

Let's hear it for the little

If 2017 taught us anything, it's that size really doesn't matter when it comes to hotels. A number of last year's most beautifully done properties clocked in at under 10 rooms, joining a growing genre that blends the service and infrastructure of a big hotel with the intimacy of a homestay.

The 7th Room, Treehotel, Harads, Sweden

Norwegian powerhouse design firm Snøhetta created this futuristic tree house - with huge skylights for viewing the Northern Lights - 10m up a Lapland pine. treehotel.se

Casa Flora, Venice

Twenty Italian artisans turned a three-bedroom apartment into a sun-flooded modern retreat in San Marco. casaflora venezia.com

Ottantotto Firenze, Florence

Architect Fabrizia Scassellati used terra-cotta tiles and floral wallpaper in seven cosy rooms along the Arno. ottantottofirenze.it

Santa Clara 1728, Lisbon

Design geeks will fall hard for the open-plan

bathrooms, limestone staircase and grey-blue walls in this six-suite, 18th-century villa. santaclara1728.com

Wm. Mulherin's Sons Hotel, Philadelphia

These four rooms with exposed-brick walls and cacti above Philly's famed restaurant of the same name may be the coolest spot to sleep on the US East Coast right now. wmmulherins sons.com

FOOD-FIRST HOTELS

Or, as we see them, amazing restaurants that also have beds.

Akelare, San Sebastián, Spain

Eating cuisine from the legendary Basque chef Pedro Subijana before walking to your room and slipping into sweet grapefuelled sleep is the stuff of dreams. akelarre.net

The DeBruce, Livingston Manor, **New York**

We ate the deer



heart and loved it, and everything else on the ninecourse tasting menu. thedebruce.com

Wanås Restaurant Hotel, Knislinge, Sweden

In a stylishly converted cow barn (the owner-architect trained under Rem Koolhaas), we had one of the best brunches ever - the frittata with onion cream was insane. wanasrh.se

