

# travelista

Wander woman **Maria Shollenbarger** fast-tracks international intelligence on where to be and what to see.

→ The resounding success of Sir Terence Conran's Boundary Restaurant, Rooms & Rooftop in Shoreditch was inevitably going to occasion the arrival of other buzzy hotels to the farther reaches of **EAST LONDON**. Here's the first to

give it a run for its money: **Town Hall Hotel & Apartments** ([www.townhallhotel.com](http://www.townhallhotel.com); from £204) debuts at the end of this month in Bethnal Green, in a defunct 1930s civil building with a painstakingly restored neoclassical and Edwardian frontage, and interiors reconfigured to house 98 studios and apartments sparsely and tastefully furnished with original contemporary Scandinavian pieces. The jewel in Town Hall's crown promises to

be its restaurant, *Viajante*, which will feature local chef Nuno Mendes (who has been delighting intrepid foodies for the past year at The Loft, his private dining club on Kingsland Road) at the helm.

→ **MILAN**, too, has seen the gentrification of edgy neighbourhoods, such as Tortona, in part as a result of the annual **Salone Internazionale del Mobile** (April 14-19; [www.cosmit.it](http://www.cosmit.it)). The iconoclastic designers who've popularised the Fair have a provocative new place to stay: **Maison Moschino** ([www.hotelphilosophy.com](http://www.hotelphilosophy.com); doubles from €484) is housed in an 1840s train station on the Viale Monte Grappa, with 65 rooms and suites designed in

firm keeping with fashion designer Franco Moschino's surrealist-absurdist aesthetic. Beds are upholstered in swathes of crinoline like extravagant ball gowns, and birch trees grow from floor to ceiling in fantastical canopies. Should a respite from the swell of Fair attendees prove necessary, an 18th-century villa on the shores of **LAKE COMO** has just become available to let. **Villa Giuseppina** ([www.sjvillas.co.uk](http://www.sjvillas.co.uk); €3,570 per person per week, based on a group of 14) sits on the lake's western shore overlooking the town of Bellagio. Seven bedrooms, two large living rooms, a dedicated family floor and a discrete spa and sauna are all the work of the design team at Etro. There's also a Riva yacht and a host in the form of Silvano Giraldin, former maître d' and manager at Le Gavroche in London.

→ In **ISTANBUL**, meanwhile, a hotel with history to spare is making a conspicuous comeback. **Pera Palace** ([www.pera-palace.com](http://www.pera-palace.com); from €250), built in 1892 as a (very luxe) way station for passengers on the *Orient-Express*, will reopen on the 30th of this month with its unique-to-Istanbul hybrid



Above: the seven-bedroom Villa Giuseppina on Lake Como. Below: the bar at Town Hall Hotels & Apartments, London.



Above: Maison Moschino in Milan is true to the aesthetic of fashion designer Franco Moschino.

