



Casa De Mondo



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Villa Fiesole



Isla Brown Corinthia Resort & Spa



Coquillade in Provence

No holiday plan? No problem

Louisa Walters checks out what you should check in to this summer

Lastminute.com was the cleverest of all concepts because so many of us run our lives this way. As such, here we are in the middle of April and that last holiday is a distant memory with nothing in the calendar. I find a change really is as good as a rest, which is why short breaks in boutique hotels are my thing, but if you want to flop somewhere for a week or more, a resort will be more yours.

Casa Cook is a design-led collection of intimate hotel hideaways embracing laid-back luxury. There are three in Greece, one in Egypt and a new one opens in the Italian Alps by the end of the year. I would choose **Casa Cook Rhodes** in the village of Kolymbia. Elegantly boho, with 119 verandah-fronted rooms with direct access to a shared swimming pool, it's a short walk to the beach, and you can tuck in to Greek-inspired sharing plates to the backdrop of the house DJ's summer beats. **From 113 euros per night. casacook.com**

Not just for holidays, Portugal has become the place to live, with

properties available at a range of prices and year-long sunshine. For every grey and rainy day here, the Algarve has blue skies and heat, so grab a long weekend at the beautiful farmhouse **Casa De Mondo** in Boliquieme. The property has rave reviews for its peaceful location and caring hosts, who take care of guests travelling alone. Lavish breakfasts and tapas suppers are served in the verdant gardens overlooking the pool and, if you time it right, you can join a Portuguese cookery class. There are only three double rooms with kitchens and private terraces, so it never feels crowded, and the beach is a 15-minute drive. Known for its *Mamma Mia!*-style hen parties and shabby chic

weddings, there's a 10 percent discount on a £95 per night stay until the end of May – if you quote 'JNmondo'. **casademondo.com**

Provence is always a good idea and **Crillon le Brave** is a gem in the heart of the stunning Vaucluse countryside. Fly to Avignon and then relax in this pretty hotel, explore the tiny village and its alleys, lounge by the pool, recharge and relax in the hotel's spa, and indulge in exquisite French food. **From 350 euros per night. crillonlebrave.com**

Or make your way to the Luberon area and check in to **Coquillade** on a 100-acre estate studded with historical vineyards, cypress trees and 300-year-old olive groves. This 63-room hotel, within



Keight Hotel, in the seaside town of Opatija, is one of Croatia's newest hotels

a restored 11th-century hamlet, has rooms spread across a collection of bastides (country houses, an on-site organic winery, an award-winning spa and a BMC Cycling Centre. **From £545 per night. coquillade.fr**

In Tenerife, **Tivoli La Caleta** has taken up residence where the Sheraton used to be, just 15 minutes from Tenerife South airport and well located for all the great restaurants for which the area has become known. The building has been refurbished, with the addition of a new spa, with an ice igloo, although I'd personally rather be warm by one of the three outdoor pools. There are also padel courts and a Technogym. Dine at Seen Beach Club and Yakuza, both by well-known Portuguese 'chefpreneur' Olivier da Costa. **From 390 euros a night. tivolihotels.com**

From 5 July to 4 August, the historic city of Savonlinna, in Finland's picturesque lake district, will transform into an opera lover's paradise, with a line-up featuring masterpieces by Verdi and Mozart. Performances take place at Olavinlinna Castle, an island fortress in the breathtaking setting of Lake Saimaa. Fly to Helsinki and stay in **Hotel Hospitz** in Savonlinna. From around £100 a night. **hospitz.com**

Keight Hotel Opatija is one of Croatia's newest hotels and has a rooftop sundeck with a swimming pool and bar overlooking the red-tiled roofs of the 19th-century town. In the heart of the charming seaside resort town of Opatija, it's less than a two-minute walk from the sea and famous Franz Jozef

Lungomare, Opatija's seafront promenade. Fly to Rijeka, and from there visit many of Croatia's islands, including Cres and Krk. **From approx £250 per night. hilton.com**

Israelis have long been going to Cyprus and we should follow suit, especially to stay at **Secret Forest** in the hills above Paphos, which is every inch a retreat in which to wind down. Israeli owner Yoni Kahana runs the place with an air of charm and calm, even offering (kosher) brunch from 10am to 1pm so you don't need to get up early. **From £550 for two nights for an exclusive all-inclusive experience. secretfo.rest**

If city breaks are your thing but you'd rather stay outside the centre, the tranquil **Villa Fiesole Hotel**, a renovated historic home, dating back to medieval times, has romantic views of Florence and the surrounding countryside. There are just 32 bedrooms and the main building was originally a *serra* (greenhouse) used by monks from the nearby monastery. **From approx £200 per night. fh5shotels.com**

The Athens Riviera is only a one-hour drive from the capital, where the new Israeli-owned **Isla Brown Corinthia Resort & Spa** has unobstructed sea views overlooking the Saronic Gulf from the hotel's 166 guest rooms. Head up to the rooftop for a drink at the bar or to relax on loungers beside fire pits. Downstairs, there is a charming taverna, buffet restaurant, lobby bar and a pool bar for a quick bite, plus two swimming pools a private beach, gym and spa. **From around £250 per night. brownhotels.com**