
Best for Retreating from the world in style
 With rugged scenery and wild surf rolling onto empty beaches, the coast north of Lisbon is perfect for retreating from hectic lives. And this part of the world has something else going for it in Areias do Seixo, a collection of 10 unique rooms, one penthouse and four villas tucked away among the sand dunes of Costa de Prata, a 35-minute drive from the capital. The architecture may be modern, but the interiors take their inspiration from India and Morocco, blending natural textures with glamorous touches, such as a huge driftwood bed next to sparkling chandeliers. Giant drench showers, private hot tubs – so far, so romantic, but if you do leave your room, the hotel also has a luxurious spa, an outdoor pool and an organic restaurant serving local specialities from the wood-fired oven (plus, unusually, a vegetarian menu).
Book it Weekend rooms from £250 (i-escape.com)

TOP A stylish mix of natural textures in the Nha Cretcheu room. ABOVE The hotel's sleekly modern exterior. RIGHT Earthy elements in the Terra room.



HOTEL BEL-AIR Los Angeles

The lowdown A hotel icon is reborn after a complete refit
Best for Feeling like a film star from a bygone age
 No icon wants to feel as if she's past her prime, so after a two-year renovation, the Hotel Bel-Air is back to claim its title as the go-to glamorous hideaway. This was a gentle refit, though, and sensitive to the hotel's bones and place in Tinsel Town's history. So the familiar Spanish colonial architecture splashed in Bel-Air Pink remains, as does the famous oval pool, the 12 acres of lush planting and the swans on the lake. The new interiors draw inspiration from Hollywood's golden decades from the Thirties to the Fifties. As well as the existing luxurious guest rooms, three new Loft guest rooms have been added – **Livingetc** loved the double-sided fireplace (above). There are also Canyon View suites and speciality suites for the grandest romantic gestures – our favourites are the Grace Kelly and the Swan Lake. Beautify and relax in the La Prairie Spa before tucking into dinner in celebrated chef Wolfgang Puck's eponymous restaurant.
Book it Double rooms from £339 (tablethotels.co.uk)