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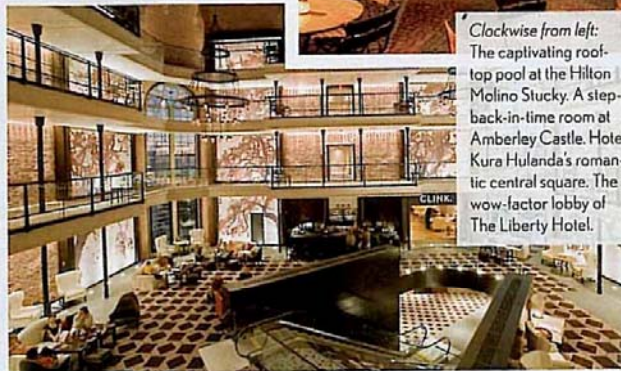
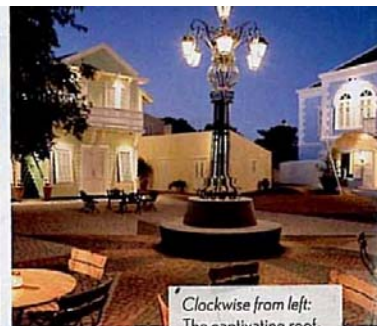
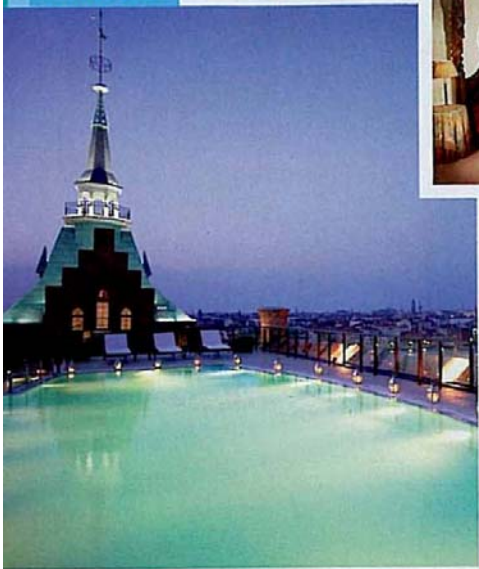
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Clockwise from left: The captivating rooftop pool at the Hilton Molino Stucky. A step-back-in-time room at Amberley Castle. Hotel Kura Hulanda's romantic central square. The wow-factor lobby of The Liberty Hotel.

Hotels With a Past

Now pampering guests with upscale amenities, these **10 romance-ready properties** were all once something else: convents, factories, prisons and palaces

1. **AMBERLEY CASTLE, SUSSEX, ENGLAND** Stay in one of this medieval fortress' 19 rooms and be seduced by 900 years of history. Massive four-poster beds offer authenticity, while the whirlpool tub is a nod to modernity (doubles from \$259; amberleycastle.co.uk).
2. **FOUR SEASONS SULTANAHMET, ISTANBUL** This century-old building in the city's oldest neighborhood may once have been a prison, but these days the only bar that remains serves cocktails. Some of the 65 rooms have views of the Blue Mosque (doubles from \$400; fourseasons.com).
3. **HILTON MOLINO STUCKY, VENICE** Flour once dusted the floors of this former mill on the Giudecca Canal, but now 380 rooms with timber-beamed ceilings welcome guests. The rooftop pool is a unique perch from which to savor the beauty of Venice (doubles from \$203; molinostuckyhilton.com).
4. **HOTEL DE LA CITÉ, CARCASSONNE, FRANCE** Originally an Episcopalian palace, this property sits amid a hill-top city in southern France. Many of

- its 61 rooms and suites have views of ancient towers, while the heated pool in the garden is très inviting (doubles from \$418; hoteldelacite.com).
5. **HOTEL EL CONVENTO, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO** It began life 356 years ago as a Carmelite convent, but these days this Spanish colonial gem in Old San Juan has 58 rooms, plus salons and courtyards accented with palm plants and wood-beamed ceilings (doubles from \$170; elconvento.com).
6. **HOTEL KURA HULANDA SPA & CASINO, WILLEMSTAD, CURACAO** These 65 restored 18th- and 19th-century buildings were once an entire neighborhood. Today, they house 80 rooms located off lamp-lit lanes with courtyards, a spa and restaurants (doubles from \$174; kurahulanda.com).
7. **HOTEL SCHLOSS FUSCHL, SALZBURG, AUSTRIA** Built in 1450 as a hunting residence for the archbishops of Salzburg, this lakeside castle outside of the *Sound of Music* city offers a "hills are alive" setting for couples seeking serene surroundings. Its 104

- rooms and suites feature Empire, Baroque and Biedermeier decor (doubles from \$400; schlossfuschl.at).
8. **LA PURIFICADORA, PUEBLA, MEXICO** This 19th-century water-purification factory-turned-26-room hotel has hip public spaces (such as a glass-sided pool) and soothing rooms (doubles from \$145; lapurificadora.com).
9. **THE LIBERTY HOTEL, BOSTON** This ultrachic urban retreat doesn't hide its former life as a jail, from the iron work in the lobby to preserved cells within the cleverly named Clink restaurant. Plus, you won't mind being confined to the swank rooms (doubles from \$295; libertyhotel.com).
10. **POUSADA FLOR DA ROSA, CRATO, PORTUGAL** Medieval meditation meets modern decor at this castle-turned-convent-turned-pousada. Lime green sofas offer a striking contrast against rough-hewn stone walls, while the sleek umbrella-shaded pool is a thoroughly modern addition (doubles from \$160; pousadas.pt). —*Donna Heiderstadt and Elaine Stuart*