

DECO TRAVELISTA

snippets to get you going

TEXT LIN MURRAY

The terrain in Spain

While Spain is synonymous with tapas, bullfighting, party beaches, beautiful architecture and urban buzz, a new concept hotel in the northern semi-desert region of Bardenas Reales is offering an alternative, 'back to basics' perspective. Situated alongside the biosphere reserve of the Bardenas Reales National Park, Hotel Aire de Bardenas sits in a rocky wheat field, appearing as if it had just 'landed' there overnight. Built using dry construction techniques and incorporating iron, stone, glass and wood, the hotel consists of 22 single-storey rooms – some with exterior bathtubs – set amid the harsh terrain, while wooden crates, a typical sight in the area's crop fields, are used as wind-breaking boundary walls. The simple but warm interiors are dictated entirely by the austere scenery, with large sit-in windows allowing guests to fully appreciate the extraordinary clutter-less views. Nearby, the city of Tudela, with its magnificently restored 12th-century cathedral, is worth a visit, while the park itself offers beautiful hikes through lunar landscapes.

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