

Where to stay

Santiago

ROOM SERVICE Michelle Jana Chan chooses four of the best hotels in Chile's buzzing capital



Design

NOI VITACURA



Good-value

LASTARRIA



Splurge

W SANTIAGO



Boutique

THE AUBREY

Location

In an exclusive district beside the new **Bicentenario Park**; maps in the rooms show the best jogging trails

Lastarria is the name of the city's loveliest neighbourhood, with stylish restaurants and **trendy wine bars**

The **Isidora financial district** is best for business travellers, but there's a handy metro station for swift exits

At the base of **San Cristóbal hill** in studenty Bellavista, which is chock-full of cafés, restaurants and bars

Look

Glass, timber and brushed-steel outside; tactile **handmade pottery** and landscape photos inside

Romantic 1920s features such as prettily painted ceramic tiles and a **marble staircase**

An extravagant mix of oriental excess with a **fashion-forward soundtrack**

Classic Tudor style with **exposed beams**, freshened up with modernist furniture

Crowd

Cleverly attracts **business people and holidaymakers** hopping between the group's four other Chilean properties

Smug couples who know they've found the city's best-value small hotel

Businessmen from Brazil and the USA, and **Santiago hipsters**

Well-heeled couples from Australia and the UK, the home countries of The Aubrey's two owners

Rooms

87 rooms, some with rain showers; Cosmopolitan Suites have **hot tubs looking onto the Andes**

14 rooms, some for families; **number 11 has a gorgeous terrace**



Some of the 196 rooms have **baths with views** at the end of the bed

One of the most coveted of the 15 rooms is the Cerro San Cristóbal suite over the **cobbled courtyard**

Eating & drinking

International nosh at Noi Restaurant; **homemade pasta** at Piegari



Italian seafood at a new outpost of award-winning Pasta e Vino

Six great options which include NoSo for modern French food and Osaka for **Peruvian-Japanese fusion**

The evocative piano bar serves **Pisco Sours** (the first one is on the house), and there's free afternoon tea

Best thing

The **stand-out spa** (request masseuse Carla's divine digits)

The walled garden and **sprays of fresh daisies** in the rooms

The heated rooftop lap pool and the **alfresco bar**



The leafy pool area, **waterfalls** and **cool breezes** off the hill

Worst thing

The area is **sleepy on Sundays** and you'll need to head downtown for urban buzz

Street-facing rooms can be **noisy** (the owners say they're working on sound insulation)

Staff can exhibit a bit **too much attitude**

Service is hit-and-miss, and the hotel is **beneath the zoo** (which can be rather pungent)

Price

Doubles from **US\$269**

Doubles from **US\$160**

Doubles from **US\$559**

Doubles from **US\$240**

Contact

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Going plural

After its successful debut in Patagonia, sleek design hotel **The Singular** (<http://the-singular.com>) will open a Santiago outpost in 2014. The owners of Lastarria (see above) are also launching an eagerly awaited second hotel in the city