



Sir Joan

IBIZA

Hotelier Liran Wizman of EHPC has worked with designers Baranowitz & Kronenberg to create a luxuriously specified hotel inspired by the yachts in nearby Marina Botafoch.

Words: Matt Turner | Photography: © Amit Geron





Above: Guestrooms feature stripped yacht flooring with furnishings from Vitra, B&B Italia, Ligne Roset, Living Divani and Poltrona Frau

“In Ibiza everything is white, and that’s very much the spirit of the island, but here we felt we needed to do something different, something out of the ordinary,” explains Ignacio Gomez Escolar, General Manager of Sir Joan, over a poolside café cortado.

Where most Ibiza hotels rely on the surrounding sea and sand for much of their visual impact, Sir Joan is marooned on a busy traffic intersection between Ibiza Town and Talamanca Bay. Its architects, Barcelona-based Ribas & Ribas, have responded with a striking chequerboard ziggurat structure housing 38 rooms and suites behind its cantilevered terraces, as well as two restaurants, a lobby, bar, pool and cabanas on its ground floor.

The immediate surroundings may be nondescript, however the hotel’s views over the nearby harbour and Ibiza’s historic Old Town are anything but. Its proximity to both Dalt Villa and Marina Botafoch puts it in prime position to entice the sophisticated travellers who flock to Ibiza, and increasingly do so all year-round.

Interiors are by Baranowitz + Kronenberg, the Israeli-duo also responsible for Sir Albert, Sir Hotels’ first property in Amsterdam, and its Berlin brethren Sir Savigny.

“We envisioned Sir Joan as a social vessel where space, design, music and cuisine are made-to-measure and hand-stitched,” explain Baranowitz + Kronenberg. “Contextual highlights and insightful stories run as a subtle undercurrent throughout all guest touchpoints

and endow Sir Joan with a compelling quality of unexpected and authentic familiarity.”

The influence of the luxury yachts moored up in Marina Botafoch is evident in the no-expense spared guestrooms. Loose furnishings are supplied by a roll-call of prestigious design brands: Vitra, B&B Italia, Ligne Roset. Living Divani and Poltrona Frau indoors; Expormim, Roda and Gandia Blasco on the terraces outside. Casagoods, custom-made in Italy, are exquisitely engineered. Bathrooms are in the finest Carrara marble. The top floor penthouse suites boast 80m² wraparound terraces with 360 degree views, private cabanas and an open-air kitchen. Each room features a balcony, while the suites have up to two balconies as well as an indoor living area.

“The guestroom design is a subtle homage to yacht living,” say the designers. “The choice of stripped yacht flooring and the water impression radiated by the highly polished stainless steel wall panels allude to leaving everything behind, and setting off on a one of a kind voyage under the sails and crew of Sir Joan.”

Nautical influences are also in evidence in the ground floor lobby, where vertical corrugated steel bars line up along the walls, evoking naval ropes and the erosion of metal by the sea, beneath a rippling mirrored ceiling. Armchairs by Minotti, Gam Fratesi and Bernhardt surround tables by Riva 1920.

The outdoor courtyard boasts a triangular pool, heated throughout



expormim







Above: The lobby features armchairs by Minotti, Gam Fratesi and Bernhardt and tables by Riva 1920

the winter season, lined with cabanas and lounge chairs by Roda and Expormim, alongside coffee tables and ottomans by Gervasoni.

The property also features a collection of artwork including pieces by Spanish art legend Joan Hernandez Pijuan, and Carlos Irijalba Inercia, alongside photographs from Ibiza-based photographer Landry A.

“We were inspired by the marina, the ocean, but also by the people on the island,” adds Liran Wizman. “By combining contemporary design with nostalgic details, we aim to create a unique urban oasis at the heart of the world-famous island.”

Wizman is the founder and owner of Europe Hotels Private Collection, parent company of both Sir Hotels and its sister brand Max Brown. He is also co-founder, with Yossi Eliyahu, of Entourage Group, the F&B operator responsible for both of Sir Joan’s restaurants: Izakaya and The Butcher. The former is an Asian / South American kitchen and bar, originating in Amsterdam and offering a mix of sushi, ceviche and skewered, Robata-grilled meats.

A bold move, given that the recently-opened Nobu Ibiza Bay

Hotel, just down the road from Sir Joan is world-famous for a similar combination of contemporary Japanese cuisine fused with Peruvian flavours. What’s more, halfway between Sir Joan and Nobu sits Zela – a new restaurant from Rafa Nadal, Pau Gasol and Enrique Iglesias in partnership with Mabel Group, also offering a blend of Oriental and Mediterranean flavours, with a strong Japanese influence.

“It’s completely new for Ibiza,” explains Escobar. “You have three restaurants all offering this cuisine in the same street. But we are all doing well so far, we’re not fighting for business. Our objective is still to be here in three years time – most of the seasonal restaurants only last a year. We want to be something that stays here and make ourselves a name.”

The Butcher, a high-end burger bar also founded in Amsterdam and since expanded to Berlin as well as Ibiza, has been a huge hit with late night revellers as well as hotel guests. “We’re open 21-hours-a-day,” says Escobar. “At any given time there is always someone on the terrace enjoying a burger. That’s Ibiza for you.”

EXPRESS CHECK-OUT: 38 guestrooms | 2 restaurants | 2 bars | Swimming pool | www.sirhotels.com/joan
Owner: EHPC | **Developer:** PBM Constructions | **Architecture:** Ribas & Ribas | **Interior Design:** Baranowitz + Kronenberg