

Berlin

Venice might be more picturesque, and London more polished, but few cities can compete with the raw energy of Berlin. Here, in Europe's undisputed capital of contemporary art, the grit and graffiti have an enduring allure. And yet, Berlin is growing up. Sure, you can still party hard in the techno clubs in bombed-out warehouses. But you can just as easily find expertly crafted cocktails at boho rooftop bars and moody speakeasy-style joints. Foodies, take note: Berlin now has more Michelin-starred restaurants than Copenhagen, with talented young chefs redefining German cuisine, making the city's culinary scene more dynamic than ever. Ahead, our guide to where to unwind, indulge, and get cultured like a Berliner.

By Laura Itzkowitz



**THE 9 COOLEST SPOTS
IN BERLIN,
ACCORDING TO
WATCH DESIGNERS....**

While company headquarters are two hours south, NOMOS Glashütte's in-house design studio is located in Berlin's Kreuzberg district. The area's hipper than all get-out, a sprawling collection of third-wave coffee shops, art galleries, and vintage stores, home to punks, poets, students, and a strong contingent of Turkish expats. NOMOS maintains that the influence of Kreuzberg, and Berlin in general, is central to the handsome, modern aesthetic of its timepieces. We asked the brand's design team to give us the lowdown.

1. Michelberger Hotel

"This beautiful converted factory building is a favorite of ours. [Award-winning furniture designer] Werner Aisslinger—who recently collaborated with NOMOS—

designed the interior of this vibrant, homey, and creative hotel in Friedrichshain. The restaurant and bar are always worth a visit, too."

**2. Hotel Oderberger
Swimming Pool**

"This boutique hotel occupies an old public bathing house [designed by architect Ludwig Hoffmann in 1898]—the rooms still have some of the old features, and, most importantly, the swimming pool is open to all. We held an event here last summer to launch its Aqua series."

3. Lode & Stijn

"Contemporary, inventive, and down-to-earth in the heart of Kreuzberg, Lode & Stijn is a beautiful little restaurant that has built its

ABOVE: The Hotel Oderberger, home of a former Oderberger bathhouse.

reputation on local, seasonal cooking in a relaxed but elegant little space. It's great for a drink and some bar snacks, or a leisurely evening with their carefully selected five-course menu."

4. Katz Orange

"Tucked away in the sweet courtyard of a converted brewery, Katz Orange is a treat. There's a cozy bar with delicious cocktails, which opens out onto the courtyard in summer. Then there's the menu of slow-food delights, put together by the brilliant German chef Daniel Finke. We also think they have great taste in desserts—try the petit fours, to which we have dedicated our latest series of Tetra watches."

5. Kranhaus Café Schönevide

"This small café is on a ship, on the banks of the Spree river, anchored between the AEG Hall and the so-called Behrens Bau—the former flagship buildings of Berlin's industrialization. Our watches are made in Germany, and are influenced by German industrial design in the traditions of Bauhaus and the Deutscher Werkbund, which makes the place even more special."

6. Turkish Market, Maybachufer, Kreuzberg

"Every Tuesday and Friday, countless vendors set up their stalls along the Landwehr Canal, selling everything from fabric and fruit to falafel wraps. NOMOS employees can often be found here on their lunch breaks, having a stroll, or getting groceries."

7. Berlinische Galerie

"This is one of our favorite museums in Berlin, as it focuses on local art from the past 150 years, giving a real insight into the cultural history of the city. Besides the beautiful permanent collection [which includes works by Max Liebermann, Otto Dix, and Hannah Höch], there is always a temporary show worth visiting."



PHOTOS, FROM TOP: COURTESY BERLINISCHE GALERIE TREPPENGALERIE BY NINA STRASSGUETL. BOROS COLLECTION BY NOSHE.



8. Bauhaus Archive/Museum of Design

“It’s no secret what a source of inspiration the Bauhaus movement is to our aesthetic. This iconic building, designed by the great Walter Gropius [in 1964], houses one of the largest collections of Bauhaus material.”

9. Boros Bunker

“Only in Berlin can you find 3,000 meters of exhibition space in a converted war bunker. We share the Boros’ love for clean and creative design, rooted in the 20th century but constantly in dialogue with today’s developments. [Famed art collectors] Christian and Karen Boros have built their home onto the top floor of the bunker; on the many floors below, they put on an impressive exhibition.”



THIS SPREAD, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The Dutch Chef duo in charge of Lode & Stijn. Holistic dining at Katz Orange. The Turkish Market at night. Museum of modern art, Berlinische Galerie. A converted bunker, the Boros Collection houses 3,000 square meters of contemporary art.