

Cognoscenti magazine

Because life is short

CASA DEL RECTOR
ALMAGRO, SPAIN

Hidden behind a thick wooden door on a quiet street in elegant Almagro Spain is the stylish hotel, **Casa del Rector**. This imaginative blend of modern and antiquarian decorative tendencies will surely please even the most discerning of visitors.

After three years of restoration, the hotel—originally a 17th century house—opened to guests in July 2001. In an interview with **Cognoscenti Magazine** editors, owner Juan Garcia Elvira explained how he began the job with a “thought” or “vision,” which he attempted to “transmit” to the rooms in a finished decorative product. In the process, he often tried out several different answers to problems posed by space and construction constraints, not resting until the right solution—one both harmonious and practical—presented itself.

The room in which we stayed is a cleverly-designed space with a comfortable downstairs area, plus a nice loft, complete with its own sofa and air-conditioner, reached by a steep wooden staircase. To borrow Mr. Garcia Elvira’s phrase, the loft is one of the aspects that make the room feel “like its own little apartment.”

There was plenty to explore. The beds were so comfortable, we scarcely suspected that they are fully adjustable—until we noticed the remote-control mechanism discretely tucked under the mattress. In the bathroom, more discoveries: a hydro-massage spa big enough for two! In the bath, bright green

stones are embedded into the wall with bright orange mortar holding them in place, marking a hint of decorator’s humor. Adding to the luxurious impressions are copper bathroom fixtures, a motif that is echoed by rows of decorative copper pots. Towels



An imaginative fireplace in one of the suites

and bathrobes are hand-embroidered with “Casa del Rector”—another touch of elegance.

Casa del Rector is artsy: The batik prints from

Mozambique, for instance, lead guests beyond traditional Spanish artistic styles into much more varied forms of expression.

In the main courtyard, checkered tile floors, winding staircases, trickling fountains and sun admitted through overhead skylights combine to create the impression of an outdoor space that is in reality fully enclosed.

Throughout the hotel, the result is felicitous. Casa del Rector is, just as Mr. Garcia Elvira says, “a construction that does not look like a construction.”



It's all in the details:
copper fixture in the bath

This article was written by contributing editors to *Cognoscenti Magazine*.

© 2002 *Cognoscenti Magazine*

Casa del Rector

Calle Pedro Oviedo, 9

Almagro

Spain

Ph: 926 26 12 59

Email: recepcion@lacasadelrector.com