

HELP! I INHERITED A CASTLE

TRAVEL

Where to go... FOR A BEACH JAUNT OR MOUNTAIN MEANDER



HOTEL BYBLOS
St Tropez

St Tropez is all about excess, but somehow its most famous hotel is not. Yes, it's a celebrity magnet: think Brigitte Bardot and Jack Nicholson. Yes, its nightclub,

Les Caves du Roy, is an eye-wateringly expensive den of friskiness. But the hotel itself, a nest of blue-shuttered ochre and terracotta buildings, is decidedly low-key and perfectly charming – more Mediterranean fishing village than glittering gin palace.

There's still a smattering of marble (in reception, the spa and the bathrooms), but the rooms are comfy and even a tad old-worldly, the staff are enchanting and the views are Instagram-tastic.

You'll venture into town, of course, but when you've had your fill of the heaving masses of permatanned humanity, climb back to safety (and what a climb it is!), order lunch by the pool (burrata tomato salad and a glass of Domaine Ott, and thank the gods that, after all these years, the Byblos remains unspoiled.

BOOK IT Carrier (carrier.co.uk) offers three nights from £925, including return flights.



D-RESORT GOCEK
Göcek

Want the beauty of Bodrum with none of the flash? Then head down the coast to Göcek, its laidback little sister. Here, in the prettiest marina, you'll find the D-Resort, a true slice of Turkish delight. Check into one of the airy whitewashed rooms, whip your bikini on and walk straight back out and into one of the plunge pools to loll around on sunken sunloungers. Or if it's the beach you're after, hop into one of their golf buggies and whizz over to the private bay, where you can eat lobster by the kilo and molten-chocolate bombs at the waterside restaurant, the Breeze. The service here is stunning – a fruit platter will greet you at every turn – and the spa, spread over three floors, is a beauty, with a super-snazzy gym, two saunas, a jacuzzi and a glorious hammam with smooth marble walls and twinkling lights overhead.

The most relaxing thing? No one will judge you on where your kaftan is from.

BOOK IT Double, from £140 (dresortgocek.com.tr).



GSTAAD PALACE
Gstaad

Gstaad Palace in the summer is basically a fairytale. It has huge, Disneyesque turrets and sits on a pea-green mountain spattered with buttercups and roamed by cows like the ones on the chocolate wrapper. And it's reached by the 1900s wood-panelled Golden Pass train, which is obviously fantastic. Le Grill Rôtisserie, one of five restaurants, offers lip-smacking langoustines, veal chop with duck liver and chestnut-mousse pudding. The whopping spa has eight treatment rooms, a huge hammam, a pilates room and both indoor and outdoor pools. Outside, tennis balls thwack, bathers lounge and hot-air balloons chuff. Yoga enthusiasts can make tracks for the 200-year-old Walig Hut – 1,700 feet up a mountainside – to bend and drink herbal tea. Cheese enthusiasts should hike the Fondue Trail with a fondue picnic to eat en route. Most brilliantly, there's no snow, which means no pretending that you actually like falling downhill.

BOOK IT Double, from £460 (palace.ch).



CERVO
Zermatt

Swiss-pine aroma? Tick. An abundance of antlers? Tick. Young and suavely attentive owner? TICK. This is Cervo, the hippest gaff this side of the Matterhorn. The rebellious Cervo gang, headed up by the delightful Daniel F Lauber, has kicked gold-plated alpine kitsch out of the game. Rooms are unfussy, all smooth wooden beams and cool tartan wallpaper, and the food is deliciously Swiss – the newly opened Ferdinand serves the scrummiest fondue you'll ever experience (it's laced with champagne and truffles). Summer is for hiking, and you'd be a fool not to, with 250 miles of trails to explore. Afterwards, head to the once-rowdy après-ski bar, now reserved for weary walkers, to refuel with a flagon of the hotel's own Huntsman beer. But it need not be a total adieu to the snow – ski nuts can stampe to the Theodul Glacier, the largest summer ski area in the world, to whoosh around in the shadow of the Toblerone-shaped Matterhorn.

BOOK IT Two-night Hike & Explore package, £700 (cervo.ch).

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