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## 'Hidden gem' hotels include a new adults-only Las Vegas lodging

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By Kitty Bean Yancey, USA TODAY

The hotel reviewers from [Oyster.com](#) have come up with a list of 14 "hidden gem" lodgings in the places they cover, which include New York, Miami, San Francisco, Boston, L.A. and Hawaii.

It's a good list: Who knew that there's a new adults-only hotel in Las Vegas? It's a small boutique-style lodging off the Strip near the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, called [Rumor Las Vegas](#), and I just found a \$69 room rate in January. "It's a very sexy hotel," says Jennifer Garfinkel, an Oyster editor.



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I did stay recently at another Oyster pearl, [Petit Hermitage](#) in West Hollywood. It is a find: retro-Hollywood funky, with great service and an easy walk to Sunset Boulevard nightlife. There's a rooftop pool and rooms for less than \$200. Jennifer tells me Oyster staff liked its "shabby-chic vibe." [Maison 140](#) in Beverly Hills, with 43 differently decorated contemporary rooms, also made the list.

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Other gems: The [Hotel Renew](#), a block from the beach in Oahu ("Zen chic," says Jennifer); [The Marcel at Gramercy](#) in a quiet neighborhood near Gramercy Park in Manhattan; Manhattan's [Casablanca Hotel](#), where I've stayed (its rooms aren't special but it has reasonable-for-Midtown rates in the \$200 range and is close to Broadway theaters, throws in free breakfast and wine hour). Jennifer told me something I didn't know: that on New Year's Eve, guests get to go on the roof and observe the ball drop in nearby Times Square.



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**Koa Kea Hotel & Resort at Poipu Beach**, a small and elegant boutique resort on Kauai; **The Beach Plaza Hotel** and the **Cadet Hotel**, both small properties that are bargains in pricey Miami Beach, Fla.; **Phoenix Hotel**, a rockers' haunt, and the residential-style **Laurel Inn**, both in San Francisco and both in the Joie de Vivre boutique chain; and Kimpton's **Hotel Marlowe** in Cambridge, Mass., with current weekend rates starting at \$139. One of the 14 is a surprise: **The Courtyard Boston Copley Square**. Though it is in the huge Marriott chain, it offers contemporary rooms in a historic apartment building and Oyster says it boasts especially large accommodations that are great for families.

One hotel on the list that is a favorite of travel writers and editors is the **Library Hotel** in Manhattan, where each room has a different literary theme and is filled with books on subjects from art to architecture. (The erotica room is hard to book because it is so popular.) Oyster reviewers stay anonymously and take their own photos, which often offer a more realistic picture of what hotel rooms really look like.

To view the complete Oyster list, with comments on each hotel, [click here](#).

Readers, care to share thoughts about any of the above? I like that most are small, interestingly decorated and offer good rooms at decent rates. Also, would anyone reveal a hidden-gem hotel fave not on the list?


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