



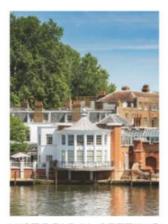
LONGING FOR A CHANGE OF SCENE OR SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO?

LAURA NORMANTON SUGGESTS HOTELS, VILLAS AND CRUISES TO

BOOK NOW - WHETHER YOU PREFER SUNKISSED DESTINATIONS IN PORTUGAL,

GREECE OR MOROCCO, OR WINTRY SECLUSION IN FINNISH LAPLAND





HISTORICAL SETTING

Relaunching in mid September, The Mitre,
Hampton Court is a 36-bedroom boutique hotel
set on the banks of the River Thames. Rebuilt
in the mid-18th century, The Mitre dates back
to 1665 and was originally used as ancillary
accommodation for guests of King Charles II.
The rooms have been individually designed by
Nicola Harding to showcase the building's
history. With the Whispering Angel Rosé river
shack and a private jetty with a hotel boat, there
is plenty to keep guests entertained. Rooms
from £195, B&B. mitrehamptoncourt.com



ICY ADVENTURE

Set in the wilds of Finnish Lapland, Javri Lodge is an adults-only, chalet-style property ideal for couples and friends looking to get away from it all this winter - or reconnect after time apart.

The owners can organise activities such as husky sledding, cross-country skiing and walks, followed by a traditional Finnish sauna before a gourmet five-course dinner. Scott Dunn offers four nights at Javri Lodge for £3,700 per person, full board, based on two sharing a Cosy Double room, including flights and transfers, and a daily experience. scottdunn.com



ADRIATIC TO AEGEAN

Looking ahead to spring and summer 2021, join Seabourn Ovation or Seabourn Encore for a Mediterrean cruise. Attend destination talks by Unesco experts and enjoy complimentary experiences, such as snorkelling from the back of the ship. In May, the 14-day 'Golden Greek Isles & Ephesus' itinerary sees Seabourn Ovation sail from Venice to Istanbul, taking in Croatia, Montenegro, Corfu, Nafplion, Athens, the Cyclades and Kusadasi for Ephesus (above). It costs £7,299 per person sharing a suite, full board, excluding flights. seabourn.com



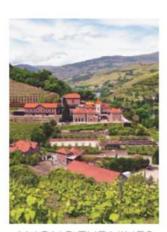
GREEK IDYLL

September through to the end of November is a lovely time to visit Santorini, as you can enjoy the beauty of the island without hordes of tourists. In picturesque Oia, Andronis Luxury Suites (flagship of the Andronis Exclusive hotel group), offers impressive views, chic rooms and the award-winning restaurant Lycabettus. Breakfast is served on the private terraces of the 29 suites and villas (most have a private tub, steam room or sauna). A restaurant by the infinity pool offers fresh Mediterranean dishes and cocktails. From £573, B&B.* andronis-suites.com



SUN, SAND AND SOUKS

Morocco is a great option for winter sun during October half term. CV Villas has 22 private villas across the country, including the sea-view Villa Mabrouka, just outside Essaouira. Designed by the architects responsible for the Yves Saint Laurent Museum in Marrakech, it sleeps six and makes a chic base from which to explore Essaouira's sandy beaches and vibrant souk. Or relax in the shady central courtyard and enjoy the views over olive groves from the infinity pool. A week in October costs £4,176, including breakfast and maid service. cvvillas.com



AMONG THE VINES

Elegant Resorts offers itineraries in Portugal, including a stay at Six Senses Douro Valley. Ideal for a weekend break, this 19th-century manor house is set on a hill overlooking the Douro Valley. The hotel offers vineyard walks and picnics in the forest, or you can relax around the pool and enjoy the spa. The secluded new Vineyard Garden Suite has a separate bedroom and living/dining area. Elegant Resorts offers seven nights in a Quinta Superior room from £2,545 per person, including flights, transfers and lounge access.** elegantresorts.co.uk