

19. La Nauve Hotel & Jardin, Cognac, France

I'm not a brandy drinker, but I would feel compelled to embrace it from the chic-looking and recently opened La Nauve Hotel & Jardin in a belle époque mansion a few minutes from Cognac's historic centre. It has 12 rooms, a cocktail bar, garden and e-bikes that can be rented to pedal along the Charente river or to the surrounding Bordeaux vineyards. Of the big cognac houses, the birthplace of Francis I — Château de Cognac, which dates back to the tenth century — is a good place to start, and some tours include a peek into the king's apartment or blind tastings (chateaucognac.com).

Details [B&B doubles](#) from £279 (almae-collection.com). Fly to Nantes



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