



**No, I don't mind being called
'Tim Spall's son'** Interview: Rafe Spall

Weekend

Travel
Starts on
page 23



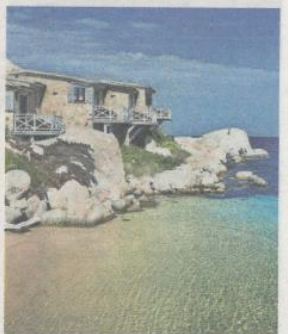
The top 50 foods

**Britain's most delicious ingredients
and where to buy them**

Where to go for
late summer sun



A rural escape
with a spa in Ibiza



A car-free island
off Corsica



Chic hotels in Italy,
Greece and Spain

28 Travel

Great deals

Where to stay for late summer sun

Hotel rates slashed, children back at school and warm weather — September is the perfect time to travel says **Annabelle Thorpe**

Cas'almare
Favignana, Sicily

It's a bit of a business getting to this tiny volcanic outcrop off Sicily's west coast, but once the ferry has arrived at the pretty, horseshoe-shaped port, the sense of escape makes it worth it. Cas'almare is a sleek, eight-room hotel, perched on the rocks above the turquoise sea, a few minutes' walk from the main town. The hotel has its own beach (sand was imported), bikes are available if you want to explore, and breakfasts — fresh pastries and handmade *cannoli* — are to die for. **Details** B&B doubles in September are from £192 a night, £40 cheaper than in August (0117 946 7072, i-escape.com). Fly to Trapani



Villa Marie, St Tropez

Masseria Trapania
near Lecce, Puglia, Italy

This newly renovated nine-room bolt hole near the historic city of Lecce basks in sunshine well into September — and the outdoor pool is at its warmest. The adults-only hotel is nestled between six tranquil gardens, while the sun-drenched suites are individually designed, retaining their original features and frescoes. **Details** B&B doubles are from £328 a night, a saving of £300 on August (00 39 083 21 83 21 01, trapana.com). Fly to Brindisi

Hôtel & Spa des Pêcheurs
Île de Cavallo, Corsica

The under-the-radar Île de Cavallo — off the south coast of Corsica and just a mile wide — offers the closest thing to a barefoot Seychelles experience in the Med. Des Pêcheurs is the only hotel on the car-free island, and although there are 50 rooms it retains a boutique feel. Bedrooms do pared-down luxury, with white walls and vivid blue drapes and fabrics, and dinners in the waterfront restaurant fuse French and Italian classics, with fish from the surrounding waters. **Details** A week costs from £2,371pp, including flights, car hire and transfers. £728pp less than in August (020 3553 8100, simpsontravel.com)



La Casana de Yaiza, Lanzarote

Tara's Lodge
Korcula, Croatia

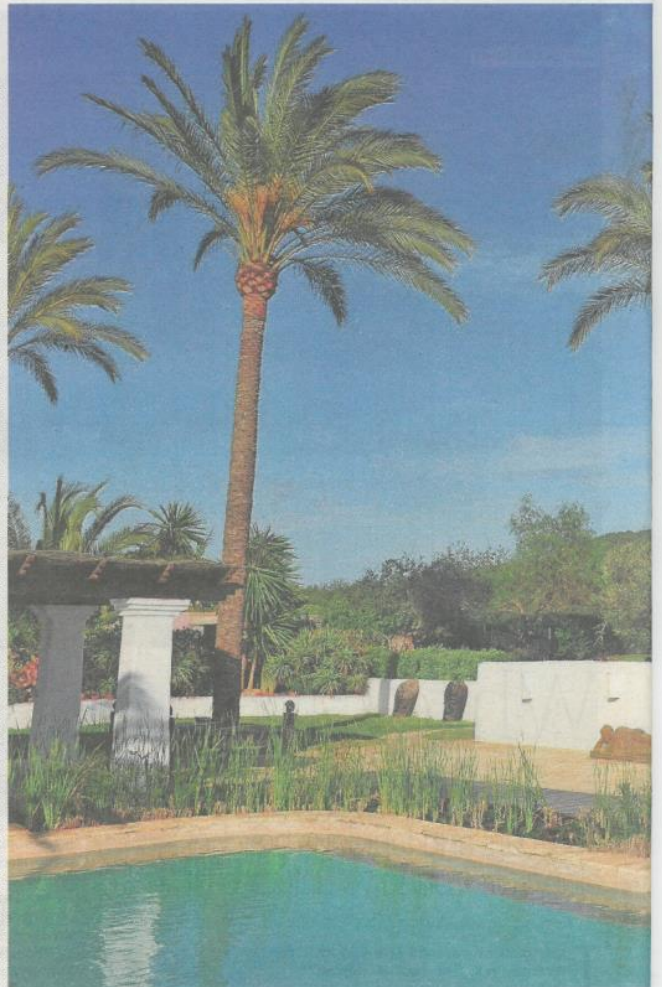
Newly opened this year, Tara's is the perfect choice if you are keen to do more than laze on the beach. Average temperatures of 24C means it's not too hot to take advantage of Tara's bike hire, try your hand at stand-up paddleboarding, or go trekking or horse-riding. The 17 suites are chic and uncluttered, the restaurant — Mimi's bistro — provides locally caught fish and home-grown veg, and, to cap it all, the hotel offers sunset boat tours, with champagne and oysters. **Details** B&B doubles are from £167 a night, a £41 saving on August rates (00 385 207 21555, taraslodge.com). Fly to Split, then take the ferry to Korcula

Atzaro
San Joan, Ibiza

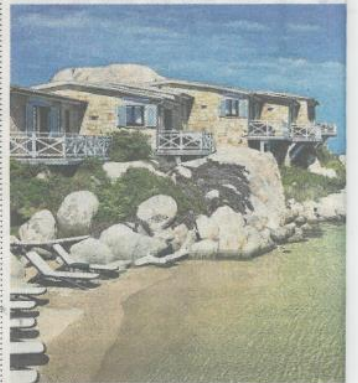
The party doesn't stop in Ibiza in September — far from it, because closing bashes bring in the crowds. Yet it still feels calmer than in peak season, and rates reflect that. Temperatures hover at 25C — perfect for pottering between the herb-filled gardens at Atzaro and the Balinese spa, or relaxing on one of the wide, shady day beds. The 21 rooms pair white walls with beamed ceilings and antique furniture, and dinners at the Orange Tree restaurant are renowned. If you indulge too much, the complimentary morning yogalates class is an ideal way to redress the balance. **Details** B&B doubles are from £258 a night, £95 cheaper than the August rate (00 34 971 33 88 38, atzaro.com)

Villa Kynthia
Panormo, Crete

Intimate hotels are surprisingly hard to find on Crete, making Kynthia, tucked away in sleepy Panormo, which is famed for its two sandy beaches, a real find. There are six rooms, furnished in a traditional, homely Greek style, with breakfasts — always a highlight in Crete — a feast of home-made pies and pastries, fresh juices and fruit. Crete's southerly location means temperatures stay at about 27C in September, but the cooler evenings make it perfect for late-afternoon strolls into the hilly olive groves. **Details** B&B doubles are from £126 a night, £20 less than in August (00 30 283 405 1102, villakynthia.gr). Fly to Heraklion


Delfino Blu
Corfu

Once the schools go back, Corfu becomes a different island, swathed in September sunshine that can reach temperatures of 28C. Delfino Blu has 15 suites and studios, all simply but comfortably furnished, and a lovely decked pool terrace, bar and restaurant that looks across the Ionian Sea. The nearby beach of Agios Stefanos is one of the island's best, backed by traditional tavernas and with boats running across to the Diapontia Islands. **Details** B&B doubles are from £146 a night, a £50 saving on August rates (00 30 266 305 1629, delfinoblu.gr)


Hotel Forza Mare
Kotor, Montenegro

Farther south than Croatia, Montenegro basks in temperatures of about 26C in September, with the spectacular mountain coastline quieter than in high summer. The Forza Mare is right on the waterfront in the small town of Dobrota, five minutes' drive from Kotor. The ten rooms have a contemporary, pop-art style, and the restaurant has tables by the water's edge. The spa, with hammam, Finnish sauna and treatment rooms, is a treat in a hotel of this size. Splash out on an "executive" room for a balcony with a view across the gorgeous Bay of Kotor. **Details** B&B doubles are from £167 a

Riva Yacht Harbour
Hotel Hvar, Croatia

Croatia's glitziest island by far, Hvar calms down in September, although temperatures remain pleasantly warm, averaging about 23C to 24C. The Riva is a great choice if you are after a few days of cocktail chic; the hotel's Ibiza-esque terrace spreads along the harbour front, guests have free use of the sister hotel Adriana's rooftop pool, and there are boat taxis in front of the hotel to nearby beaches. Some of the 54 rooms are on the small side, but the slick, minimalist feel and pop-art photos create a bright, fun feel. **Details** B&B doubles are from £150 a night, £60 less than in August (00 385 217 50555, suncanihvar.com).



Atzaro, Ibiza



Melenos Lindos, Rhodes



Can Simoneta, Majorca



Hôtel des Pêcheurs, Corsica

night, a £41 saving on August prices (00 382 323 33500, forzamare.com). Fly to Dubrovnik

perfect location for romantic suppers. **Details** B&B doubles are from £150 a night, £42 less than in August (00 39 080 74 25 21, donferrante.it). Fly to Bari

La Casona de Yaiza
Lanzarote

Sandwiched between school-holiday and winter-sun crowds, September is the best month for sun-seekers in Lanzarote, with temperatures hovering at 29C. Stay inland, and you can dip in and out of the busy beach resorts. La Casona de Yaiza, in the flower-decked village of Yaiza, is a great base. A traditional Canarian estate converted into an eight-room hotel, it has an art gallery in the cavern below the house and a restaurant that serves the best traditional Canarian dishes. **Details** A week's B&B is from £805pp, including flights and car hire, which is £292pp cheaper than in August (020 8847 8700, cachet-travel.co.uk)

Don Ferrante
Monopoli, Puglia

The temperature in Italy's sun-drenched feel is often 25C in September, and the traditional fishing village of Monopoli gives a wonderful glimpse of the Med as it used to be. Don Ferrante is a hidden gem — a door in a side street leads into the town's former fortress, carved into the city walls. Behind the whitewashed walls, draped in climbing roses, are ten coolly elegant rooms with barrel-vaulted ceilings, gleaming stone floors and crisp cream decor. The rooftop restaurant is a

Melenos Lindos
Rhodes

With intricate, mosaic terraces and whitewashed walls against an azure sea, Melenos is the Med at its picturesque best — a carefully orchestrated jumble of stairs and small buildings that feels like a village within the village. Perfect for a week à deux, its 12 suites have charm: hand-painted ceilings, traditional raised wooden sleeping platforms and old carved village doors. The restaurant, in the shadow of the ancient acropolis, is a must at sunset.

Details B&B doubles are from £250 a night, a £35 saving on August rates (00 30 224 403 2222, melenoslindos.com)

Hotel More,
Dubrovnik, Croatia

Dubrovnik's star status means decent hotels can be extraordinarily pricey. The More's location — a 15-minute taxi hop from the old town — makes a huge difference to the cost, while providing a blue-sea escape from the city's cruise crowds. Perched on the waterfront, the 34 (somewhat bland) rooms are made up for by the "cave" bar, gorgeous pool area and restaurant terrace, perfect for soaking up the warm sunshine. **Details** A week costs from £755pp, including flights, £100pp less than in August (0800 9709149, completelycroatia.co.uk)

Can Simoneta
Canyamel, Majorca

Cool, elegant and achingly stylish, Simoneta is the place to visit if you want to swish around in Odabash swimwear and Missoni shades. Perched on a clifftop, its lawns are pristine, dotted with linen-draped day beds, angular loungers and waiters bringing ice-laden G&Ts. The restaurant serves artfully presented, locally sourced fish and meats; there's a chic spa, and direct access to the sea by

stairs which are carved into the cliff. **Details** B&B doubles are from £335 a night, £75 cheaper than in August (00 34 971 81 61 10, cansimoneta.com)

Villa Marie
St Tropez, France

The French Riviera breathes a sigh of relief come September, when the *Ab Fab* set jets home. For the rest of us it signals tumbling prices and uncrowded beaches. Villa Marie feels more like a private house than a hotel. The 45 airy rooms are decorated in bohemian style, and the small pool has stunning views. Daytime temperatures reach about 25C. **Details** B&B doubles are from £300 a night, less than half the rate in August (00 33 494 97 40 22, saint-tropez.villamarie.fr). Fly to Nice

Domes of Elounda
Elounda, Crete

Once the schools go back this chic hotel transforms into a chilled retreat. It is larger than many of the hotels featured, with 78 suites, but has a shady, secluded beach. Temperatures average 27C to 28C. **Details** A week's B&B is from £833pp, including transfers, which is £361 cheaper than in August (01244 355 600, itluxurytravel.co.uk). Fly to Heraklion



Forza Mare, Montenegro