

Masseria Trapana Sphere Magazine July 2016

SPHERE

PRICE £6/U5\$12 **RISING IN** THE EAST **BRITISH BRANDS** ON THE CREST OF JAPAN'S LUXURY WAVE SOPHISTICATED STYLES FOR

NUCLEUS TRAVEL

EDITED BY LYDIA BELL

THE ULTIMATE HIPPIE TRIPS

Obonjan, a private island off the coastal town of Sibenik in Croatia (below), is devoted to arts, ecology and wellbeing and hosts an eight-week season of creative and holistic pursuits in July. Restival Arizona in September offers culture, nature, creativity and yoga in an off-the-grid eco-luxe camp with Navajo teepees, hot showers and healthy cuisine, otokobonjan.com; restival.global.



WE ARE FAMILY
Family hotels are
proliferating.
In Portugal,
Martinhal has the
new 84-room
Martinhal Lisbon
Cascais Family
Resort Hotel (right),
ideal to enjoy the beauty
of Cascais, Sintra and

Guincho, a short drive from Lisbon. The kids' clubhouse is a whopping 7,865 sq ft and there's a dedicated baby concierge. There are also Martinhal Lisbon Chiado Family Suites in downtown Lisbon with 37 apartments, family-friendly facilities, a kids' club and café.

The Forte Village in Sardinia has opened after a £20 million makeover with new villas, a renovated pool and restaurant, better rooms and a beachside play area. The newly opened children's den at Soneva Fushi in the Maldives includes a pirate ship, two pools, a cinema, music room and foliage-filled tunnel.

Marbella's visionary Healthouse Las Dunas has a Fit & Fun Kids Programme for children aged 10-17 deemed unhealthy for their age. It includes nutrition consultations and classes, emotional coaching, cooking classes, group sports and individual fitness sessions. martinhal.com; fortevillageresort.com; soneva.com; healthouse-naturhouse.com

SEYCHELLES SENSATION

Opening this autumn, Six Senses Zil Payson is a new Seychelles resort located on the private island of Félicité, known for its natural beauty, dramatic shoreline and postcard-perfect beaches. The resort will encompass 30 villas and 17 private residences with unparalleled views of the Indian Ocean.

Among the six bar and dining options is the Island Café, offering signature cocktails and cuisine inspired by flavours found on the Seychellois spice route, as well as the Chef's Kitchen, where a select number of guests can interact with the chef as dinner is prepared. As with all Six Senses resorts, the spa, created as a sustainable addition to the island's ecosystem, is a must. sixsenses.com



VIVA LAS VILLAS!

Boutique hotel service Mr and Mrs Smith has dipped its discerning toe into villas, with 100 privately owned properties in the Balearies managed by Smith24 booking teams in London and Los Angeles. They include a restored farmhouse in Ibizan countryside, family beachside boltholes and modernist gems. mrandnrssmith.com/luxury-villas









LONDON BOLTHOLE OF THE MONTH: HILTON LONDON BANKSIDE

Only minutes from Tate Modern in an area that is fast regenerating, the 292-room hotel's nondescript façade belies pared-down, ultra-modern and swanky interiors. The staff are exuberant and the bedrooms simple, but functionally excellent. Occupying the site of a 19th-century essence factory, its Distillery Bar pays tribute to its heritage with signature cocktails incorporating homemade aromatics and infusions. Its best assets are OXBO Bankside, the large and buzzy onsite restaurant, serving a largely seasonal British menu, and the breakfast buffet, which is spectacularly large for any class of hotel. hilton.com



NEW EUROPEAN GEMS

Gorgeous boutique boltholes have opened for the summer. Funky
Casa Bonay (far left) in Barcelona has 67 rooms with a rooftop space in a restored 19th-century mansion.
A corridor floods interior rooms with sunlight and original solariums in the suites face the building's interior.

The renovated, nine-suite Italian Masseria Trapana (below left), near Lecce in Puglia, is a new luxury escape with an Asian-inspired feel. Many suites have outdoor bathtubs and courtyards and there are six secluded gardens. AlmaLusa in Lisbon is a 28-room contemporary gem in a historic building in the heart of Lisbon. The 19th-century Palazzo Dama (above left) in Rome, revamped by owner and architect Antonio Girardi, has 30 rooms and suites, a secluded garden and charming pool, international restaurant and a private club and bar. casabonay.com; trapana.com; almalusahotels.com; almalusahotels. com; palazzodama.com



OBJECTIFYING INDIA

Phaidon has released the sumptuous Sar: The Essence of Indian Design, which showcases the incredible diversity of India's visual identity through 200 objects, from humble Meerut barber scissors to modern classics such as the Hindustan Ambassador car. £45.95, phaidon.com

GAME FOR A BAG?

The Saxon Hotel in Johannesburg has teamed up with luxury accessories brand OKAPI to produce the fabulously furry Saxon x OKAPI clutch, made in South Africa with springbok fur and ostrich shin leather. £460, available at the Saxon Hotel, saxon.com.za



A DIFFERENT VIEW OF LONDON

An experiential travel service has launched to open up unusual sides of London to visitors. Bespoke tours guide small groups to off-the-beaten-track locations, businesses, art, cafés and markets. For example, a portraiture artist might spirit you to little-known galleries with unusual portraiture not found in the National Portrait Gallery, sidestory.co.uk