



One of Château St Pierre de Serjac's three-bedroom villas

## CHECKING IN

## Vineyards, a Château, and a Pool

Château St Pierre de Serjac is, right now, the place to stay in the Languedoc.

The just reopened **Château St Pierre de Serjac**, in France's Languedoc wine region, shifts the spotlight from the country's southern beaches to its vineyards. The working wine estate underwent a two-year, \$28 million renovation that includes the addition of an eight-room hotel, 36 rental villas that each sleep up to ten people, and a Cinq Mondes spa. It's a collaboration between winemaker Laurent Bonfils and hoteliers Karl and Anita O'Hanlon, the masterminds behind Château Les Carrasses, which opened in 2011 and helped spearhead the Languedoc's recent renaissance. The property is spread across

200 acres, with an infinity pool, bike trails, a clay tennis court, and a *boulodrome* for playing *pétanque*. The original château, once home to the Baron Cyprien de Crozals family, has guest rooms with Louis XVI-meets-midcentury touches, from freestanding roll-top baths to vintage chandeliers. Downstairs, the drawing room is now a speakeasy-inspired bar anchored by a 19th-century fireplace, while the original dining room has been reimagined as a restaurant with a wine list showcasing bottles produced across Bonfils's 23 estates. *Rooms from \$240; D30, bet. Pouzolles and Magalas, Puisalicon; 33-4/67-93-12-34. —Jen Murphy*

## OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING



## THE GRILL OF IT ALL

As a self-described “obsessive entertainer,” Holly Peterson has noticed a shift in hosting. “Our country is crazy about cooking outside,” says the journalist, *DEPARTURES* contributor, and novelist (*The Manny*, *The Idea of Him*). Peterson explores the trend in her first cookbook, ***Smoke & Fire: Recipes and Menus for Entertaining Outdoors*** (Assouline), out May 24. In it, she gives tips and themed menus with recipes from friends, including author and *Garden & Gun* columnist Julia Reed, who shares a Louisiana shrimp-boil guide. “I want to give ideas to bring people closer to their friends and family,” Peterson says. What’s more, the author’s proceeds will be donated to Feeding America, a nonprofit food-bank network. —Elizabeth Sile



## ON SAFARI

## ETHIOPIA UPDATE

A camp that makes the country more accessible

Will Jones, founder of eco-safari company **Journeys by Design**, offers Ethiopia's first fully mobile camp, which opens up previously unreachable parks and reserves. “Ethiopia isn’t an obvious choice for an African holiday,” Jones says. “Our itinerary is for someone who wants an adventure beyond wildlife viewing.” The trip combines a culture-filled week in northern Ethiopia, where travelers will see the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, with a week exploring the southern animal belt. Highlights include tracking wolves on horseback in Bale Mountains National Park and spending the night in Chebera Churchura National Park, where Jones recently saw his first elephant after 30 years of travel in the country. *From \$15,250 per person; 646-652-0489. —J.M.*

EAT, SLEEP, SPA

## A MARRAKECH STAPLE EXPANDS

With only nine suites, **Riad Farnatchi** is one of Marrakech's more exclusive stays. Rather than open another hotel, director James Wix has added a spa and restaurant to give nonguests a taste of the Farnatchi experience.

The spa's four therapy rooms are the ultimate retreat from the medina.

Book a traditional hammam, followed by the facial, which uses Ila Gold Cellular-Age Restore products. (The spa is the first outside the U.K. to carry the collection.) At night, guests can go across the street to the 70-seat **Le Trou au Mur**, where black and white *zellige* tiles and green sofas provide an elegant backdrop for a menu of Moroccan recipes rarely tasted outside of locals' homes. *Rooms from \$265; Rue Souk el Fassis; 212/5243-84910. For all travel Moroccan, Heritage Tours Private Travel (212-206-8400) is the outfitter to know.* —J.M.



Riad Farnatchi's spa reception area, with handwoven kilim rugs



Mandarin Oriental's Premier Terrace Suite, on the fifth floor, overlooks the hotel's garden.

GETTING IT RIGHT

# Where Should I Stay in Barcelona Tonight?

Travel advice from BlackBook editor Jessica Flint

**W**hen surveying the Barcelona hotel landscape, the obvious option for extravagance is the **Mandarin Oriental** (*rooms from \$420, Passeig de Gràcia 38–40; 34-93/151-8888*). The Asian-influenced hotel, opened in 2009, is in the fashionable Eixample District. It has 120 guest rooms and suites; several standard rooms have balconies or terraces, as do the suites, which also come with butlers. For more low-key luxury, the 275-room **Majestic Hotel & Spa** (*rooms from \$340; Passeig de Gràcia 68; 34-93/492-2244*) is down the street from the Mandarin, and its rich 90-plus-year history gives it a Spanish feel. Book a Junior Suite. **Hotel Arts Barcelona** (*rooms from \$275; Carrer de la Marina 19–21; 34-93/221-1000*) opened in 1994 and is still a classic, with Frank Gehry's *Peix* in *Catalan* sculpture outside the lobby. The hotel sits on the Mediterranean Sea, so it's best to stay here during beach season. Request a room or suite on a top VIP floor.

For something newer, with boutique flair, there's the **Serras Hotel** (*rooms from \$295; Passeig de Colom 9; 34-93/169-1868*). It debuted with 28 rooms in January 2015 in a building that once housed Pablo Picasso's first studio, in the city's hip Gothic Quarter. In the same area and of similar size is the four-year-old **Mercer Hotel** (*rooms from \$365, Carrer dels Lledó 7; 34-93/310-7480*). Located in an architecturally significant structure with stone walls, the hotel has 28 rooms, including a suite. It's an of-the-moment option, like the Eixample District's 83-room **Cotton House Hotel** (*rooms from \$255, Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes 670; 34-93/450-5045*), which opened in February 2015.

Further afield, **ABaC** (*rooms from \$250; Av. del Tibidabo 1; 34-93/319-6600*) launched in its new space in the Sarrià-Sant Gervasi area in 2008. It has 15 well-appointed rooms and is a 15-minute cab ride from downtown. Ask for a room with a terrace.

WELLNESS

## A RX FOR THE TRAVELER

*Six Senses debuts an integrative-health approach around the world.*

Teaming up with functional-medicine practitioners Dr. Mehmet Oz, Dr. Michael Breus, and Dr. Steven Gundry, **Six Senses** has created a health program that's rolling out at their resorts Zighy Bay, in Oman; Laamu, in the Maldives; Yao Noi, in Thailand; and Douro Valley, in Portugal. When guests get to Six Senses, they can do a wellness screening, which uses a finger oximeter to observe heart rate, oxygen uptake and distribution, artery stiffness, and stress parameters, and take other readings. A wellness expert then designs the guest's stay. For example, someone with low-grade inflammation, low pH value, and low mineral absorption—all stress indicators—might be put on a daily regimen of massage, pranayama yoga, and probiotic and fermented foods. Guests also get take-home health advice. 855-695-6693 —J.F.



1 A suite featuring a Fendi Casa small Artù armchair by Thierry Lemaire and a Fendi Casa Stardust chair by Lemaire. The bed linens are Fendi Casa twisted and mercerized Mako-cotton satin.

2 The bathrooms have Italian marble accents, Fendi Casa twisted-terry bath linens, and Diptyque toiletries.

3 The third-floor lounge area and meeting room has a Fendi Casa Artù armchair designed by Lemaire.

4 The Fendi Private Suites foyer



HAUTE PROPERTY

# Fendi's First Hotel

The fashion brand opens a seven-suite residence within its Palazzo Fendi, in Rome.

A guest needs to be sharp to spot the brand fingerprints on the decor of the **Fendi Private Suites** hotel on the third floor of Palazzo Fendi, a recently restored 17th-century villa that bookends Rome's Via Condotti fashion strip to the west. The eagle-eyed will recognize Fendi in the abstract artworks (Rothko-like arrangements of the fashion house's fur samples) and in beds, side tables, and other Fendi Casa items discreetly scattered among contemporary and vintage design pieces by names such as the Campana brothers and Gio Ponti.

Overall, this urban refuge, designed by Italian architect Marco Costanzi, feels like the spacious apartment of a Roman art collector rather than yet another fashion hotel. Fendi CEO and chairman Pietro Beccari points out that the maison's codes are subtly embedded in elements like "geometry, dualism, color blocking, and, of course, materials and craftsmanship," but that the effort was made to create "an intimate space, a homey feeling."

Palazzo Fendi also now houses the LVMH-owned company's flagship boutique and fur atelier, as well as a private apartment for VIP clients designed by in-demand Milan-based partnership Dimorestudio. The top two stories are given over to an outpost of German chef Rainer Becker's Zuma restaurant and a rooftop bar. For Beccari, Palazzo Fendi is not just a multitasking retail, hotel, and restaurant space but "the incarnation of our sense of aesthetics. It's a game changer for us." *Rooms from \$770, Via della Fontanella di Borghese 48; 39-619779-8080. —Lee Marshall*

COURTESY FENDI



The Elizabeth Taylor Suite—all 2,500 square feet of it—is accessed via private elevator.

## PLACES THAT STILL MATTER

## Liz and Dick Slept Here

The Hollywood stars' former home in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, is now a hotel.

**D**uring the 1964 filming of *The Night of the Iguana* in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Richard Burton set up a local hideaway—two villas connected by a bridge—for himself and Liz Taylor, his mistress and soon-to-be wife. After Taylor sold the property in the '90s, the compound turned into a museum and bed-and-breakfast, and it eventually became empty. Hotelier Janice Chatterton, who owns nearby Hacienda San Angel, took over the space and spent the

past five years converting it into a nine-room hotel called **Casa Kimberly**, which opened in December. Request Taylor's namesake suite, complete with the original pink marble tub she had commissioned in the shape of a human heart (a miscommunication between Taylor and the craftsmen) and a terrace with a private pool. Dine on the patio at the Iguana restaurant, where one of Mexico's most famous mariachi troupes entertains guests six nights a week. *From \$435; Calle Zaragoza 445; 877-218-3248. —J.M.*

## BOAT TO CHARTER

## CRUISING ITALY

San Lorenzo Lodges goes seaborne.



In 2009, Stefano Barbini and his wife, Giorgia, swapped Rome's fashion world (he was the CEO of Escada; she is the granddaughter of Brioni's founder) for a quiet life in the Dolomite mountains. Wanting to share la dolce vita, they opened an intimate hotel called White Deer San Lorenzo Mountain Lodge. Now they are taking their impeccable Italian hospitality to the Mediterranean Sea with **Blue Deer San Lorenzo Sea Lodge**, a 74-foot catamaran.

Custom built by Sunreef Yachts, it sleeps up to ten guests in four cabins. In the salon, a chef prepares meals inspired by her Italian grandmother's recipes. The captain (also a scuba and kitesurfing instructor) impresses with an itinerary that includes islands even most Italians aren't familiar with, like Palmarola and Ventotene. In the winter, the boat can do the British Virgin Islands and St. Martin. *From \$39,200 for one week; 39-474/404-042. —J.M.*

## BY RAIL

## BELMOND IN BERLIN

As of June, Belmond's restored Art Deco luxury train the **Venice Simplon-Orient-Express** will stop in Berlin. The inaugural two-day itinerary begins June 2 in London on its sister train, the 1920s Belmond British Pullman. Passengers cross the English Channel to Calais, where they catch the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express for dinner and an overnight ride through the German countryside, arriving in Berlin on June 3. Dine in the Côte d'Azur restaurant car, with original glass panels designed by René Lalique. The rooms are small and all have twin beds, so upgrade to a Cabin Suite for the most space. On June 4, the train goes back to London on its last Berlin route of 2016.

The 2017 dates have yet to be released. *Rooms from \$2,830 per person from Paris, or \$3,360 from London; 800-524-2420. —E.S.*

