

In bed with Bono, Robert De Niro and Catherine Zeta-Jones...top ten hotels owned by celebrities

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A-list celebrities are no strangers to the delights of 24-hour room service, complimentary toiletries and the contents of a mini-bar. And all that international globe-trotting means that their favourite hotels often become a home-from-home.

Howard Hughes enjoyed his stay at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas so much he bought it; Elvis took up residence at the Beverley Wilshire in Los Angeles while filming at nearby Paramount Studios in the 1950s; and actor Richard Harris had his own suite on stand-by at the Savoy. He was carried out of the hotel on a stretcher after suffering a fatal heart attack and, in a final witty riposte, it's rumoured he warned a fellow guest on the way out: 'Don't have the fish'.

So it's no wonder that many A-list stars have been tempted to set up their own hotels - they've carried out a wealth of market research, have the money to fund it, the celebrity profile to raise a bit of publicity and, of course, just the sort of place they'd like to stay in should they happen to be in the neighbourhood.

So if you fancy bumping into De Niro in the lift, comparing tans with Donatella by the pool or sharing the same bidet as Bono read on...



Style central: If you're looking for a fashionable place to stay you can't go wrong with Donatella Versace's Palazzo Versace hotel in Queensland, Australia

The Greenwich Hotel, New York

Celebrity owner: Robert De Niro

One of the newest celebrity hotels on the block, The Greenwich Hotel opened last April after several false starts. Located in New York's trendy TriBeCa district, the hotel has 88 rooms, all with a unique design that De Niro claims to have had a hand in creating.

The furnishings have been chosen from across the globe and include Tibetan silk rugs, English leather settees, Swedish beds, Moroccan tiles and Italian marble in the bathrooms.

There are concessions to modern technology such as flat screen TVs, iPod docking stations and complimentary WiFi, and the overall feel is very relaxed - like you've wandered into someone's home - complete with open fires, comfy sofas and well-worn rugs.

The restaurant serves Italian cuisine, a nod to De Niro's heritage, while the Asian-inspired spa helps stressed-out New Yorkers unwind with deep muscle massages and Chinese reflexology.

www.thegreenwichhotel.com

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-1205052/In-bed-Bono-Robert-De-Niro-Catherine-Zeta-Jones--hotels-owned-celebrities.html#ixzz1B15OoS9h>

Sundance Resort, Sundance, Utah

Celebrity owner: Robert Redford

The Sundance Kid bought the local ski resort of Timphaven in the 1950s and, instead of filling the canyon with hotels and condominiums as advised, he decided to set up a resort where, as he puts it, 'nature and creativity obey the same laws to the same end: life'. Hmm.

Among the other quotes on the website is the assertion that: 'It's Sundance's ability to blend process and place that puts it in uncharted waters on a steady course of its own.' Quite. But don't be put off by such woolly new-age statements because the area boasts stunning natural beauty along with some great skiing opportunities.

Accommodation is provided in the form of cosy wooden mountain lodges that feature wood fires and some surprisingly modern touches including WiFi. They also have their own patios so you can enjoy alfresco dining while watching the sun set over Mount Timpanogos and the impressive Cuckoo's Nest lodge boasts three floors of living space plus an indoor pool and a sauna.

There are several on-site restaurants to choose from, as well as a deli, and a range of activities from mountain biking to horse riding to alleviate any cabin fever. Not surprisingly, the resort also promotes the arts and regularly hosts music festivals and open-air theatre shows along with screenings of competition films throughout the Sundance Festival.

www.sundanceresort.com

Cypress Inn, Carmel, California

Celebrity owner: Doris Day



Packed full of Doris Day memorabilia the Cypress Inn is just down the road from Clint Eastwood's ranch

Carmel is a popular place with the stars and not far from Clint Eastwood's ranch is Cypress Inn, which is co-owned by Doris Day, who lives in Carmel Valley.

It's the perfect place to soak up some Hollywood glamour; Doris Day memorabilia and posters are dotted around the hotel and you can sample martinis in the lounge or afternoon tea in the 'Day Room' where Doris Day films can be viewed upon request.

And because Day is a pet lover, dog and cats are more than welcome. In fact you're actively encouraged to bring along a furry friend and there's a pet-friendly beach is just a stone's throw away.

www.cypress-inn.com

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-1205052/In-bed-Bono-Robert-De-Niro-Catherine-Zeta-Jones--hotels-owned-celebrities.html#ixzz1B15RIDyG>

Mission Ranch, Carmel, California

Celebrity owner: Clint Eastwood

It's no surprise that Eastwood opted for a ranch but this property is more Little House On The Prairie than Rawhide. Located in the Monterey Peninsula, the ranch encompasses 22 acres, which includes meadows and wetlands, and has a homely, all-American feel.

Eastwood bought the ranch in 1986 to save it from being turned into condominiums and set about restoring it to its former glory.

Its restaurant is the star of the show and even features the antique stove that was used in Eastwood's film The Unforgiven. Locals and tourists alike flock there for hearty ranch-style food with a Californian twist followed by a good old knees-up round the piano in the bar.

www.missionranchcarmel.com

The Big Sleep, Cardiff

Celebrity owner: John Malkovich



Sleep tight: John Malkovich's modern hotel stands out in Cardiff

Having a Hollywood star as one of its owners isn't the only thing The Big Sleep has going for it; it also boasts a plum location opposite Cardiff International Arena, just a short walk from Cardiff Central station.

Housed in a former 1960s office block it's a budget hotel with style and Malkovich is said to have had a hand in designing many of the rooms.

They're light and spacious, decorated variously in cool blues, powder pinks and neutral browns, and many of them offer king-sized beds and satellite TV.

Prices start from a credit crunch-friendly £45 for a budget room, and the penthouse suite is the most expensive at £99, but most of the rooms feature great views over the city.

The concept was so good, the hotel has spawned two sister hotels in Cheltenham and Eastbourne.

www.thebigsleephotel.com

Rival Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden

Celebrity owner: Abba's Benny Andersson

Unlike most of Abba's stage costumes, Benny Andersson's boutique hotel benefits from chic, tasteful design. Pale wood floors and contemporary furniture are offset by pretty floral fabrics, colourful curtains and striking black and white prints.

The only reference to Seventies pop is the Abba Gold album in every room, along with a selection of other CDs, a sound system, DVD player and a plasma TV.

There's also a café and a bistro that serve Swedish fare, an on-site bakery, a 700-seat theatre that features regular concerts and performances, and a funky cocktail bar that hosts some of Stockholm's best guest DJs who no doubt get mightily cheesed off at the regular requests for Waterloo.

www.rival.se

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-1205052/In-bed-Bono-Robert-De-Niro-Catherine-Zeta-Jones--hotels-owned-celebrities.html#ixzz1B15UMXip>

The Clarence Hotel, Dublin

Celebrity owner: Bono



Irish charm: The waterside Clarence Hotel in Dublin is owned by U2 band members Bono and The Edge

U2's Bono and The Edge clubbed together to buy The Clarence back in 1992 and set about restoring it to its former glory.

No expense has been spared: the rooms are decorated in rich colours of crimson, royal blue, gold and chocolate and feature Italian limestone in the bathrooms, velvet drapes and specially crafted Shaker-style oak beds complete with crisp white Egyptian linen.

The Penthouse would more than accommodate the owners' rock star friends and features two master suites, a living room, dining room, a kitchen, private bar, baby grand piano and outdoor hot tub with superb views of the River Liffey and Dublin skyline.

If you don't have the rock star budget head to the hotel's Octagon bar, which is a popular hang-out and guarantees a close encounter with a famous fashion designer, actor, musician or model.

www.theclarence.ie

Palazzo Versace, Gold Coast, Australia

Celebrity owner: Donatella Versace

It doesn't get much glitzier than the Gold Coast so it's no surprise that Donatella Versace chose the sun-drenched resort as the location for her fashionable hotel.

The extravagant five-star venue is an extension of the brand and has been given the Versace golden touch. The glittering lobby features marble flooring, grand pillars and chandeliers, while there's polished wood flooring, glamorous gold drapes, high-quality finishings and sunken baths in each of the rooms. It even has its own man-made beach, complete with palm trees.

If you're heading there with your entourage, book in to one of the condominium suites, which have their own kitchens, dining rooms and balconies and housed the I'm A Celebrity rejects when they'd been booted out of the jungle.

And if you've been sold on the Versace lifestyle, you can visit the on-site homeware shop and take a little piece of luxury home with you.

www.palazzoversace.com

Blancaneaux Lodge, Belize

Celebrity owner: Francis Ford Coppola



Rainforest retreat: Francis Ford Coppola's Blancaneaux Lodge is a beautiful Belizean hideaway

Film director Francis Ford Coppola owns not one but three resorts along with a hotel: Blancaneaux Lodge and Turtle Inn are located in Belize, while La Lancha is in Guatemala and Jardin Escondido in the Argentine capital Buenos Aires.

Coppola says he fell in love with Blancaneaux Lodge after he travelled to Belize in search of the same jungle paradise he found when shooting *Apocalypse Now* in the Philippines. He found it in a state of disrepair and snapped it up.

Its cabanas all have kitchens, queen-sized beds and en-suite bathrooms. There's a restaurant that serves classic Italian cuisine of which Don Corleone would be proud, a spa offering Thai massage, horse stables, an organic vegetable garden and a chicken coop whose inhabitants provide fresh eggs daily.

The location provides plenty of opportunities to explore, including hikes into the surrounding mountains to spot iguanas and rare howler monkeys, expeditions to ancient Mayan ruins and of course star gazing; previous guests have included Leonardo DiCaprio and Cameron Diaz.

www.blancaneaux.com

Ariel Sands, Devonshire, Bermuda

Celebrity owners: Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones

Michael Douglas enjoyed his stay at the Bermuda resort so much he bought shares in the company and is now a regular visitor with his wife Catherine.

The 14-acre resort features a series of beachside cottages located on Bermuda's South Shore that offer the perfect ocean view. The Atlantic is just a short walk from each property and guests can snorkel around the shoreline or relax in the saltwater and heated freshwater pools.

There's also a club house and restaurant that serves breakfast, lunch, complimentary afternoon tea and dinner, as well as a spa, fitness centre, volleyball, badminton and tennis courts so there's no excuse for not having honed that Hollywood physique.

www.arielsands.com

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