



The Billiards Room at Ashford Castle in Cong, County Mayo, Ireland

Kevin Gilmer

## 7 HOTELS WITH GUEST-ONLY SPACES

By Christina Valhouli

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Hotels can be stylish, vibrant places to share a cocktail or a coffee, whether you're exploring the neighborhood or happen to live locally. But not everyone thinks the idea is so great — namely, paying guests of the hotel. While hotel bars and restaurants open to the public are often big revenue draws, an overly buzzing lobby scene can be a source of frustration for guests who seek exclusivity or just plain quiet. To offset this, more properties are adding guest-only spaces like libraries, bars and restaurants. Think of it as a next generation of the club lounge. Some hotels are bridging the gap by restricting public access to particular times, or by offering a limited number of paid memberships for the public to access outdoor amenities such as pools and spas.

The recently opened **VISTA Palazzo Lago di Como**, a Lario Hotel in Lake Como, is one property putting the focus on exclusivity and privacy. The hotel has just 18 rooms, and its bar, restaurant and library are for guests only. “It is important for us to have our guests feel as though they are in our home, in the spirit of the original lakeside palazzo that Vista now inhabits,” explains Bianca Passera, CEO of Lario Hotels. “We wanted to maintain a level of exclusivity for our guests; a space where they can feel comfortable, have a drink, something to eat or just relax and enjoy the views of the lake.”

## WHITE ELEPHANT

### Nantucket, Massachusetts



The library at the White Elephant in Nantucket, Massachusetts

Richard Mandelkorn

The **White Elephant** is located on a prime waterfront spot along Nantucket Harbor and includes the original hotel, plus cottages and downtown lofts. The intimate library has the look and feel of a private home, with comfortable sofas and built-in bookshelves. Hotels guests can pop by in the morning for coffee and pastries or nibble on cheese and sip Nantucket Vineyard Port in the afternoon. Or they can plan a visit around a reading and book signing by a local author.