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Mercer Hotel Barcelona,  
Barri Gòtic  
*On the ramparts*

Made up of original Roman-era walls and 14th-century pointed archways, this atmospheric 28-room affair is located down a steep street in Barri Gòtic. The peculiar architectural history means that no two rooms are the same; many boast original exposed bricks and wooden ceiling struts alongside Italian furniture and the odd tasteful Arne Jacobsen lamp here or Carl Hansen & Søn chair there. The light is better the higher you climb up the three-storey building; proximity to the central courtyard also helps in this regard.

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**MONOCLE COMMENT:**

Downstairs the eponymous restaurant turns out a tidy choice of Catalan cuisine (try the grilled mussels), while the small library, cocktail bar and lobby overlooking the courtyard are all apt places to linger with a *vermut*.