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### Greek islands

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### Family France

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### South India

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**+ 15 PAGES** OF QUICK BREAKS: TUSCANY, HAVANA, BRUGES & BARCELONA



# £125

## The Five Rooms

### 'French Empire chairs done up in hot pink'

Technically the name no longer applies, since this place recently swallowed up the floor above, but The Five Rooms still occupies a niche in the big, brash Barcelona hotel scene: it's slick without being smug; low-key without being low-rent; and rather than be designed by committee, it sprang from the creative mind of its owner, who lives next door – attentive yet unobtrusive. Yessica worked in fashion before opting to style up (for her visiting business contacts) a sprawling first-storey apartment on leafy Pau Claris street, in the lower reaches of the suave Eixample district.

Her urban-loft look is in force throughout, and rather appealing



it is, too: an amalgam of French Empire and '50s-retro chairs, re-upholstered in hot pink; cowhide rugs pooled on timber floors; recessed lighting in bedheads, creating a glow as romantic as candles; and attention-grabbing finds acquired on expeditions to Paris, including a monster dresser. Overall, the feeling is of laid-back

apartment living. You can bypass reception if you're on the upper floor, and grab breakfast to go if you don't fancy sitting cheek-by-jowl at the communal tables – possibly the most annoying trend in design hotels today. *Doubles from £125, room only (00 34 93 342 7880, [www.thefiverooms.com](http://www.thefiverooms.com)).*