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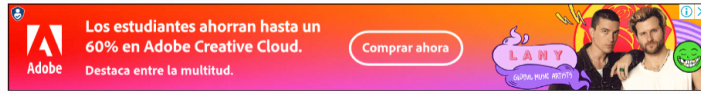
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Living Like a Local: 7 Great 'Home-Tels'

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Ann Abel is a Lisbon-based writer covering luxury travel with a soul

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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 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.



The Levee YEHUDA HALEVI

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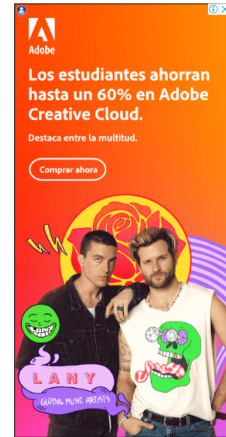
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The Levee, Tel Aviv

Opening this summer, the Levee consists of eight massive, stylish

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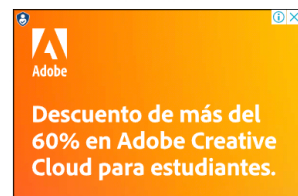
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apartments in a restored Eclectic architecture-style villa. Its rooftop-spanning penthouse has 360-degree panoramic windows the look out into the neighborhood and the Tel Aviv cityscape.



Atemporal ATEMPORAL

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.



Villa Rosmarino VILLA ROSMARINO

Villa Rosmarino, Camogli, Italy

Their sales pitch says it all: "This is a home, not a hotel. There are no numbers on the bedroom doors. There's no red carpet. There's no hotel hall. In Villa Rosmarino you don't simply stay...you live in it." The six bedrooms are in a small 1907 palace (parts of which are older) near Portofino, with green shutters and trompe l'oeil work on the walls to reproduce the frescoes.



Ett Hem ETT HEM

Ett Hem, Stockholm

This Arts and Crafts building was put up in 1910, people who had a propensity for beauty. It's a home away from home, steeped in the Scandinavian aesthetic in which functionality meets aesthetics. Subsequent owners carefully transformed it into a 12-room hotel with a courtyard garden that is a secret city wilderness that's perfect for summer breakfasts or evenings sharing a bottle of wine.



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