



Twilight over Lake Windermere

exotic resorts in dreamy locations

Welcome...



Welcome to the latest issue of our regular travel magazine. Our first bit of exciting news is that Louise Smith has recently joined the Spirit Away Travel team bringing with her a wealth of experience in travel. Louise has travelled extensively in Africa, Italy and Japan to name but a few destinations. She is also our resident 'pro golfer' so when it comes to organising golfing trips we all know where to go for advice. Find out more about Louise on our website www.spiritawaytravel.co.uk and also recent trips at the back of this edition of the magazine.

With all the comings and goings over Brexit, it is not surprising that 'staycations' have become the talk of the moment. In celebration of the outstanding options available for luxury breaks across the UK and Ireland we have compiled a sumptuous selection of city hotels and country retreats together with some of the finest rail journeys covering the Scottish Highlands, Ireland and the home counties of England.

Spain is still very much a favourite with UK travellers and her islands are

particularly favoured for luxury holidays. The Canaries offer a perfect, year round sunny climate, so it is no wonder that The Ritz-Carlton, Abama on the west coast of Tenerife continues to shine. Moving to the Balearics, we showcase the gorgeous Park Hyatt Mallorca, a stunning new village-style Mediterranean resort set in an idyllic hillside location overlooking the sea.

There's no time like now to plan a dreamy, tropical getaway and in this issue we get a look at one of the newest resorts in the Maldives, Joali, as well as an overview on the choices available with Anantara should you have Thailand on your wish list.

Summer may well have crept up on us whilst we have deliberated on travel plans, but we hope that this issue will fire you with renewed inspiration, whether you are looking to stay close by or whether you are in the mood for a special experience on distant shores. Wherever your finger should drop on the world map, remember that we are here to assist with your every travel requirements.

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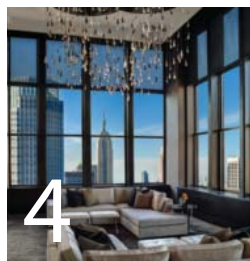


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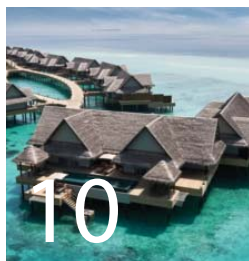
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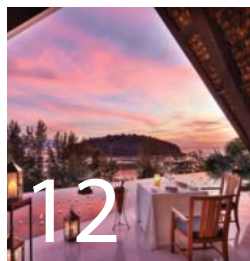
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Boutique elegance at Belmond Cadogan, Chelsea's finest townhouse hotel



When staying in London, head for Chelsea and book into Belmond Cadogan on Sloane Street. The 54-bedroom hotel, which opened in February, is Belmond's second UK hotel bringing boutique elegance to London; a fitting town cousin to Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons in Oxfordshire (see page 19).

The building has a rich history with connections to the actress and royal mistress, Lily Langtry. There is still a discreet back entrance that will favour those who, like the Victorian Prince of Wales, wish to remain low profile! After its recent £36 million refurbishment, the decor is stylish and modern but respectful of the building's architecture producing the feel of a private townhouse steeped with British old-world elegance. Highlights include haute cuisine delivered by Chef patron, Adam Handling.

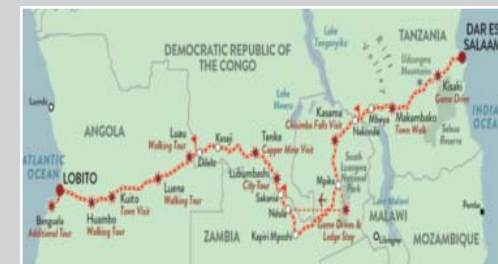
Rocco Forte Hotels expands its collection in Italy and Sicily



The extraordinary talents of the Forte family under the inspirational chairmanship of Sir Rocco Forte and Olga Polizzi is reflected in a raft of new openings across this year and next in Rome, Puglia and Palermo, doubling their portfolio in Italy.

The Eternal City welcomes a second Rocco Forte hotel with the opening of **Hotel De La Ville**, lovingly created out of a 19th-century palace on the Via Sistina, atop the Trinita dei Monti, with sweeping views over city, especially from the rooftop terrace bar. The recently opened **Masseria Torre Maiza** in Puglia represents the group's second Rocco Forte Resort, offering 40 suites reflecting the inspirational stamp of Olga Polizzi. Finally, in 2020, and after a two-year, €27m undertaking, **Villa Igiea**, Palermo's finest hotel will re-open its doors.

Ocean to Ocean on Africa's Copper Trail - luxury rail travel for the intrepid



During July and August 2019 Rovos Rail will run a new 15-day expedition traversing Tanzania, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Angola. It will be the first time in history that a passenger train will travel the famous east-to-west copper trail on this route.

The preparation for this exciting itinerary out of Dar es Salaam took two years of careful planning and acquiring permission from the respective authorities. With visits to both Tanzania's Selous Reserve and a fly-in two-night safari in the South Luangwa National Park (Zambia) the journey has its premium wildlife moments as well as a city tour of Lubumbashi (DRC). Thereafter it joins the Benguela line for short walking tours detailing Angola's recent history with journey's end in Lobito.

The Canny Traveller

Brexit - What's it means for European travel

Will flights still operate?

Regardless of the Brexit outcome planes will still fly between the UK and the EU. If a deal is agreed then we will be in a transition period, meaning everything will stay the same until the end of December 2020 and flights will continue as normal. Even if there is a no-deal scenario, the European Commission has said that UK airlines will still be able to operate flights between the UK and the EU. The UK government has offered similar assurances for EU airlines.

Will ferries and cruise ships still sail?

Ferry services and cruises will still sail as the majority of the rules under which they operate are not based on EU rules, but are international.

Should I take out travel insurance to cover Brexit?

The best way to protect your holiday is to book a package – it is the travel provider's responsibility to make sure a holiday is provided and to offer an alternative or refund if it cannot be delivered.

EHIC and personal travel insurance

The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) allows any EU citizen to access state medical care when they are travelling in another EU country. In the event of a no-deal Brexit, UK registered EHICs will no longer be valid. In any event it is recommended that travellers take supplementary travel insurance.



Manhattan high rise style

Unrivaled luxury in New York City

With a nod to its legendary past, Lotte New York Palace combines old-world elegance with present-day luxury. A stately and historic landmark on Madison Avenue, Lotte New York Palace has long reigned as New York City's most iconic and instantly recognizable hotel. With unrivaled, sweeping views, the Palace offers the pinnacle of service, spacious guest rooms, and extraordinary suites.

Iconic Skylines

Privileged views across some of the world's finest cities with the **Luxe Collection**

When Boadil, the last Moorish ruler of Granada, surrendered his palace, city and kingdom, he is reputed to have declared to his Christian conquerors "These are the keys to Paradise". Today, you can appreciate the sight of his cherished Alhambra, with the kind of view that myth recalls his agonising "last sigh", albeit in more comfort from the rooftop terrace of the Alhambra Palace Hotel.

For this and other iconic vistas, why not consider the Luxe Collection, a curated community of 4 and 5 star luxury hotels located in vibrant and prime destinations around the world. These independent properties offer the highest level of guest satisfaction with attentive and personal service. They are well-appointed and offer unique experiences in highly desirable addresses such as Madison Avenue in New York, Beverly Hills, Piazza San Marco in Venice, Via Veneto in Rome, near to the Louvre Museum Paris and the Amalfi Coast.



Panoramic Florence

Renaissance revived at Palazzo Magnani Feroni

Take a step back in time when you stay in one of the luxurious renaissance style suites during your stay in Italy. This historic site has been finely restored to be able to provide guests with the quintessential Florentine experience. Unwind in a spacious suite after a day hustling about the city and meet on the Terrace for a nightcap with the best panoramic view of Florence in the entire city.



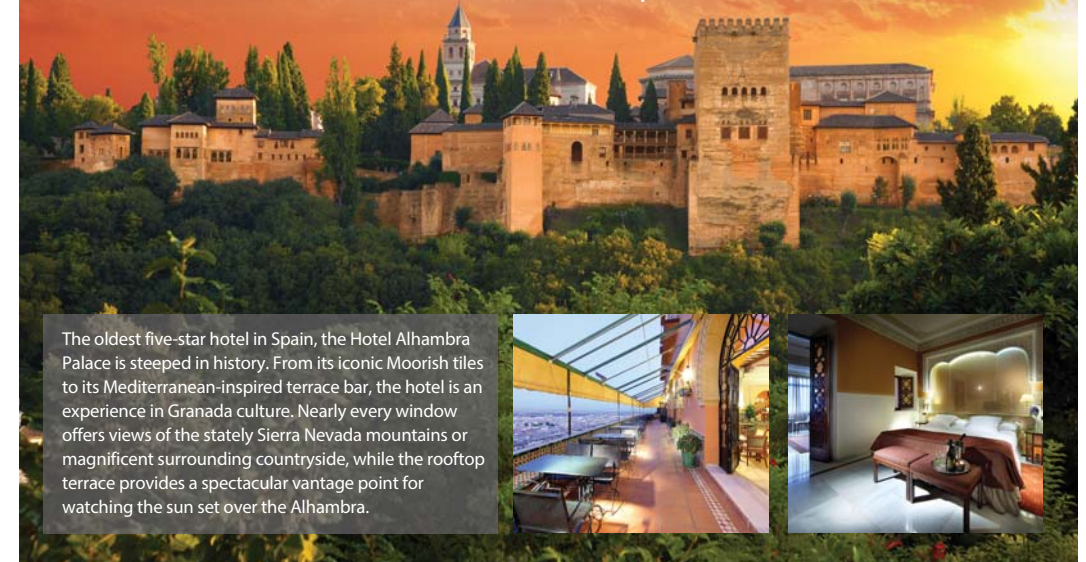
Harbourside in Sydney

Trendy comfort and spectacular views at Harbourside Apartments

Prepare to be dazzled by a truly stunning view of Sydney Harbour from your comfortable, stylish apartment. Take a swim in the full-sized heated pool after a day of sightseeing. You'll also appreciate the convenient and thoughtful amenities. When it comes to meals, the Sails on Lavender Bay restaurant is located on-site, or feel free to grill your own meals at the waterfront barbecue recreation area. Step out and about — you're right in the centre of one of the world's most exciting cities.

Sunset over the Alhambra

Old world charm of the Alhambra Palace Hotel, Granada, Spain



The oldest five-star hotel in Spain, the Hotel Alhambra Palace is steeped in history. From its iconic Moorish tiles to its Mediterranean-inspired terrace bar, the hotel is an experience in Granada culture. Nearly every window offers views of the stately Sierra Nevada mountains or magnificent surrounding countryside, while the rooftop terrace provides a spectacular vantage point for watching the sun set over the Alhambra.



Arrive
Relax
Savour
Play
Enjoy
Discover



The Great Escape

Total immersion in sunny western Tenerife at **The Ritz-Carlton, Abama**

A true luxury escape is waiting at one of the most exclusive resorts in The Canary Islands, amidst an idyllic natural environment overlooking the brilliant blue waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Located on the west coast of the island of 'Eternal Spring', this spacious retreat offers a fulsome holiday experience suiting all ages and interests with fantastic activities and amenities in a stunning setting.

459 rooms and suites offer contemporary spaces that incorporate Moorish influences with *feng shui* principles to create an oasis of luxury and tranquility. Situated in lush gardens, the adult-only Tagor Villas offer access to a private pool and exclusive added benefits including your own personal buggy to drive around the resort and complimentary drinks around the pool all day.

With ten restaurants, The Ritz-Carlton, Abama has something to please all palettes. For a sophisticated evening meal, choose from Michelin-starred restaurants M.B – Martín Berasategui's signature Mediterranean restaurant – or the modern Japanese Fusion - Kabuki. Try Txoko for an authentic taste of

Spanish gastronomy or Verona for exquisite Italian flavours. Alternatively, 20/20 Steakhouse offers a fresh take on the traditional steakhouse, while the refurbished and extended El Mirador serves fresh fish & seafood from an astonishing cliff-top setting.

Benefitting from a year-round micro climate, the resort is ideal for outdoor pursuits. The spectacular golf course is the jewel in the crown of The Ritz-Carlton, Abama. The immaculately maintained 18-hole, par-72 course features over 300 species of sub-tropical plant life, including 25,000 trees and palm trees. More recently, the extensive tennis facilities have been enhanced, offering unique coaching programmes. Activities off resort can include trips to Siam Water Park, Hiking in Masca, Stargazing at Mount Teide, Wine Tasting & year-round Whale and Dolphin watching.

Children will delight in a sense of wonder and discovery with the resort's renowned Ritz Kids programme, specifically designed for 4-12 year olds and including an environmentally aware programme developed for Ritz Kids by the renowned oceanographic explorer and environmentalist, Jean-Michel Cousteau.

Junior Suite Ocean View



Restaurant Kabuki



Dining on the terrace at The Beach Club



Tagor Villas' Pool & Gardens





A Village Affair

A convivial community lifestyle with world-class amenities at **Park Hyatt Mallorca**

Clinging to a hillside and gazing out across the impeccable Canyamel Valley towards the crystal-clear waters of the Mediterranean Sea, Park Hyatt Mallorca is a secluded hideaway with impressive views and highly attentive, personal service.

Designed in the style of a traditional Mallorcan hilltop village, the intimate retreat is gemmed with local accents and flavours that bring the genuine charm of the island alive. Pink pastel alleys with frutal trees lead the way from the 126 well appointed guestrooms and 16 exquisitely designed suites to the various authentic four dining experiences centred around the village square: freshly prepared tapas, Mediterranean cuisine, exotic flavours of South Asia and the perfect mixture of Southern Spanish and

Mallorcan cuisine in the new and exquisite gastronomic proposal signed by the prestigious chef Álvaro Salazar, recently awarded a Michelin Star for the third consecutive year.

The spacious rooms and suites range in size from 50m² to 150m² and feature private terraces with stunning views of the verdant valley or Balearic Sea, ideally located within a three minute drive by shuttle service.

To unwind and indulge in style, the Serenitas Spa and outdoor pools open up a world of laid-back relaxation. For guests that wish to explore more of Mallorca's East Coast, the resort sets the base for unforgettable experiences and all sorts of activities, either on site or right in the Island's astonishing nature.



Art in the Maldives

A masterpiece in tropical island living

Joali resides in the northern Maldives on the picture-perfect Muravandhoo island in the Raa Atoll. Being one of the largest and deepest atolls in the world, guests are surrounded by brilliant blue waters, pristine white-sand beaches and a lush land of coconut palms. The retreat has been designed in and around every tree, ensuring the delicate ecosystem is maintained.

The resort's elegant one to four bedroom villas and residences are the epitome of sustainable glamour, each with a dedicated Joali butler and private infinity pool. Four restaurants provide inventive fusion cuisine from Asian and Peruvian to Italian and Mediterranean dishes. Guests have the opportunity to learn and enjoy delicious meals through personalised cooking experiences and sweet cravings will be satisfied by Joali's artisanal chocolate and ice-cream.

Joali is one of the first and only hotels in the Maldives to be immersed in art, with interactive and experiential pieces featuring throughout the island.



Three bedroom Ocean Residence



Four bedroom Beach Residence





Poolside at Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort



Dining by Design at Anantara Layan Resort, Phuket

Thai Infusions

Anantara infuses local flavours with world-class hospitality

Stylish, luxurious and infused with local charm, Anantara Hotels, Resorts & Spas opens a window to more than 30 destinations around the world. In Thailand, where the brand launched 18 years ago, Anantara's network now runs the length of the country, from the jungles of the Golden Triangle to the Andaman beaches of Phuket.

The Anantara brand is built on extraordinary experiences. In Thailand, this is brought to life through activities and encounters that reveal the characteristics of each city and locale. At Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort, guests 'walk with giants' on an ambling route through the elephants' natural habitat. At Anantara Chiang Mai Resort, the grounds of the former British Embassy provide an elegant setting for lessons in Muay Thai,

Thai cuisine and Thai massage. In Bangkok, Anantara Siam unveils the charms of the capital, with experiences that delve into the city's history, culture and cuisine.

Along Thailand's resplendent southern coastlines, their resorts showcase the delights of the Andaman, with journeys across the waves and explorations beneath them. And in the Gulf of Thailand, both Anantara resorts on Koh Samui invite guests into the quintessential tropical escape, with diving, island-hopping, luxurious spa and wellness experiences and sprawling pool villas overlooking the sea.

Whether in Thailand, the Maldives, the Middle East, Europe or Africa, Anantara offers unforgettable journeys that connect guests to the people, places and stories that make every destination unique.



A Pool Villa at Anantara Mai Khao, Phuket Villas



Anantara Siam Hotel, Bangkok



Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort



Anantara Chiang Mai Resort, Chiang Rai



Classical Elegance Re-Inspired

Oceania Cruises takes luxury cruising to new levels

The Next Chapter...OceaniaNEXT is a sweeping array of dramatic enhancements so transformational, they are inspirational. This ambitious brand initiative will elevate every facet of the Oceania Cruises guest experience to new levels. From thoughtfully crafted new dining experiences and reimagined menus to a better than new fleet of ships, guests will savour The Finest Cuisine at Sea™, be pampered aboard intimate and luxurious ships, and be enriched through in-depth destination exploration.

Insignia has already undertaken her re-inspiration with **Sirena** and **Regatta** to follow later this year and the transformation for **Nautica** will take place next year. Each will essentially become a new ship in a re-inspiration process without peer. Every surface of every suite and stateroom will be entirely new, while in the public spaces, a refreshed colour palette of soft sea and sky tones will surround a tasteful renewal of fabrics, furnishings and lighting fixtures

that exquisitely encompasses the inimitable style and comfort of Oceania Cruises. From the bejewelled new chandeliers in the gracious Grand Dining Room and beckoning Reception Hall to the sleek and calming Canyon Ranch Spa, each ship will celebrate a rejuvenation so sweeping, you will find it positively unimaginable to resist their welcoming embrace.

Delight in prescient service; whether you are sailing for the first time or the fifteenth, you'll note the ease with which the staff remembers your name and your preferences along with the genuine smiles and enthusiasm that can only come from the heart. As you sail from one captivating destination to the next, Oceania Cruises' commitment to culinary excellence shines from beginning to end. The gourmet culinary programme begins with sourcing premium artisanal ingredients from around the world. Of course, their distinguished chefs, selected from the world's best restaurants, are the true masters behind the magic of our cuisine. Regardless

of where you may dine or what you choose to order, you will experience the luxury of cuisine renowned as the finest at sea.

Exceptional value has always been a hallmark of Oceania Cruises, when you sail around with Oceania Cruises, the best value in upscale cruising becomes even better.





British Isles Revisited

The growing popularity of short breaks in the UK and Ireland

The popularity of taking a holiday in the UK has definitely made a strong comeback in recent years. There are certainly many countries, especially within the Eurozone, where our currency has lost the spending power we once valued.

This increase in domestic trip taking also seems to reflect a growing trend at all segments of the UK market for multiple short breaks over the year, certainly at the expense of equivalent short breaks to Europe. It goes without saying that the underlying confusion caused by the protracted Brexit negotiations has added to the mix, especially to those who like to travel on a whim!

In homage to the "staycation" phenomenon this special, extended feature highlights just a few of the very finest hotels from all corners of the Union and also our Irish neighbours.

Perhaps, you are looking to find the perfect base from which to explore one of the major cities, a dreamy spa retreat in the heart of the glorious and green countryside, a classic rail journey through the rugged scenery of the Scottish Highlands or a classy hideaway in one of our national parks. What is for sure is that the British Isles has so much that should be enjoyed ...so get planning your special 'home-grown' adventures!

City Slickers

The great cities of London, Edinburgh and Dublin are classic cosmopolitan hubs, each with so much going on at all times of the year. Here are three centrally located gems from which to explore...



A taste of Ireland's fair city

The Merrion

Dublin

Dublin's Merrion Hotel is the ultimate couples retreat - beautiful gardens, luxury spa treatments (18 metre pool, steam room, fully equipped gymnasium and private treatment rooms), and '2 Michelin Stars' quality dining at one of Ireland's finest, Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud.

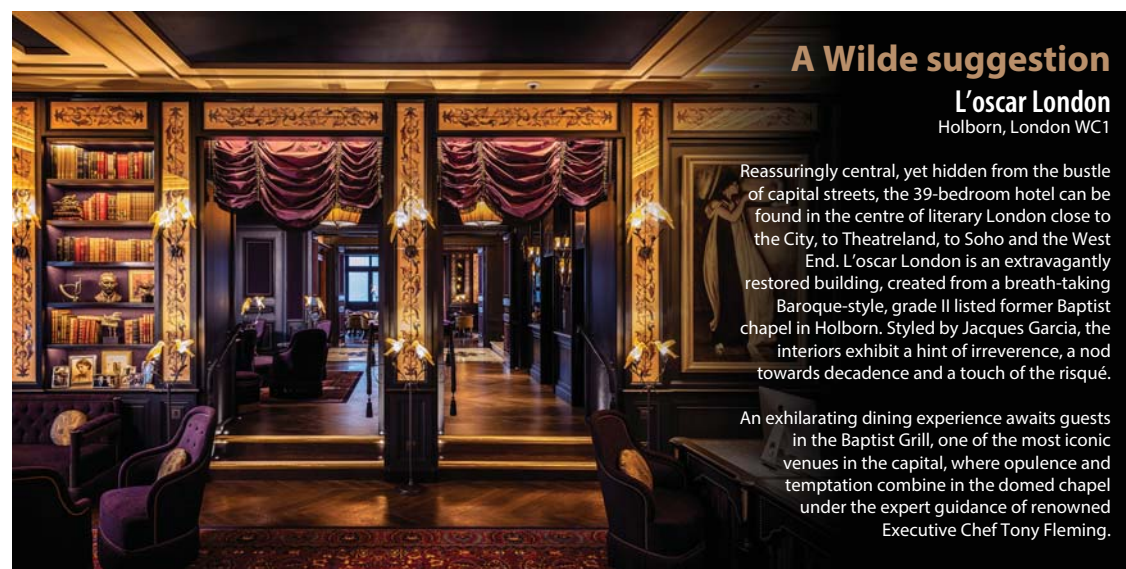
An impeccable restoration of four Georgian townhouses, The Merrion is a marriage of exquisite comfort and relaxed elegance in the heart of Dublin's city centre. The interiors of this Leading Hotel of the World have been restored to their original 18th century glory; vaulted ceilings and original marble fireplaces are just some of the features that await guests behind the doors of the 142 elegant rooms and suites that overlook the period landscaped gardens.



Three minutes grace

The Balmoral Edinburgh

Opened in 1902, it was acclaimed as one of the great railway hotels lying adjacent to Waverley Railway Station in the heart of Edinburgh at the border of Old Town and New Town. Formerly *The North British*, the hotel, renamed *The Balmoral*, became the first acquisition in the impressive Rocco Forte Collection in 1997. This flagship property has been lavishly renovated and embellished during the following 20 years and features 188 bedrooms and suites together with fine dining at the Michelin-starred, Number One Restaurant. Recalling the building's railway legacy, the time on the clock face of the iconic clock tower is set precisely three minutes fast, so that you don't miss your train. In fact, the only time the clock is set correctly is over Hogmanay.



A Wilde suggestion

L'oscar London Holborn, London WC1

Reassuringly central, yet hidden from the bustle of capital streets, the 39-bedroom hotel can be found in the centre of literary London close to the City, to Theatreland, to Soho and the West End. L'oscar London is an extravagantly restored building, created from a breath-taking Baroque-style, grade II listed former Baptist chapel in Holborn. Styled by Jacques Garcia, the interiors exhibit a hint of irreverence, a nod towards decadence and a touch of the risqué.

An exhilarating dining experience awaits guests in the Baptist Grill, one of the most iconic venues in the capital, where opulence and temptation combine in the domed chapel under the expert guidance of renowned Executive Chef Tony Fleming.



Palladian playground

- **Lucknam Park Hotel & Spa**
Colerne, Near Chippenham, Wiltshire

If you are looking for both glamorous and English country traditional then this big-hitting Cotswold 500-acre estate will not disappoint. As you first approach down the mile-long tree-lined avenue, bordered by sweeping gardens, towards the elegant, honey-stoned front facade, you really should be in a horse drawn carriage discussing the marriage prospects of your five eligible daughters. But putting Jane Austin aside Lucknam Park, for all its classic trappings, is a quintessential weekend retreat, where tired cosmopolitan types can come for proper peace and quiet, where relaxation starts with soothing downtime in the ESPA spa followed by a mouth-watering meal at the main restaurant enjoying michelin star cuisine by Hywel Jones before retiring for a well-earned good night's sleep, perhaps in one of the swagged four posters in one of the larger rooms. Definitely a great place to stay for a visit to Bath.

English County Classics

In 'England's green and pleasant land' the countryside beckons with the promise of rolling landscapes, quaint pubs and stately retreats. From the honey-coloured villages of the Cotswolds to the vista of five counties from the top of the Surrey Hills among a host of classic 'postcard perfect' images you can also bet that there are some amazing places to escape to...



Three bites of the cherry

- **Farncombe Estate**
Broadway, Worcestershire

One Cotswold hill, three special hotels – Spread across 400 acres of woodland and fields in the heart of the Cotswolds, overlooking the beautiful village of Broadway, Farncombe Estate is the tranquil countryside home of three remarkable places to stay: Dormy House Hotel & Spa, Foxhill Manor and The Fish Hotel. Owned and run by the same family, each hotel promises a unique and unforgettable experience...

Dormy House Hotel & Spa

Perched high above the village of Broadway, with fabulous views across the Cotswolds, Dormy House is the perfect rural retreat. Think cosy corners, log fires and sumptuous interiors. 38 bedrooms and suites, two-award winning restaurants and a world-class Spa.

Foxhill Manor

An 8 bedroom private manor-house hotel in an intimate Grade-II listed Arts and Crafts country home revitalised for the 21st century. All the character and charm of a boutique-hotel hideaway, served up with heartfelt personal service and an easygoing at-home atmosphere.

The Fish Hotel

A quirky hotel comprising a collection of houses and huts nestled on the hillside within the 400 acre Farncombe estate offering relaxation and outdoor adventure with 68 rooms. The Fish is your back-to-nature bolt-hole with a little touch of luxury.

Don't rush a good thing

- **Heckfield Place**
Hook, Hampshire

What do you get if you combine the spending power of billionaire Gerald Chan, the design flair of Ben Thompson, the culinary genius of Michelin star accredited Skye Gyngell and the day to day management prowess of Olivia Richli with 18 years of Aman tucked under her elegant belt? Add to this a determination to get it just right regardless of how long it would take before opening - 6 years overdue! - and you will probably realise why Heckfield Place, a renovated Georgian mansion, has become one of the UK's most anticipated country house hotel openings. Unassuming from the exterior, the hotel is an amazing statement in understated excellence where contemporary and antique sit in measured balance, where the estate grown fare defines the cuisine and where urban simplicity draws the guest to appreciate the beauty of the magnificent parklands.



High society in the Surrey Hills

- **Beaverbrook**
Near Leatherhead, Surrey

This Surrey Hills Country Estate, former home of Lord Beaverbrook, is set in 400 acres and has been transformed into a lavish hotel that exudes charm and eccentricity.

Steeped in history, each of the beautifully appointed bedrooms in The House nod towards past guests - Elizabeth Taylor, Rudyard Kipling, Ian Fleming and Sir Winston Churchill were frequent visitors to the Estate. Choose to stay in either The House, with interiors designed by Susie Atkinson, or The Garden House, with stunning country interiors by Nicola Harding. In The Garden House, there is an Anglo-Italian restaurant and a unique cookery school, while in The House, an ex-Nobu chef runs The Japanese Grill. The Coach House Spa offers treatment rooms, indoor and outdoor pools, a gym and a deli offering healthy food options. The Orangery is a haven for children to escape the parents at weekends and is transformed during the week into an ideal meeting space.



In search of the sublime

- **Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons**
Great Milton, Oxfordshire

Nestled in the picturesque Oxfordshire countryside, Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons has been the touchstone of haute cuisine for over three decades. Yet its prestige is not limited to the dining room. This 15th-century former manor champions what maître de maison, Raymond Blanc OBE, would call *l'art de vivre*. "The good does not interest us," he says, "only the sublime."

His passion permeates through the hotel, from the individually designed suites to the restaurant's seven-course tasting menus. Just a year after he created Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons in 1984, it was awarded two Michelin stars. Today, it is Britain's only country house hotel to have held this badge of honour for over 30 years.



Ticket to Ride

Forget the traffic jams and the stress of the road. Instead, enter a world of classic refinement journeying in style in luxurious rail cars that recall a bygone era where travelling by train was a pleasant window from which to view the spectacular and changing landscapes of the British Isles...



Highland fling Belmond Royal Scotsman Edinburgh Waverley

Riding Belmond Royal Scotsman is one of those pinch-me moments. Ranking among the world's most luxurious trains, the mahogany-clad cars marry Edwardian elegance with the comforts of a country house. Ten intricately designed carriages, including the sublime Bamford Spa, form a palace on wheels.

Travel on round trips from Edinburgh to the heart of the Highlands on a range of fascinating itineraries that will enrich your appreciation of the staggering scenery, the vibrant history, the Clans and of course, whiskey galore!



Days to remember Belmond British Pullman

London Victoria (& some regional departures)

Restored to their former glory, the Belmond British Pullman's carriages are as famous today as in the heyday of train travel. Whether you prefer afternoon tea, flowing champagne or both - as many guests do - there's a journey for everyone. For the ultimate day out there is an amble in the English countryside to suit all occasions and interests whether it be a special Christmas lunch, a feature chef event, a day at Goodwood Revival or even a truly classic trip pulled by a steam locomotive!



Celtic jaunt Belmond Grand Hibernian Dublin Hueston

Feel the rich creative spirit of the Emerald Isle in every moment aboard Belmond Grand Hibernian, Ireland's first luxury sleeper train. The workmanship within is truly spectacular. A team of 40 skilled craftsmen undertook 35,000 hours of work to create a moving work of Irish art to vie with the much storied adventures of each itinerary. There is a choice of two-, four- and six-night journeys that weave the length and breadth of both the Republic and Northern Ireland.



Tartan Glory

Scotland is an extraordinary corner of the British Isles. Colourful cities and fertile lowlands form a gateway to rugged highlands. A compelling mix as varied and as diverse as they come, so no matter where you end up you'll be blown away by the breathtaking setting around you...



By royal approval

- Inverlochy Castle Hotel
Fort William, Highlands

The area surrounding Inverlochy Castle is rich in landscape and history, to name but a few of these breath-taking places – the falls at Glen Nevis, the monument at Glenfinnan and the mountains of Glencoe. During a trip to Balmoral in 1873, Queen Victoria spent a week at Inverlochy sketching and painting where she wrote in her diaries 'I never saw a lovelier or more romantic spot'. Nestling in the foothills of the mighty Ben Nevis, Inverlochy Castle sits amidst some of Scotland's finest scenery. Dining at 'Albert and Michel Roux Jr at Inverlochy Castle' is a culinary experience to savour, with the legendary father and son taking the helm of the kitchen and offering the finest dishes using local produce.



Game, set and match

- Cromlix
Dunblane, Perthshire

When Scottish tennis superstar Andy Murray acquired Cromlix, close to his hometown of Dunblane, it signalled not only a return to his roots but the chance to reinvent the glorious era of grand country house living. Following extensive refurbishment, the US Open, Olympic and Wimbledon champion has transformed the elegant Victorian Perthshire mansion into a luxury 15-bedroom and Gate Lodge, five-star destination. Situated in beautiful countryside, Cromlix occupies 34 acres of secluded woodlands and garden grounds, with its own chapel and house loch. The hotel also boasts a Chez Roux restaurant, offering reasonably priced menus that use seasonal locally sourced produce wherever possible.



Idyllic West Coast retreat

- Isle of Eriska Hotel, Spa & Golf Course
Oban, West Coast

There's a certain magic about staying on a private island. Located on the west coast of Scotland, this well-positioned 300-acre estate boasts gorgeous views overlooking Loch Linnhe and the dramatic Morvern mountains offering a truly memorable experience. Highland cattle graze, badgers visit, grey seals and otters swim in the surrounding water and countless birds, including the golden eagle, can be spied soaring overhead. The hotel delivers unique levels of personal service, with decor blending the traditional with the contemporary. Distant islands form a stunning backdrop to Eriska's 9-hole golf course and a host of activities on the grounds and the spa and leisure facilities.



The Giant's Causeway

Irish Fancy

Rugged coastlines, mysterious mountains and a glorious celtic legacy contribute to the allure of both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Both Dublin and Belfast are renowned for their vibrant cosmopolitan vibe in an exciting contrast to the distinctly laid-back lifestyle of the regions...



Kerry's finest

- Sheen Falls Lodge
Kenmare, County Kerry, Ireland

Surrounded by purple heather-covered mountains, Kenmare is one of the spots in Ireland that the Irish themselves like best. Sheen Falls Lodge is not only perfectly placed for exploring the southwest, the Ring of Beara, Ring of Kerry and the famous Killarney Lakes, but it is also known for its piano-jazz ambience, its collection of old Irish whiskeys, and the dishes prepared with the salmon caught in the nearby river. There are unrivalled views of Kenmare Bay, MacGuillicuddy's Reeks and cascading Sheen waterfalls. All of this, combined with outstanding Irish hospitality and Celtic legends, creates a sense of magic that pervades.

Hollywood star

- Culloden Estate & Spa
Belfast, Northern Ireland

Perched upon the grand slopes of the Hollywood Hills, overlooking Belfast Lough is the majestic Culloden Estate and Spa. The former home to the Bishop of Down, Culloden boasts 12 acres of secluded gardens, yet is just three miles from the buzz of Belfast City Centre. Palatial surroundings, exquisite décor, fine antiques and exceptional service combine to create a unique air of elegance in the 98 bedrooms. Take in the beautiful vistas of Belfast Lough while dining at Mitre Restaurant – one of Belfast's finest.



Liffey lifestyle

- The K Club
Kildare, Near Dublin

Steeped in history and inspired by a magnificent French château, The K Club combines old-world elegance with contemporary luxury, just 35 minutes outside the bustling city of Dublin. Set within 550 acres of lush Irish countryside on the banks of the River Liffey in Straffan, Kildare, this is Ireland's first AA 5 Red Star property.

Dotted along the majestic corridors are 134 magnificently-appointed bedrooms and suites adorned with hand-painted murals, designed to give guests a feeling of 18th century history and Irish culture. Using locally-sourced ingredients, chefs at The K Club prepare exquisite culinary delights to tantalise the taste buds, while the internationally acclaimed spa is on hand to soothe and revitalise.



Relaxation

at the Landings, St Lucia
by *Melanie*



January was a great time to visit this luxurious resort and we loved the villa accommodation with gorgeous beach or yacht marina view. We started the day with early morning yoga and then a wander along the long sandy beach to breakfast on the terrace. After a relaxing day, the early evening sunsets were accompanied by a local cocktail. The resort has a great kids club, spa, gym, tennis courts and several pools. Whilst in St Lucia we were invited to sample the wonderful spa treatments at the Body Holiday where they recommend 'Give us your body for a week and we'll give you back your mind'.

I have also been skiing at Club Med Val Thorens recently

To find out more about St Lucia or skiing with Club Med, please call Melanie on 01732 860503 or 07785 706623 or email: melanie@spiritawaytravel.co.uk

Friends United

in Dubrovnik by *Nicola*

When some friends invited me on a girl's weekend to Dubrovnik, how could I refuse another opportunity to travel!

Dubrovnik is a vibrant city steeped in history and with much of its architecture dating back to the 15th century. There are plenty of opportunities for city tours, museum or gallery visits or if you're a fan, a Game of Thrones tour. Small boats run day trips to the surrounding islands, and you'll be

spoiled for choice with the fabulous selection of restaurants and bars. There's also the opportunity to create a twin-centre trip to Montenegro which is only a short distance south.

We stayed in Hotel Bellevue, situated in a secluded bay just 10 minutes' walk from the centre of Dubrovnik. The hotel was refurbished this year and has beautiful views over the cliffs to the sea, a fabulous beach bar, main restaurant and spa.

If you would like to know more about Dubrovnik please call Nicola on 020 8460 6760 or 07885 990505 or email: nicola@spiritawaytravel.co.uk

Spirited Moments



Lucern & Lake Maggiore

by *Louise*

My daughter and I were lucky enough to get away for a short break to Lucern & Lake Maggiore over Easter. Two beautiful destinations! In part a family visit, a mini golf escape and exploring the local countryside. I played Oberkirche in Luzern and overlooking the Lake, Premeno and Illes Borromees Golf courses. If you are looking for somewhere different for golf they are definitely worth a visit.

We also got to experience the delights of the local cuisine, the highlight for my daughter was chocolate tasting in Lucern at a family run chocolatier and of course gelato in Italy!

To find out more about Lucern & Lake Maggiore, please call Louise on 07775 942694 or email: louise@spiritawaytravel.co.uk



Christmas in Zermatt

by *Caroline*

Spirited Moments



What a great idea! I didn't need asking twice – it was just a case of organising the trip and ensuring that the destination chosen would keep everybody happy. Zermatt works for the adventurous skier, as well as the non-skier. There are has over 200 kilometres of pistes and the resort is linked to Italy by a new gondola – the highest in Europe – where you can find a further 160 kilometres of skiing and a much cheaper cup of coffee!

We stayed at Chalet Hotel Schonegg which suited our requirements perfectly – their new rooms are superb with amazing views of The Matterhorn – one of the world's most photogenic mountains. Food and service were all first class and just so lovely to have somebody cook for me on Christmas Day! To read more about my trip visit our website www.spiritawaytravel.co.uk.



To find out more about Zermatt, please call Caroline on 01883 722656 or 07775 736697 or email: caroline@spiritawaytravel.co.uk

7 Pines Resort, Ibiza by Brinley

The 7 Pines Resort Ibiza opened mid-2018 and the great reviews just keep flooding in. Located on the west coast of the island the focus is less on partying and more on enjoying the finer things in life. This all-suite resort, part of The Leading Hotels of the World, is perched on a cliff top surrounded by pine forest and azure waters offering spectacular views of the Mediterranean Sea. The 186 suites are set up in an Ibiza village style so guests have an authentic experience combined with contemporary design. There are also two outdoor pools – one of which is an adults-only infinity pool - perfect for chilling out and watching the world go by. The resort also has the 'Pure 7' spa, regular yoga classes for those that fancy being a little more active, and its very own yacht which can be chartered for a luxurious day at sea.

Away from the bright lights, the 'White Island' has a unique and authentic charm just waiting to be explored. With moderate temperatures and the 7 Pines open all year, it's the perfect escape only a couple of hours away from many regional airports. From beach clubs to spectacular dining options, world-famous DJs to bohemian lifestyle, there really is something for everyone.

To find out more about 7 Pines Resort, please call Brinley on 01883 723 622 or 07901 933 594 or email: brinley@spiritawaytravel.co.uk

