

Masseria Trapani
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TOP THREE LATE DEALS



THE Villa Girassol in Portugal's western Algarve sleeps eight across four bedrooms. At the end of a long driveway surrounded by gardens, it is a short drive from beaches and restaurants. And if you need to cool off, jump

into the rectangular pool. Save £305.80 per person on a seven-night break, including return flights from London Gatwick. Valid for travel on October 16. From £293.70, topcashback.co.uk



HOTEL Esencia on the Riviera Maya in Mexico is a 29-room peaceful, luxurious hotel set on a beach surrounded by jungle. When you're not lounging in the spa, you can work your way through its ceviche and margarita

menu. Save £466 per person on a seven-night stay, bed and breakfast, with a free massage or spa treatment, including return flights from London. Valid for travel before October 31. From £1,165, i-escape.com



SPEND four days exploring the piazzas of Florence before travelling first class by train to Verona, home to the Arena di Verona and the setting for three of Shakespeare's plays, staying in Salvatino Collection hotels.

Save £340 per couple on a seven-night stay, bed and breakfast, including return flights from London. Valid for travel October 2-22. From £1,070 per person, wexas.com

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Frontier: Greydon House is designed to reflect the island's status as a trading outpost

It's just what the doctor ordered

PICTURESQUE Nantucket island in Massachusetts is known for its whaling history and old-world charm but until now its hotel trade has been rather stuffy, characterised by twee inns and maritime-themed B&Bs. All that is set to change, though, with the opening of Greydon House.

The first boutique hotel to open on the island, the 20-room property is the former home of Nantucket's long-serving physician, Dr Wylie Collins

Nantucket's first luxurious boutique hotel is in the former home of the island's long-serving GP, says **Jane Mulkerrins**

(1899-1991). It has been gutted and redeveloped under the direction of interior design masters Roman And Williams. The result is a luxurious property, designed to feel like the home of a well-travelled host, decorated with bespoke furniture and collectibles that pay tribute to the

island's history as a trading outpost. The chairs in the bar area are from the Ivory Coast, while tiles in the showers are hand-painted in Portugal. Jeremy Leventhal, one of the hotel's Boston-based owners, spent summers on the island as a child. 'The hotel scene on Nantucket is very small and

Sophisticated: The decor is by renowned interiors masters Roman And Williams



CHRISTMAS IN NANTUCKET

WHILE most of the Massachusetts Islands and resorts are summer-only holiday destinations, Nantucket's season stretches until the new year, reaching a second peak during its Christmas Stroll event.

The festival, in early December, features a parade through Main Street, choirs, carolers and craft stalls, as well as exhibitions and performances and tours of several Holiday Houses - historic houses decorated for the festive season.





Boutique beauty: Greydon House in downtown historic Nantucket

there was a gap in the market for somewhere a discerning customer would want to stay,' he says. 'But properties on Nantucket don't come up very often, so it took us a long time to find this site.'

The central location on Broad Street, in the heart of Nantucket's impeccably preserved historic downtown, is a large part of the hotel's appeal.

'You don't need a car when you stay at Greydon House,' says Leventhal. 'You can just grab your bag and hop on a flight, or the ferry from Boston or New York, which docks at the end of the street. You can then just wander around the town, or jump on a bike to explore the island.'

The VIP treatment begins the minute guests arrive on the island, where hosts will meet you with a welcome cocktail and luggage cart, wheeling it through the town to the hotel. You can enjoy the last of the warm weather in the garden, while indoors the restaurant features an enormous mural celebrating the island's history. The cosy leather and brass bar serves specially designed local cocktails, some in a bespoke blue glass in the shape of a gurgling cod. Well, there had to be a nod to those old maritime roots in there somewhere.

From £500 per room per night, greydonhouse.com



Soak up the atmosphere: Enjoy the warm weather in Greydon's sumptuous garden



Winding down: But there's still time to party at the Ocean Beach Club in Ibiza

A last chance to party

IBIZA's summer season is winding down but the best parties – the closing parties – are yet to happen. The waterfront Ocean Beach Club, on the island's west coast, has day beds around the pool and in its garden, where you can relax with friends, have a long, lazy lunch, or enjoy a massage.

Come sunset, the party starts to ramp up a gear in the roof garden, with its spectacular views over the water and at the pool parties. Closing party DJs include Tom Crane (right), Andy Baxter and Grant Collins.

From E20 entrance, oceanbeachibiza.com



On the menu: The hotel's kitchen and (below) one of its suites

Finest peasant dining

FOOD buffs can learn the art of rustic peasant cooking in the southern Italian region of Puglia from next month. Masseria Trapania hotel will invite guests into its kitchen to master the art of the region's famous 'cucina povera' – also known as 'poor kitchen' – which is characterised by seasonal ingredients of lamb, fava beans, tomatoes and artichoke. The five-day course starts on October 24 and includes a visit to the city of Lecce and Le Zie restaurant, which has been serving cucina povera since 1966.

From £236 per night, including cooking lessons, trapania.com

