

STAY

A weekend A week For longer

UK
USA
NORWAY
ITALY
SPAIN
THAILAND
DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC
AUSTRALIA
INDONESIA

SEVEN ROOMS,
SICILY, HOUSED IN THE
BAROQUE PALAZZO NICOLAI

Sample 18th-century palatial life in Sicily, cross over to the slow lane on Mallorca's wild east coast, escape to a jungle hideaway in the Dominican Republic or soak up a touch of Chelsea glamour

BEAVERBROOK TOWNHOUSE

Discover modern country charm and authentic Japanese in **LONDON** with the Chelsea outpost of the luxury rural retreat Beaverbrook Hotel. Sir Winston martinis and Spitfire Collins await



It's the ultimate British country bolthole, without leaving the city. Beaverbrook Townhouse blends old and new in all the right ways, from the cream and turquoise rotary phones, art deco lamps, Oscar Wilde portraits and retro illustrations to an understanding that the beds need to be sumptuous, rooms cosy and cool, and food and drink has to be on point. The latter they get so right, with the bar – red-stained glass, leather booths, Japanese matchbox tables – serving martinis the Sir Winston way, Spitfire Collins, myriad Japanese whiskies, well chosen wines and East India teas.

Then the food: authentic Japanese, taking you from sashimi and nigiri, to sushi specials that include the adventurous 'ike-jime' red bream with

shio koji and Kentish ants (always the tastiest). For something with fewer legs there's also a robata grill, serving wagyu, black cod and monkfish.

The Spitfire logo that adorns everything from doors to drinks coasters is a nod to Lord Beaverbrook, the former pal of Winston Churchill and wartime minister of aircraft production who once resided in the townhouse's Surrey-based sister estate. And it feels as if all the best bits of the already renowned modern British luxury of Beaverbrook Hotel have been taken and given a city twist for a townhouse that is the perfect away-from-it-all break, whether you live in London or not. **AM.** *Doubles from £370. 020 3988 6611, beaverbrooktownhouse.co.uk*

Words by Megan Dickson; Blossom Green; Alex Mead
Photos by Steve King and Trevor Tondro Photography



CALIFORNIA THE SURFRIDER

California dreams are made manifest at this modern oceanfront pad found slinking off the Pacific Coast Highway. While the word Malibu may scream ‘glitz and glam’, The Surfrider started life as a motel, so expect a gentle, low-key affair where beach house design pick-ups

muddle with a boho nod to the motel’s heyday. It’s a homely marriage that sees hammocks straddle seafront terraces and ample space to lounge, with kitchenettes for those looking to scour the local Sunday farmer’s market. The Golden State’s seasonal, farm-to-fork sentiment is well



displayed at the rooftop restaurant – headed by a French Laundry alum – from grazing boards and vibrant stone fruit and burrata salads to sardines on toast. Hiking trails, Santa Monica and the bustle of LA are a quick drive away. **BG.** *Doubles from £317.00* 1 310 526 6158, thesurfridermalibu.com

MANSHAUSEN NORWAY

Follow in polar explorer Børge Ousland’s snowy footsteps and make for northern Norway, where the island resort of Manshausen sits between icy fjords above the Arctic Circle. The former deep-sea diver turned hotelier teamed up with acclaimed architect Snorre Stinnesen for this exciting project. The result? Seven breathtaking, minimalist sea cabins and a roll call of some 40 design awards. Jutting out over Grøtøyleia strait, the cabins float above the clear waters of the Steigen archipelago. With no wi-fi or TV, you’re free to

marvel at the scenic views beyond huge panoramic windows, and outside 44ha of wilderness awaits. Take your pick from kayaking, fishing and mountain hiking, then do the Scandinavian thing and relax in the sauna and hot tub (or even take a dip in the seawater pond). Be sure to book a seat at the restaurant where chef Ondrej Taldik plates up fish and game fresh off the doorstep. Come evening, a glimpse of the Northern Lights alone is worth the journey. **MD.** *Doubles from £409, including breakfast.* 00 47 90 363616, manshausen.no



SEVEN ROOMS VILLADORATA

Recreate the Grand Tour in the 'capital of baroque' in **SICILY**, where guests stay in the prince's quarters at a World Heritage Site palace. Expect old-world charm and total immersion in the noble life



History has left its mark on the honey-hued streets of Noto, a south-eastern Sicilian city at the foot of the Iblean Mountains. Punctuated by ancient church towers, striking limestone structures, grand palaces and curious mythological creatures holding up wrought-iron balconies, there's a strong echo of the 18th century and at its very centre sits Seven Rooms Villadorata. Housed in the illustrious Palazzo Nicolaci – a Unesco World Heritage Site – the hotel was once the prince's quarters. You can't help becoming immersed in the noble life in this baroque wonderland of frescoed ceilings, distressed furniture – lending a touch of French romance – and textured monochrome walls that give way to mismatched tiled floors.

In the elegant rooms and suites expect crystal-and-brass candelabras,

exposed stone arches and marble busts adorning rustic vanities – you'll feel almost out of place without a ball gown. King-sized headboards, oversized lamps and heavy drapes add to the grandiose atmosphere, while cabinets of curiosities exhibiting carefully curated collections of antiques will no doubt pique your attention. And while the Junior Suite faces the heart of Noto, guests can enjoy views of the quaint old market square and the palace courtyard from the private terrace of the Deluxe room – perfect for alfresco breakfasts. An arrangement of seasonal fruits, artisan breads, cold cuts and cheeses will set you up for sightseeing.

It's best to explore Noto by foot. Stop by Corrado Costanzo for world-renowned gelato before wandering the arcades of Palazzo Ducezio and admiring the mountainscape from

San Nicolò Cathedral, just around the corner; or venture further afield on a day trip to the Vendicari Nature Reserve. Along its rugged coastline you'll discover wild beaches and stumble upon the ruins of an ancient Greek village, Eloro.

Back at the hotel, head to the restored palace stables for traditional Mediterranean plates at Manna restaurant or retreat to your quarters to watch the sun set over golden rooftops and rolling countryside beyond.

For those seeking the full epicurean experience, the hotel offers wine tasting tours and cooking classes. If it's a sense of royalty you're dreaming of after months of cancelled trips, you'll be glad to hear groups can request to have the entire palace to themselves. **JM.**
Doubles from £334. 00 39 0931 835575, 7roomsvilladorata.it

ES RACÓ D'ARTÀ MALLORCA



Slow living begins in a natural park on Mallorca's wild east coast, where citrus gardens, olive groves and vineyards frame a bucolic estate. Across Es Racó d'Artà's eight minimalistic suites, untreated wood, hand-woven carpets and hemp-rope curtains are brought to life by art

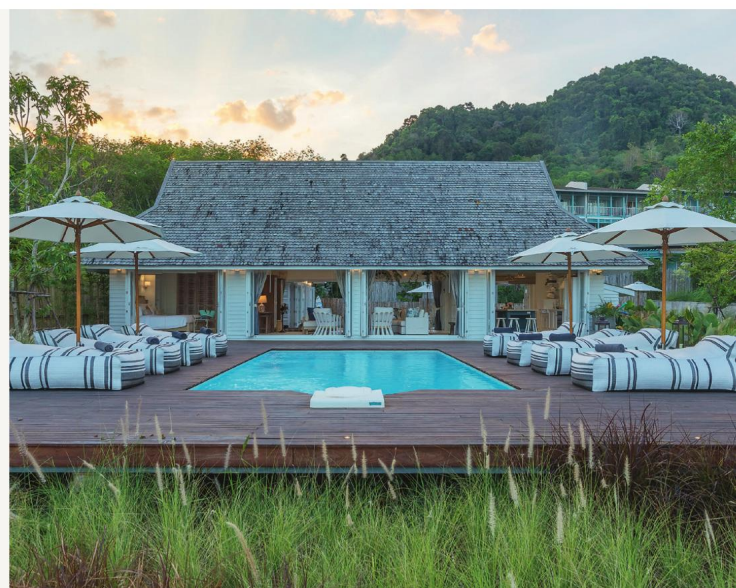
pieces by local craftspeople. Lounge on the Junior Suite Terrace sunbeds or admire bird's-eye views of the picturesque town of Artá from the Suite Terrace 360°. Alternatively, opt for ultimate privacy at the 21 'casitas' and two 'casas' – some have pools for dips set to the soundtrack of birdsong.

Yoga classes or watsu treatments, forest hikes and hands-on workshops with Artá's artisans will whet your appetite for lunch at farm-to-fork restaurant Beni Axir. Ingredients harvested on-site include olive oil and honey. **JM.** *Suites from £383. 00 34 971 836673, esracodarta.com*

CAPE KUDU THAILAND

New England aesthetics meet easygoing tropical paradise at this family owned boutique pad on Koh Yao Noi island, an emerald speck floating amid the sapphire hues of the Andaman Sea. Arrival is via speedboat from Phuket to a whitewashed haven with seaview suites and pool villas that takes its design cues from US East Coast chic with a smattering of Caribbean colonial. Indoor-outdoor living is the norm, with pavilion-style architecture and natural materials. The infinity pool overlooking a

seascape dotted with karst islets is a highlight, as are the hornbills that flit overhead. Add a rustic restaurant that champions vibrant Thai classics and local seafood and your home away from home is guaranteed. It's perfectly positioned for island hopping on a long boat, bike rides, diving – don't miss nearby Shark Point and the King Cruiser Wreck site on Anemone Reef – or straight-up basking, perhaps with some batik painting. **BG.** *Doubles from £129. 00 66 76 592600, capekuduhotel.com*



CASA BONITA

Lose yourself in tropical luxury in the **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** with a family-run eco retreat set amid the verdant jungle with mountain views and Caribbean waters at your feet



Set amid lush tropical jungle with the Caribbean on your doorstep and mountains as a backdrop, every box is ticked for an island getaway at Casa Bonita in Dominican Republic.

Home to just 12 cabanas, this family-run retreat is as intimate as it is secluded. Everything at Casa Bonita, in the nation's south-west corner, ties back in with the rich, verdant landscape – a unique geography right next to Dominican Republic's only biosphere reserve – from the seafood that pretty much flops from the sea to stove, to the ingredients grown in their organic garden. There are also remedies from their surrounds with the woodland

Tanama Eco Spa spa using garden herbs and larimar stones – found only on this island – in their treatments. Then, you can truly get among nature, either by discovering what lies beneath the beautiful blue waters, taking a hike through the jungle, or getting the best view in the house from the 1km-long treetop Garden Canopy Tour. To get hands-on with grows within the surf and turf of the island, there's also an organic cookery tour.

Rooms have private balconies and views of the ocean or the mountains, and balance natural wood with crisp white interiors. **AM. Doubles from £249. 00 01 809 540 5908. casabonitadr.com slh.com**

Words by Megan Dickson; Blossom Green; Alex Mead. Photos by Small Luxury Hotels; George Apostolidis; Gabriel Ulung Wicaksono

S T A Y For longer



Dramatic views come as standard in luxury lodges that take their design lead from the surrounding landscape on Tasmania's east coast. With bush land, vast stretches of white sand and the pink-tinted Hazard Mountains all in your sight line, rooftops resemble a stringray bobbing on the waves, while inside the use of raw materials

– timber, stone – draws the outside in. Calming grey and tan hues run through the 20 suites, accented with pink, orange and blue splashes. For the best seat in the house look no further than Palate restaurant, where ceiling-to-floor windows frame the vistas and chef Paddy Prenter's menu allows local ingredients to shine.

Feasting done, kick back with a crisp chardonnay from one of the nearby wineries – the perfect way to end days spent cruising azure waters and shucking oysters directly off the sea floor just a few hundred metres away. **MD.** All-inclusive suites from £1,206 (two-night minimum stay). 00 61 3 6256 7888, saffire-freycinet.com.au

SAFFIRE FREYCINET AUSTRALIA



ALILA SEMINYAK BALI

Tickling the sand along a stretch of Bali's south-west coast, this relaxed beach resort treads a careful line between cool sophistication and tropical modernism. Beloved by ex-pats and visitors alike for its buzzy beach bar and top-notch Seasalt restaurant, open-air walkways draped in hanging greenery connect the architectural space that leads out from a sunken lobby lounge. Generous accommodation, from pool suites to beach-front rooms and garden deluxes, champions

minimal-luxe designways with cues taken from Japan – think dark wood and latticed shutters. Days are best spent flitting between the beach and four pools – including a huge two-tier infinity option – with perhaps, a trip to the quality spa. Being within striking distance of Seminyak's excellent restaurants, cafés and boutiques (and a short hop from the airport), it's also a good jumping off point for island exploration. **BG.** Doubles from £123. 00 62 361 3021 888, alilahotels.com

GOURMET Boltholes

Explore up-scaled regional cooking in a historic setting in **PERTHSHIRE** and **NORFOLK**, with a stay in one of these newly renovated restaurants with rooms – both with inspired tasting menus and personal touches



KILLIECRANKIE HOUSE

Delve into rural Scotland's natural larder at this 1840 country manor poised on the edge of the Cairngorms National Park. Killiecrankie House is the brainchild of a husband-and-wife team – Leith's-trained chef Tom Tsappis and sommelier Matilda Ruffle – who've created a modern design-led stay. And the big draw is their ambitious 12-course tasting menu. As you'd expect, regional produce from forest, field and sea takes a plum spot at the table, with each dish revealing a chapter of Scotland's

culinary story. Tom gives heritage dishes and ingredients – venison, bramble, whisky – a modern makeover: think dripping-fried porridge, slow-cooked Highland wagyu oxtail and Firth of Moray squid cooked in a stew of its ink. The experience concludes with the likes of cinnamon-crusted madeleines filled with a Stornoway black pudding caramel. Don't miss a postprandial stop at the art deco bar to sample Matilda's Scottish-inspired drinks, including the whisky-based Penicillin. Enjoy it all against a backdrop

of sophisticated blues and dark woods, with pared-back Scandi touchstones and statement lighting throughout. Luxury touches in the five bedrooms include four-poster beds, velvet textiles and roll-top baths.

With hiking and cycling trails (and even wild swimming) on the doorstep, the crackling fire of the drawing room and guided whisky tasting make for a warming return back at base. MD. *Doubles from £450, including dinner and breakfast. 01796 473213, killiecrankiehouse.com*

Clockwise from top left: Killiecrankie House; a decor of hushed tones; expect reinvented Scottish fare; one of five bedrooms; Meadowsweet, Holt; from the five-course tasting menu; minimalist bedrooms have original features; the airy dining room

MEADOWSWEET

Charming art galleries, cosy tea rooms and independent shops make fitting neighbours for this restaurant with rooms in the sleepy market town of Holt, North Norfolk. Within a newly renovated, Grade II-listed Georgian building, co-owner and chef Greg Anderson – previously of Michelin-starred Morston Hall – cooks up an intimate feast. His single five-course tasting menu brings together the very best regional produce in dishes that are refined, modern and driven by the seasons. Expect the likes of Hindolveston lamb with wild garlic and artichoke, Brancaster oyster with jalapeño, and Doddington cheese with sherry and smoked ham. Citrus

vacherin with orange blossom and yoghurt will wrap it all up nicely before you head upstairs; three rooms – aptly named Verbena, Mallow and Borage – marry a crisp, minimalist vibe with original fireplaces and beams.

Holt is home to a buzzing Sunday market, so shopping bags are a must-bring, but don't forget your wellies, either – pay a visit to the nearby Cley Marshes, great for spotting spoonbills and crabs, or to the vivid rhododendron gardens of Sheringham Park. Take the steam train for top-notch coastal views. JM. *Doubles from £375, including dinner and breakfast. 01263 586954, meadowsweetholt.com*



Words by Megan Dickson and Jasmina Matulewicz
Photos by Alex Baxter and Tori Hancock