



# II Salviatino New Zealand Herald 19th May 2025

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# Literary tourism >>





# Hotels with a story to tell

From Mediterranean villas to quaint London townhouses, Lucy Pearson shares six hotels that are perfect for book lovers

Ethe Auckland Writers Festival whet

f the Auckland Writers Festival whet your appetite for all things books, you're not alone. Library tout be in the ring, a moment — and a lucrative one of their. Projected to reach USEs, but his surp in popularity of library rease! reflects a growing appetite for travel that's as cracking as it is reducing. Whether you'rea mader who lioves to travel or a traveller who loves to read, buildingshife for a traveller who loves to read, buildingshife for nied getaways aroun the rise — from immersive retreats to hoods a tempod in literary history. This boutings estays with curated libraries, literary-themed rosens, and historic builds also one boots of great authors. Each one offers something special for the story-onelier in search of a slower, more meaningful stay.

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Hegency charm. Once the London residence of
Jane Austern's favourite brother, Henry, this
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Collins, the hotel is both whitested and refined:
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view over London's skyline. It's not just a hood
—it's a literary also hrought back to life.

Bishvistine, Florence



Guests can read in the atmospheric library—still stocked with library treasures—or lounge in freestanding bathtubs with a book and a view. A rec ballhule with a book and a view. A recent refur belomes the owner the villa's artistic legacy while making space for modern comforts, including the sorme-Aquae Vitali gas. It Salviatho is a palace where the past and present worve seemlessly together

If you're after a hotel that blends literary Hyou to other a hands that blends literary tradition with social impact, The Jefferso in Washington DC in a mast-v bid. Its elegant Book Boom fostures dark wood panelling, planh sesting and an open fire—an loveling setting for anyone with a penchant for history, politics and roses.

prose.
But it's not just for grown-ups.
Through their Pirst Library Book
Program, the hotel docuses a children's
book to the DC Public Library's Blooks from
Birth programme for every room booked, in
partnership with Dodly Partner's Imagination
Library. At The Jefferson, reading isn't justa
pastime—if's a legacy.

Hotel Belles Rives, Cole d'Azur Formerly VIIIs Saint-Louis, Hotel Belles Rives is where F. Scott and Zeids Fitzgerald Freed in the 1920s white Scott began writing Tender in the Night, Perched above the allemering Mediterranean in Juan dee Pinn, the hotel is n paeas to Art-Deco elegance and Juzz-Age decadores. Still one hotel.

decadence.
Still run by the same family, Belles Rives onlebrates its literary past with Fitigrands themed suites, onletails at Bar Fitigrands, and a year-long centenary celebration of The Great

Gatsly this year. With themed dinners expert-sed tours and currated menus, it's an immersion-experience for arryone-who's ever been swept away by the glamour and tragedy of the Riviera's most foreous

## Grand Hotel Central, Be

Grand Hotel Central, Barcelona
Barcelona's Grand Hetel Central in a
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Frances Cemba, as well as beoledirus
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Barcelona's artistic soil.

The Book Village Inn, Blobart, New York In upstate New York, the charming Book Village Inn is neated in Hebrary in through Book Village—home one were in dependent bookshops, coss earlies, and a the vising library community. The inn's flow rooms are named after itemic authors such as Auton and Hemingway, with viriting itemishings, historic details and modern centarts. Every June, Hobert's Postsival of Women Writers for avareaders and writers from occasion for a weekend of rowalings, workshops and discussions. Year round, guests on browns area books, attempt gubble lectures, and studies and some other workshops and discussions. Year round, guests on browns area books, attempt gubble lectures, and studies and books with housts 50,000 volumes, or Creative Corner Books for vintage coddoosits and DIY impiration allor.

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fthe Auckland Writers Festival whet your appetite for all things books, you're not alone. Literary tourism is having a moment — and a lucrative one at that. Projected to reach US\$3.3 billion by 2034, the surge in popularity of literary travel reflects a growing appetite for travel that's as enriching as it is relaxing.

Whether you're a reader who loves to travel or a traveller who loves to read, bibliophilefocused getaways are on the rise - from immersive retreats to hotels steeped in literary history. Think boutique stays with curated libraries, literary-themed rooms, and historic hotels that once hosted great authors. Each one offers something special for the story-seeker in earch of a slower, more meaningful stay.

### Henry's Townhouse, London

Tucked into a quiet Marylebone street, Henry's Townhouse is a literary time capsule steeped in Regency charm. Once the London residence of Jane Austen's favourite brother, Henry, this exquisitely restored townhouse invites guests into a world of character and creativity. With interiors by Russell Sage Studio and the thoughtful eye of owners Steven and Jane Collins, the hotel is both whimsical and refined: think hidden honesty bars, antique curiosities and plush reading nooks.

Each of the six bedrooms is themed around a different Austen family member, while the elegant Monsieur Halavant's Pantry and the cosy Carriage Snug provide the perfect backdrops for a chapter - or a glass of something stronger. The Drawing Room is ideal for fireside reading or afternoon tea, while the rooftop terrace offers a view over London's skyline. It's not just a hotel
— it's a literary salon brought back to life.

Perched on a hillside above Florence. Il Salviatino is a 15th-century villa once owned by poet and art critic Ugo Ojetti, who transformed it into a haven for artists and writers, including Salvador Dali. That creative spirit still stands today across the villa's expansive grounds,

terraced gardens, and storied library. Guests can read in the atmospheric

library — still stocked with literary treasures — or lounge in freestanding bathtubs with a book and a view. A recent refurbishment honours the villa's artistic legacy while making space for modern comforts, including the serene Aquae Vitali spa. Il Salviatino is a place where the past and present weave seamlessly together.

## The Jefferson, Washington DO

If you're after a hotel that blends literary tradition with social impact, The Jefferson in Washington DC is a must-visit. Its elegant Book Room features dark wood panelling, plush seating and an open fire
—an inviting setting for anyone with
a penchant for history, politics and

But it's not just for grown-ups. Through their First Library Book Program, the hotel donates a children's book to the DC Public Library's Books from Birth programme for every room booked, in partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. At The Jefferson, reading isn't just a pastime—it's a legacy.

Hotel Belles Rives, Cote d'Azur Formerly Villa Saint-Louis, Hotel Belles Rives is where F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald lived in the 1920s while Scott began writing *Tender is the* Night. Perched above the glimmering Mediterranean in Juan-les-Pins, the hotel is a paean to Art-Deco elegance and Jazz-Age

Still run by the same family, Belles Rives celebrates its literary past with Fitzgerald-themed suites, cocktails at Bar Fitzgerald, and a year-long centenary celebration of

Gatsby this year. With themed dinner expert-led tours and curated menus, it's an immersive experience for anyone who's ever been swept away by the glamour and tragedy of the Riviera's most famous

## Grand Hotel Central, Barcelon

Barcelona's Grand Hotel Central is a gateway to Catalan culture—and a hidden gem for bibliophiles. The hotel's heart is a historic library featuring the personal collection of its founder, politician and cultural patron Francesc Cambo, as well as books from authors who have visited over the years

Reopened in 2024 after a sweeping renovation, the hotel blends luxury with legacy. From its rooftop pool and wellness suite to the curated gallery in its entrance hall, Grand Hotel Central offers book lovers a rich taste of Barcelona's artistic soul.

## The Book Village Inn, Hobart, New York

In upstate New York, the charming Book Village Inn is nestled in Hobart's famous Book Village — home to seven independent bookshops, cosy cafes, and a thriving literary community. The inn's five rooms are named after iconic authors such as Austen and Hemingway, with vintage furnishings, historic

details and modern comforts.

Every June, Hobart's Festival of Women Writers draws readers and writers from across the country for a weekend of readings, workshops and discussions. Year-round, guests can browse rare books, attend public lectures, and stroll among the village's shelves. Don't miss Liberty Rock Books, which boasts 50,000 volumes, or Creative Corner Books for vintage cookbooks and DIY inspiration alike.

From top, Book Village Inn is located in an upstate New York town with seven indie bookshops; Barcelona's Grand Hotel Central houses founder Francesc Cambo's private book collection; Belles Rives hosts centenary events for The Great Gatsby this year: Il Salviatino's former owner hosted artists and writers including Salvador Dali. Photos / Supplied

