

# PRIORITY

EXCLUSIVELY FOR PPS CLUB MEMBERS 

JUL-SEP 2018

## HERITAGE RETREATS

COLLECTING RARE BOOKS  
GERMANY'S BLACK FOREST  
GOURMET VEGAN CUISINE

A photograph of a luxurious hotel suite. The room features a bed with white linens and a patterned throw, a dark leather sofa with patterned cushions, and a large, ornate rug with a purple and gold floral pattern. The walls are covered in yellow floral wallpaper, and the ceiling has intricate white plasterwork. A dark wood fireplace is visible on the right side of the room.

# Immersed in history

From a former church in the heart of a busy metropolis to a desert kasbah miles from anywhere, these retreats all bring heritage to life in exciting new ways. Rod Mackenzie goes in search of some of the best spots to get a little closer to the past

An opulent L'oscar Suite with oak panelling, carved fireplace and many original details from the Arts and Crafts period.  
Facing page: The hotel exterior



### L'OSCAR, UK

Lawyers and bookish types are typically associated with London's unflashy district of Holborn, but L'oscar ([loscar.com](http://loscar.com)) seems determined to turn that image on its head. Renowned French interior designer Jacques Garcia has transformed an abandoned Baptist church into a lavish retreat dripping with decadent sensuality. Opened in June this year, the five-star hotel presents 39 richly decorated rooms festooned with silk, velvet and damasks in red and gold tones. Low lighting adds to the romantic mood, with a stunning chandelier illuminated with hundreds of glass birds extending seven floors down the main stairwell. The original octagonal chapel dating from 1903 is now the Baptist Grill under Michelin-starred chef Tony Fleming. Dine beneath a soaring glass dome and hand-painted ceiling surrounded by walls adorned with eight stucco sculptures.

**Past perfect** Enjoy panoramic views over the City of London from the two-floor Duplex suite. Or go all out by booking the hotel's signature L'oscar Suite with its beautiful original fireplace, carved plasterwork ceiling and oak panelling. All suites come with 24-hour butler service.

**Explore the area** You're a short stroll away from one of the world's great treasure houses, the British Museum. Smaller but no less fascinating is Sir John Soane's Museum in nearby Lincoln's Inn Fields. This is the former home of a distinguished 19th-century architect who requested the house be left untouched after his death – more than 180 years ago. Its atmospheric rooms are crammed with eclectic sculptures, paintings and drawings. →

*Singapore Airlines flies daily to London.*

