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HEARTBREAK HOTEL

It's been a decade or two since I last slept in a car, but such was the intensity of our recent German foray that I was obliged to repeat the experience. Not in some sordid layby, mercifully, but the refined surroundings of the V8 Hotel, Böblingen, close to Stuttgart, where several of the 30 rooms have vehicular themes, including cars as beds. Mine was a '62 Ford Taunus, Camerboy's a '58 Cadillac Eldorado. My prone body occupied the space where the 50-year-old saloon's V4 engine and cabin would have been, though there's enough car left to carry the illusion.

This is a totally fun place. Murals deck the walls, automobilia is everywhere, and it's so clever you never tire of it (which makes nodding off a bit difficult). My bathroom looking glasses are an array of car wing mirrors; my luggage is parked in the boot of a Morris Minor. The back end of the Taunus is a sofa, a Borrani wire wheel the bedside table.

The playground of owners Simeon and Karen Mallclous, the spectacular V8 Hotel occupies the control tower of Stuttgart's first airport – the Meilenwerk site – illustrated by period pics of Zeppelins and '30s bi-planes. A Morgan Plus 8 and Weissmann roadster grace the reception area, and there's a classic car museum in an adjoining hall that was formerly a hangar, a range of high-end and novelty cars pampered by Arthur Bechtel Classic Motors, who kindly provide the 964 Speedster for our shoot. There's nothing lacking at the V8 Hotel – a posh Italian restaurant if you want, or a great pizza bar serving homebrewed white beer. Heartbreak Hotel? Only when we have to check out. If only it was Hotel California where '...you can never leave!

V8 Hotel occupies original Stuttgart airport control tower. Red Speedster belongs to Arthur Bechtel collection. Rooms are decorated in wild automotive scenes

