

# 101 HOTELS

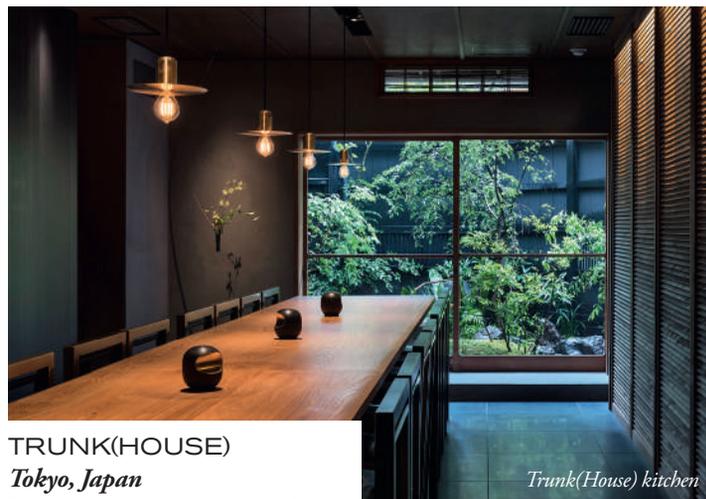
## ROMANCE REVIVERS



**TOREL 1884**  
**Porto, Portugal**

An insiders' secret, this is a magical place to fulfil that 'must-have-romantic-weekend-somewhere-divine' feeling. The skyline of clock towers, church spires and distinctive azulejo blue-and-white tiled facades of enchanting Porto can't help but seduce, even more so now, since the historic palace hotel in the heart of the city has recently swung open its doors to guests. Built in 1884, with the imposing grandeur one would expect of a 19th-century Portuguese palace – elegance with a hint of decadence and a candlelit ambience behind plush drawn curtains, inspired by discoveries on three continents from Portugal's Golden Age. Torel 1884 houses 12 high-ceilinged rooms and apartments, which come with vast arched windows, huge mirrors, four-poster beds and enormous free-standing baths. Bibliophiles will rejoice in the Asia suite, with its sweeping staircase and library, where more than 3,000 books jostle with a collection of pottery and wooden artefacts, alongside an honesty bar hidden in a vintage trunk and deep velvet sofas. Africa, on the ground floor, is like having your own pied à terre and opens straight into the dimly lit wine bistro, Bartolomeu, a convivial city hotspot, where tapas and a sensational list of local wines await. *Double, from £110 (torel1884.com).*

*Bartolomeu at Torel 1884*



**TRUNK(HOUSE)**  
**Tokyo, Japan**

For a dash of raffish glamour, high-octane Shinjuku might not seem the obvious choice for romance, but in the maze of streets in the old Kagurazaka district lies Tokyo's sexiest hideaway – the fabulously quirky Trunk(House), so exclusive that it doesn't even have a sign. This micro-hotel for two in 'Hide and Seek Alley' is housed in a former geisha training house. Over two stunning floors, the interior is an eclectic mix of traditional Japanese decoration with international contemporary art and design. A futon bed sits beneath a silk collage by Brooklyn artist Alex Dodge; leather sofas by LA-based Stephen Kenn furnish the living space; and the bathroom's cypress soaking tub is plenty big enough for two. It's tongue-in-cheek, but also seriously

*Trunk(House) kitchen*

slick. Stylishly dressed in black bontan trousers by Yohji Yamamoto, the butler Yusuke (who is on call 24 hours) can at a moment's notice summon geisha for private performances or a hip tea-master monk to serve matcha. Private chef Masashi Okamoto creates sublime foie gras chawanmushi and wagyu cutlets, laid out à deux beside the pretty pocket garden. You can order freshly made ramen whatever time you roll in – this is Shinjuku, after all. Hit the house's fun 'Hanamichi Disco', complete with cocktail bar, just through the soundproof door next to the kitchen. Ultimately, it's your own private club – romantic revellers can party until the early hours. *Double, from £3,600 (trunk-house.com).*

## *Linger in the poolside bar for dreamy sunset Laluna Coladas*



*Romantic cottage bedroom at Laluna*

**LALUNA**  
**Grenada, Caribbean**

The world outside can wait at this dreamy tropical idyll, hidden behind banks of towering heliconia along its own secluded stretch of Portici Beach on the southwest tip of Grenada. With 16 stylish cottages built into the hillside, stucco-finished in pinks and blues to reflect the colourful flora of the Spice Isle, this bohemian bolthole is wonderfully intimate and relaxed with four-poster beds clad in the softest linens, whirring rattan fans and French doors which open wide to views of treetops and yachts gracefully gliding across the pristine blue bay below. There are private plunge pools, Balinese daybeds and sweeping verandahs, which guests can pad between, soaking up that distinctively 'slow' pace of island life. Or you can while away the day ordering some of the best Italian dishes in the Caribbean (thanks to Laluna's Milanese owner Bernardo Bertucci); try the pappardelle with nutmeg cream, crab linguini or the catch of the day, freshly grilled with a pineapple citrus salsa. Then linger in the hotel's thatched poolside bar for dreamy sunset Laluna Coladas and ease away any remaining tension with an Indonesian massage, performed by two Balinese therapists; or take a stroll in the hotel's sculpture garden, the Enchanted Forest. This is a pure, blissed-out fantasy of an escape. *Double, from £377 (laluna.com).*