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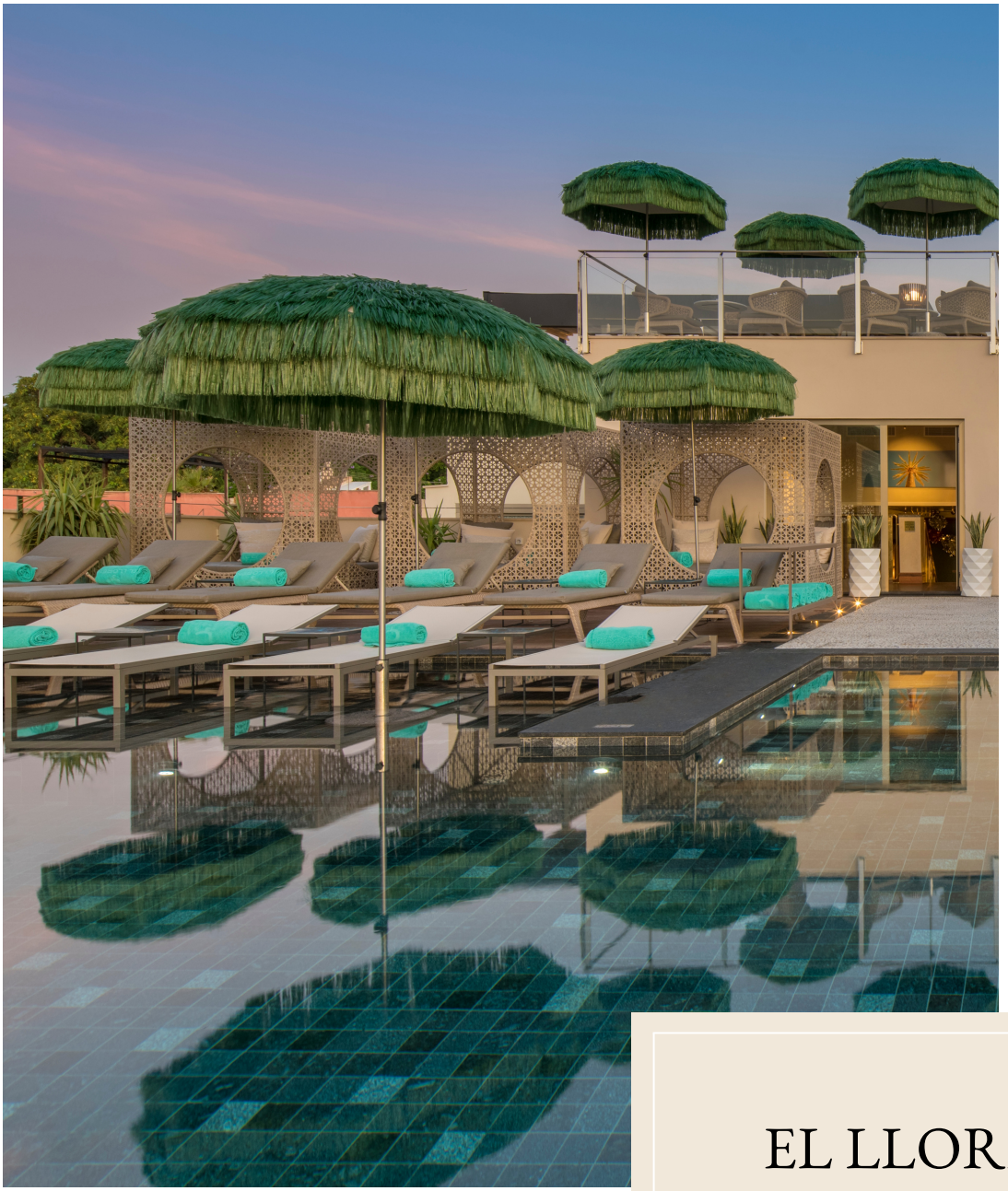
TOP 20 HOTELS IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL: READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2021



EL LLORENÇ PARC DE LA MAR

Palma de Mallorca, Spain

READERS' CHOICE AWARDS
2020, 2021

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With a sky-skimming infinity pool, the longest in Palma, that brings the Balearic sea right up to the feet of the Balinese sunbeds, El Llorenç's rooftop is glorious. Beneath the feathered aquamarine parasols is furniture in a zingy watercolour spectrum of blues, greens and indigos. Around the corner from Palma's historic hammams in Parc de la Mar, this hotel refracts the medieval heritage of its La Calatrava location through an ultra-contemporary lens. Swedish designer Magnus Ehrland used 27 different geometric tiles in the space, all versions of the Arabic star. During construction, architect Pedro Rabassa found an 11th-century Moorish oven in the foundations. Ehrland has designed without dogma, freely adding botanical splashes: local Santanyi stone pillars and Versailles-style parquet floors are playfully mixed with quirky, palm-print carpets, peacock chairs and feather headdresses. Sense of place is established with photographs of Palma, an exotic green-tile basement pool and hammam, and Tannur restaurant, which serves up hearty Mallorcan food. Meanwhile, DINS is a fine-dining experience by island chef Santi Taura, who deconstructs historic local dishes. Service is informal and standard rooms are snug. But on the rooftop, spire-height with La Seu Cathedral, it's all cocktails, sea and sky.

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