



# Cathedral 73

Cardiff, Wales

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7/10

Telegraph expert rating

" A restored Victorian townhouse on one of Cardiff's prettiest avenues, Cathedral 73 has the elegant character you'd expect from a 19th-century boutique property with an injection of modernity to complement Cardiff's growing artisan quarter. "

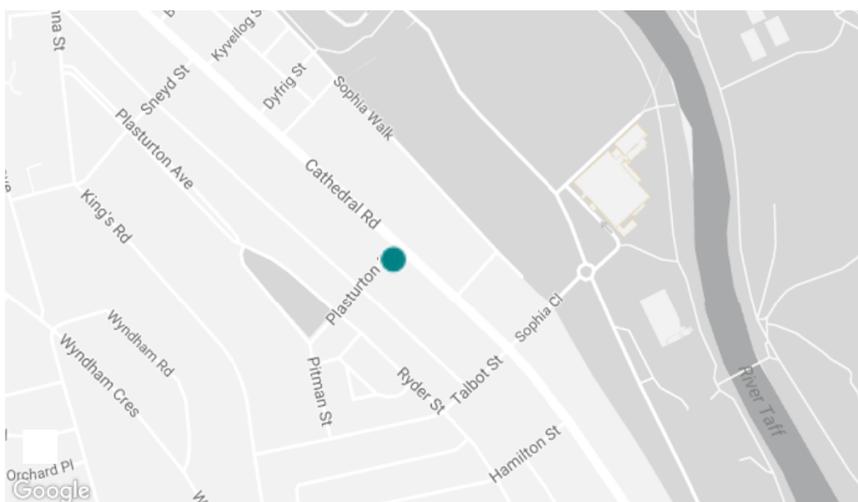
By **Benjamin Parker**,  
TRAVEL WRITER

## Location

7/10

London has Notting Hill, Dorset has Notting Hill-on-Sea, and Cardiff has Pontcanna – Notting Hill ar Taff. Cathedral Road, lined with tall trees and rows of large Victorian villas that were formerly home to the wealthiest families in Cardiff, and Pontcanna Street are becoming increasingly gentrified. Bijou shops, sleek cafes serving single origin brews and on-trend eateries are increasing in line with the number of young professionals living in the suburb.

Regular buses head to the city centre, or it's a 15-minute walk passing Sophia Gardens (part of the city's 'green lung'), crossing the River Taff and alongside Cardiff's landmark castle.



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## Style & character

8/10

Downstairs is dedicated to informal lounging. There's no formal reception; instead staff sit behind a baby grand piano. During daytime you can sink into gold-and-cream sofas beside the hearth, and at night, when low lighting comes from chandeliers and standalone candlestick lamps, there's more of a lounge-bar feel across the oak floors. For all Cathedral 73's boutique leanings, Victorian qualities – intricate cornices, high ceilings, bay windows – have been preserved.

A varied collection of artwork is on the walls, from vivid abstract paintings to outlandish metalwork. A hint of luxury sits outside: Mrs Bramley, a 'chrome yellow' 1979 Rolls-Royce with a gold-plated 'Spirit of Ecstasy' – ask behind the piano to be taken for a spin.



## Service & facilities

7/10

The staff are a mix of uni students, ex-students who have stayed, Cardiff locals and some from further afield. This means eclectic conversation, and equally diverse recommendations on how to do a Cardiff city break. Service is polite without being stuffy. Other than the bar and sitting room and orangery area, there are no additional facilities.

- Bar
- Laundry
- Wi-Fi

## Rooms

8/10

Each of the bright rooms – spread across two floors, with views either across the courtyard or (a better option) towards the terraces of Cathedral Road – have the same clean-lined, elegant air. Beds, all king-size, are dressed in Linea Egyptian cotton with a collection of cushions and throws. Spaces are homely, heavy with natural tones but with the splash of metal from lamps or side tables.

Smart TVs and decent Wi-Fi allow you to stay connected. There's a self-contained coach house at the back that sleeps up to four, complete with a kitchen for those choosing a self-catered break. Across the b&b, good-sized bathrooms have Porcelanosa natural stone decor.

## Food & drink

6/10

They no longer offer a dinner menu here, with the focus on breakfast – a small but good menu, plus a chef who wanders from the kitchen to chat to guests – or the popular afternoon teas. There are plenty of places to eat in Pontcanna; staff recommend Elgano, an Italian eatery opposite Cathedral 73, but Bully's Restaurant is a gem for French cuisine using Welsh produce (a 10-minute walk). The b&b's bar stays open late, and serves the city's local gin, Cardiff Dry, with its strong herbal notes, muted citrus flavours, and lingering taste of liquorice.

## Value for money

6/10

Double rooms from £150 year round. Breakfast included. Free Wi-Fi.

## Access for guests with disabilities?

Step-free access into the hotel from the rear car park, and one ground floor suite is accessed via it's own external door.

## Family-friendly?

More of a grown-up place, although one suite has a king bed, two twin beds and a small kitchen which may be useful for families.

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