lonely planet

WITH PULL-OUT MAP

BUENOS AIRES

CITY GUIDE

comes with bathroom, air-con and flat TV. It's a good place that donates some of its proceeds to local organizations; there's another branch further north in Belgrano (off Map p92; Iberá 2858).

REINA MADRE HOSTEL

Map p92 Hostel $

☎ 4962-5553; www.hostelreinamadre.com.ar; Anchorena 1118; dm AR$60, s/d AR$140/180; ; Línea D Pueyrredón

Here's a wonderful hostel option located on the fringe of Recoleta in an interesting neighborhood that is crammed full of students (there's a university nearby). It's a family-run place, which means it's clean and safe – but it also has a great youthful vibe. The old building has plenty of personality, with high ceilings and original tiles, and all rooms are comfortable and modern (and share outside bathrooms). There's a bright hall area and kitchen, plus a wood-deck rooftop with *asado* area. A great stay.

OLD FRIENDS HOSTEL Map p92 Hostel $

☎ 4833-4056; www.oldfriends.com.ar; Lavalleja 1352; dm AR$50, d AR$130-160; ; 106, 160

This very casual hostel is so cool, they even make their own beer – and might possibly treat you to one when you walk in the door. Old Friends would be best for a summer stay, as the exterior spaces are great – open courtyard, a relaxing back deck and great rooftop terrace. All around are examples of graffiti art, and the intimacy here is a plus – as are the free bike rentals. It's in a non-touristy area on the edge of Palermo – but still within walking distance of its trendiness.

BAIT HOSTEL Map p92 Hostel $

☎ 4774-2859; www.baitba.com; El Salvador 5115; dm AR$45, d AR$140-175; ; 39, 55

For those who care more about good vibes than fancy atmosphere, there's this intimate, laid-back hostel. Reception is at the upstairs bar–common room area, which gives you an idea of the casualness here. There's also a downstairs patio for weekly *asados* and live music events on the weekend. Dorms have privacy curtains. There are seven private rooms, two with attached bathroom, for those who need more space.

VILLA CRESPO, ONCE, CABALLITO & BOEDO

With the popularity of Palermo raising property values and rents, some places to stay have popped up in the more blue-collar, historical, artsy or even 'bohemian' neighborhoods to the south. This large area is a good choice if you want to 'go local' and don't mind being a bit further from the main sights (but not *too* far away). Public transport is good – and there probably won't be another tourist in sight.

RACÓ DE BUENOS AIRES

Map p98 Boutique Hotel $$

☎ 3530-6075; www.racodebuenosaires.com.ar; Yapeyú 271; d AR$400-800; ; Línea A Castro Barros

If you like staying far from the tourist hordes but within the comforts of a high-end boutique hotel, then this Italian-designed building is your paradise. The 12 lovely rooms here all come with different styling, from virgin white classic to subdued masculinity to animal print. All are spacious and have wood floors, high ceilings and modern bathrooms. There's a small plant-strewn patio for breakfast and a basement wine bar for evening tastings. And you're just a few blocks from the Subte, which will have you downtown in minutes.

QUERIDO B&B Map p98 B&B $$

☎ 4854-6297; www.queridobuenosaires.com; Juan Ramirez de Velazco 934; s/d AR$360-380; ; Línea B Malabia

Run by a friendly and helpful Brazilian-English couple is this homey yet modern B&B. It's located in a non-touristy neighborhood, but within easy walking distance to Palermo's hip restaurants, shops and bars. The eight clean rooms are small but comfortable, and all have private bathrooms; ask for an inside 'courtyard' room for more quiet. There's a living room in which to meet fellow travelers, a little gravel patio in back for fresh air and even an elevator if you don't feel like stair-climbing. Nice continental breakfast, too.

SOCO HOTEL Map p98 Boutique Hotel $$

☎ 4864-2032; www.socohotels.com; Lavalle 3119; d AR$300-380; ; Línea B Carlos Gardel

Abasto is a wonderfully diverse neighborhood – Jews, Koreans and Peruvians all