

# 01

## KRAKOW, POLAND

For many, a visit to Krakow is like stepping back in time. After all, this historic Polish capital is famed for its medieval market square, labyrinthine backstreets, and eye-catching churches and synagogues. But dig a little deeper and you'll uncover a contemporary side to this ancient city, with a host of hip hotels, restaurants and boutique shops to discover. **BY JOSEPH REANEY**



### COOL STAYS

#### **NIEBIESKI ART HOTEL & SPA**

It's all about uncluttered comfort with big bursts of colour here. Rooms and suites offer a homey atmosphere with a trendy twist, with wood textures ranging from bright white oak to chic dark wenge. The hotel's spa is the perfect place to unwind after a day of sightseeing, and the ideal amuse bouche to a dinner at its restaurant specialising in Mediterranean-Polish fusion cuisine.

[www.niebieski.com.pl](http://www.niebieski.com.pl)

#### **LWOWSKA 1**

Two words sum up Lwowska 1 (above): quirky chic – with its odd, peaked facade, sleek black reception, eye-popping carpets and bright yellow chairs adding a hint of whimsy. Check in and another word springs to mind: spacious. The lavishly decorated rooms here are lovely and big – a rarity for a city hotel, especially at these reasonable prices.

[www.lwowska1.pl](http://www.lwowska1.pl)



## HOT DINING

### ALBERTINA RESTAURANT & WINE

This is fine dining with a touch of hipster. High-end but vehemently unstuffy, this airy, light-filled space is all bright whites, exposed brickwork and wooden beams. Chef Grzegorz Fic's dishes (left) are exceptional, combining Polish traditions with southern European flavours, and use entirely seasonal and locally sourced ingredients.

[www.albertinarestaurant.pl](http://www.albertinarestaurant.pl)

### POD ANIOLAMI

Literally translated as 'under the angels', this medieval-style eatery (above) offers a real taste of Poland's

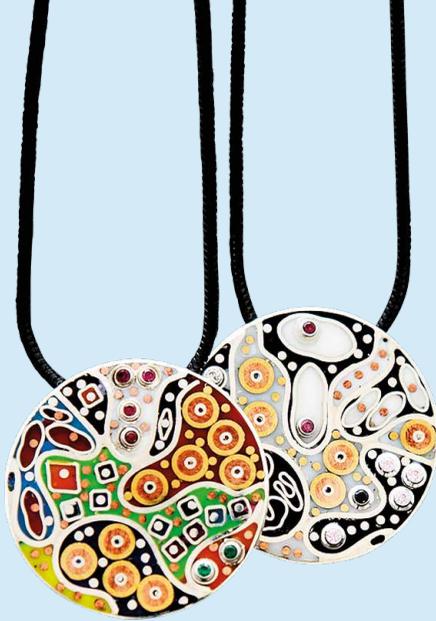
past. In the cavernous 13th-century cellar, try old Polish specialities such as wild boar, duck and trout, as well as excellent pierogi (dumplings). Many of the meats are grilled over an open beechwood fire.

[www.podaniolami.pl](http://www.podaniolami.pl)

### BAL

Tucked away in an old industrial estate, this chic coffee shop is literally a hidden gem. It's open for breakfast and lunch (hence its name), with dishes ranging from shakshuka (eggs poached in tomato sauce) to goat cheese salad; we say do brunch – a bagel and a Bloody Mary is a great way to start the day.

[www.facebook.com/balnazablociu](https://www.facebook.com/balnazablociu)



### BOOGIE FLOWEAR

Look no further for urban styles that are all about bold blocks of colour and geometric shapes, inspired by street graffiti and skateboard culture. This achingly hip boutique near the Old Town stocks T-shirts, jeans, hoodies and other apparel by some of Poland's most in-vogue designers.

[www.boogieflowear.com](http://www.boogieflowear.com)

### MUST-BUYS

#### BLAZKO

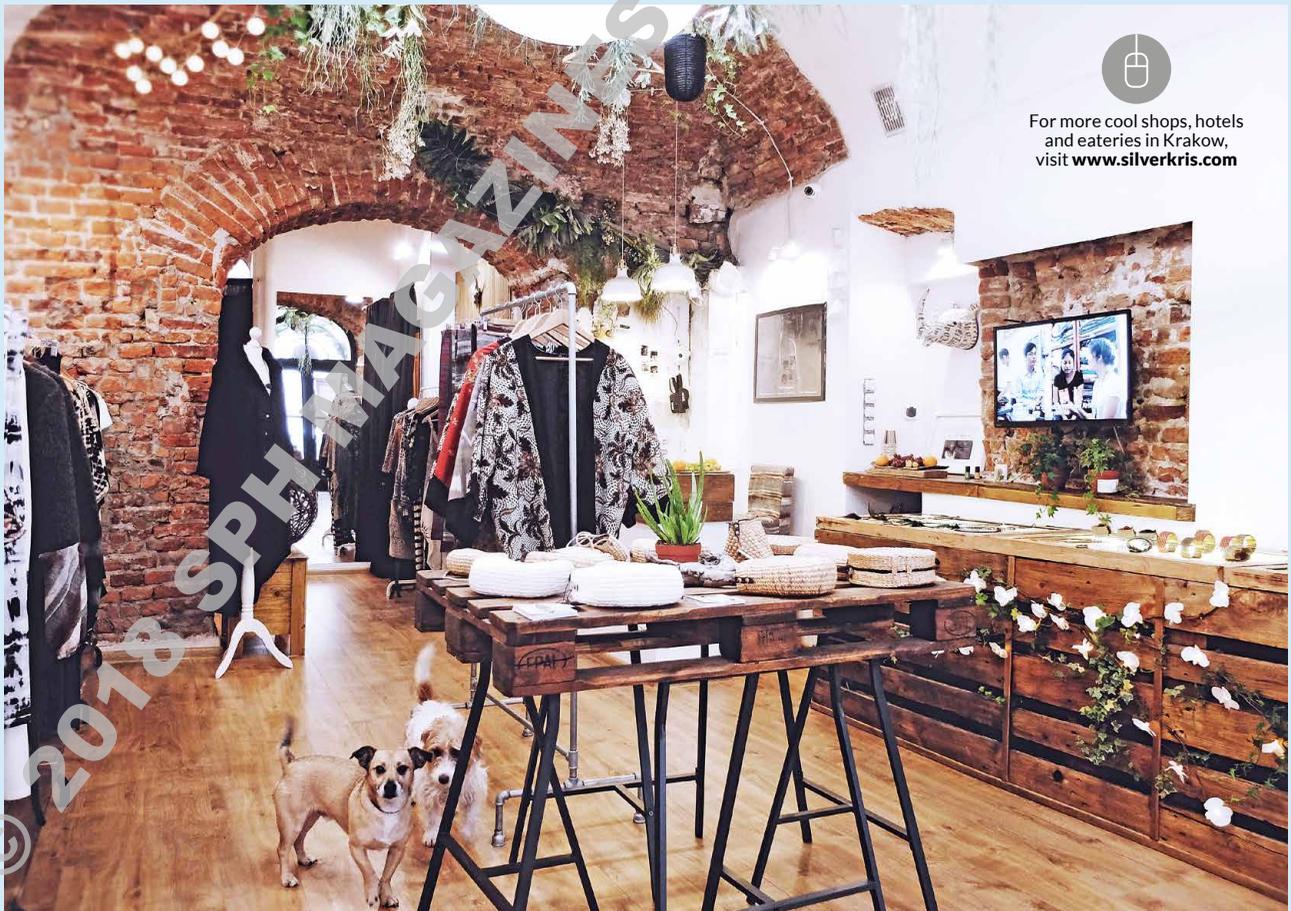
Part gallery, part workshop and part retail space, Blazko displays a selection of owner-designer Grzegorz Blazko's most eye-catching, and usually silver, creations (left), from rings to earrings, necklaces and bracelets. You will also find specialist pieces such as brooches, cufflinks and even a sparkly USB stick.

[www.blazko.pl](http://www.blazko.pl)

#### MAPAYA

Mapaya (below) was founded by avid traveller Martyna Wilde with the aim that everything it sells – from beautiful dresses and tops to chic accessories – is handmade by artists all over the world, and embodies the true essence of freedom and adventure.

[www.mapaya.pl](http://www.mapaya.pl)



For more cool shops, hotels and eateries in Krakow, visit [www.silverkris.com](http://www.silverkris.com)