

Cognoscenti magazine

Because life is short

CASA PALACIO
UCLÉS, SPAIN

Lying on the town square of the small village of Uclés, Spain, Casa Palacio opened to hotel guests in July 2001, following 2 years of painstaking restoration to a building that dates from 1546.

The hotel features an extensive and unusually deep underground cave system, which contains seating areas for those seeking to escape summer heat, as well as a wine cellar. Once upon a time, the many caves that dot the ground beneath the houses in this village were connected to one another, providing a continuous underground passageway—until not so long ago it was possible to reach the well-known Uclés monastery from the Casa Palacio through this fascinating subterranean network.

Inside, elements of stone, adobe and wood are combined to create languid and elegant lodging spaces. Each room has a theme; “La Terraza” has a large private stone terrace that overlooks the swimming pool, “Las Camaras” includes a suite with a retractable skylight and an old-style washbasin, and “El Cernedor” was originally a washroom.

Our room is called “Los Baúles,” because of its two antique chests. Cleverly topped with glass, these serve as bedside tables. The room is primarily straight

lines—exposed beams, squarish wooden furniture, and angular lamps—which are balanced by the curvaceous shapes of 2 armchairs. There are expanses of polished wood flooring, and the blackout curtains that cover one side of our room can be drawn for

privacy or opened for views of an inner courtyard open to the sky. Other room amenities include minibar, satellite television, and modern bathroom.

The effect of the relatively sparse décor is to give a feeling of spaciousness—a

refreshing change from the cluttered (and sometimes cloistered!) sensation at other country guest hotels, where china-and-curio cabinets are often much in evidence!

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

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Los Baúles

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