



Castell de Sant Marçal



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Studio Harcourt



CBBD

# Eurovision

Kate Kassar, of BEYOND event consultancy, gives us some tips on venues in Europe to watch out for

## EUROPE'S BEST VENUES

### Terrazza Martini – Milan

After the “any time, any place, anywhere” 1970s adverts, Martini is back in fashion thanks to the latest advertising campaign with George Clooney (no less). The penthouse is just what you would expect – slick, contemporary, cool and the colour of martini rosso. Situated on 2 floors, the lower floor a contemporary lounge and the upper floor a terrace overlooking the Duomo.

### Cristal Room – Paris

Set inside the Musée Baccarat, designed by Philippe Starck, the Cristal Room is magnificent. The opulence of a bygone era - gilt mirrors, murano glass chandeliers - is mixed with “industrial chic” - concrete walls (!) - and the two somehow come together seamlessly. With a chef from the Armani restaurant, this is close to unbeatable.

### Studio Harcourt – Paris

Founded in 1934, Studio Harcourt was one of Paris’ original luxury brands. Film stars, political figures, dancers and sportsmen flocked to the studio with the aim of being immortalised by the camera. Still a luxury working studio, today it is also an original reception venue with a fascinating history and a permanent photographic exhibition.

### Esperanto – Stockholm

Recently voted Sweden’s best restaurant, Esperanto offers not only fabulous food, but décor worthy of the land which invented cool interior design. Housed on the site of a former movie theatre, the restaurant is quirky and intimate and can entertain small groups for exclusive use.

### Centre Belge de la Bande Dessinée (Belgian Comic Strip Centre) – Brussels

For the kid inside us all; walk in and be greeted by a life-size Tintin and his friends in orange astronaut suits. Learn about the early Disney cartoons and the process from paper to on-screen cartoon and be treated to original illustrations and storylines by Herge, the creator of Tintin.

### Fifteen – Amsterdam

Jamie Oliver has worked his magic in Amsterdam, following the success of London’s Fifteen although you know you’re in the Amsterdam restaurant when you walk in and there’s a wall covered in (designer) graffiti. The food is of course fabulous, in particular the papardelle with venison and chocolate (yes, chocolate) sauce....

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Euro Venues



#### Castell de Sant Marçal – Barcelona

This is a classic medieval castle just outside Barcelona with extensive grounds, sweeping staircase and a fountain the size of a swimming pool; all fit for a king (or at least a marquis who still lives in a private quarter). There is possibly no more idyllic summer reception venue in Barcelona.

#### Armani / NOBU – Milan

Located in Milan's top shopping district, Armani/NOBU is, as you've probably gathered, a joint venture between the 2 "giants". Sublime Japanese cuisine offered in the oriental inspired typically Armani understated setting of this members club.

#### Turandot – Moscow

This restaurant is fresh on to the Moscow scene and is an ode to decadence, opulence and theatricality. Tapestries and frescoes adorn the walls and ceilings, chairs and tables are hand-painted and the cost of its creation is rumoured to be just too much to be talked about in any kind of polite circle. Just to see it would be enough, but don't leave before sampling the food because the menu has been created by Alan Yau (of London's Michelin starred Hakkasan).

#### Written by Kate Kassar of BEYOND

BEYOND event consultancy specialises in events abroad. Presently the agency is managing projects in Spain, France, Italy, Sweden and Russia and its knowledge of venues across Europe is second to none.

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