

The Daily Telegraph

Ultratravel

YOUR GUIDE TO HEAVEN ON EARTH

AUTUMN 2009

**Autumn
retreats
close
to home**

VOLCANIC SICILY
**THOROUGHLY
MOREISH SPAIN**
MOROCCAN RIADS
**ANTIQUE SHOPPING
IN PARIS**
**Plus SIR TERENCE
CONRAN'S TIPS**

WIN A CLASSIC TOUR OF INDIA FOR TWO

JOLLY JOURNEYS

Those not able to venture abroad are in for some fun this autumn. All over Britain, classic modes of transport have been brought out of garages, hangars and boatsheds, and dusted off for some old-fashioned adventure. In Scotland, Loch Lomond Seaplanes have started to whizz passengers into the skies above Bute, Loch Fyne and Inveraray (www.lochlomondseaplanes.com), and Mckintay Kidd has been polishing up classic cars, from Aston Martins to Minis, for excursions to islands and Highlands (www.seescotlanddifferently.co.uk). Hot-air ballooning enthusiasts Balloons Over Britain have launched more than 70 sites to show off Britain from the air (www.balloonsoverbritain.co.uk). Train buffs have buffed old steam trains (www.uksteam.info), for scenic journeys including the popular Jacobite journey from Fort William to Mallaig (www.westcoasttrainways.co.uk). And in Norfolk, Hunter's Yard, which owns a fleet of mahogany yachts - some from the 1930s - is offering two-hour sails on the Broads, for up to four, for just £44, until October 10 (www.huntersyard.co.uk). All aboard!



Plain sailing Days out with Hunter's Yard

LOVELY OLD BIRDS

Just because you can't afford to fly to China right now doesn't mean you can't indulge in looking at a little Quianlong period treasure or two. This Cloisonné enamel rooster is part of a sale of Fine Chinese works of art at Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1, on November 3 (020 7389 2577, www.christies.com).



FULL OF GRACE

Need a reason to fly to Santorini for a last burst of late summer sun? We have one: the ultra-sleek Santorini Grace's ravishing Grace Suites, with indoor plunge pools for secluded dips. Even better: Easyjet now flies to the island, from £63.98 return. Rooms from £185, B&B, www.santorinigrace.com



FIT FOR A QUEEN

This summer has seen a frenzy of activity at the late Queen Mother's local. The Goring. The 71-room, family-run hotel, the only five-star hotel in London still owned by the family that built it, has updated its rooms in a style Her Majesty would have adored. The bedrooms are all period swags, Gainsborough silk and characterful antiques, courtesy of interior designer Russell Sage, with expansive views over the garden: a tiny, secret square in the heart of grey, urban Victoria. The Goring, Beaton Place, London SW1W 0JW. 020 7396 9000, www.thegoring.com.

ALSO WORTH POPPING INTO...

- ◆ After a \$90-million soft-furnishing refurb (yes, one can apparently spend that on cushions), the Jumeirah Essex House has re-opened, with a splendid Presidential Suite that would happily house Obama, family and puppy. The pad's best features are its art collection, which includes a 1948 photo of Brooklyn Bridge and old paintings of Central Park. The hotel also offers private art tours to museums - and sneaky peeks into its own collections. www.jumeirah.com.
- ◆ Rocco Forte's first resort, Verdura, has just launched, transporting Olga Polizzi's unmistakable style to Sicily. Its USP? The modern spa resort is set in over 200 hectares of landscaped garden, right by the sea (00800 7666 6667, www.roccofortecollection.com).
- ◆ Borgobianco, a rustic Italian family-owned hotel is luring guests to Puglia with a tempting-looking Decore spa, and a menu featuring ingredients from the garden (00 39 080 887 0111, www.borgobianco.it).
- ◆ In a fortnight, Le Caprice hopes to wow its first diners at New York's restored Pierre hotel, offering brasserie favourites in glam surroundings by Martin Brudnicki, the designer behind Scott's, and Cecconi's in LA (00 1 212 838 8000, www.tajhotels.com).



N.B. NEW BOUTIQUE

HIDDEN STONE HOTEL SAN PANTALEO SARDINIA



WHY IS IT SPECIAL?

It's in a magical location, for a start. The hotel consists of 15 stazzi, or traditional Sardinian dwellings, set around a natural sculpture garden of ancient granite boulders beautifully juxtaposed with manicured lawns.

WHERE IS IT? Living up to its name, the hidden hotel lies at the end of a bumpy 2km dirt track just beyond the hilltop village of San Pantaleo in north-east Sardinia. The sweeping views over the fashionable yachting

resorts of the Costa Smeralda make it feel discreet and exclusive, rather than remote.

BOUTIQUE BONUS Co-owner and celebrated chef Luigi Bergeretto has created a destination restaurant in the heart of the small hotel that produces some of the best regional food on the Emerald Coast. The nearby town of San Pantaleo is equally foodie, its charming car-free piazza surrounded by arty shops and a local bar, which serves splendid local charcuterie, cheeses and fine local wines.

BEST ROOMS 201, 202 and 203, or indeed any of the stazzi that face the dazzling coastline rather than the dusty car park.

DOWNSIDERS The hotel is blown by winds from every direction, from sirocco through to mistral. This can be a blessing in the summer heat, but could be a nuisance on colder days. Also, due to the proximity of the wealthy playground of Porto Cervo, taxi fares are steep. The best bet is to rent a car.

THE DETAILS Prices for the Hidden Stone Hotel & Spa start at £85 per night, per person, based on two sharing a deluxe double room. Prices include breakfast and tax, from Cognoscenti Boutique Hotels (08717 500070, www.c-boutiquehotels.com).

Johnny Morris



IT'S A WRAP

Merely throwing on one of British designer Jane Carr's deliciously soft, hand-finished scarves transports you to an exotic place. Yes, even if you're on holiday in Blighty...

Neon pink stole, £350, from 020 7387 4337, www.jane-carr.com.