AIRLINE SECRETS: GET THE BEST SEATS FOR LESS

TRAVEL HLEASURE

ROMANTIC DREAMTRIPS

Italy • Paris • New York City • Mexico • England • Buenos Aires • Costa Rica



the nine-month-old École de Cuisine Alain Ducasse. On a quiet residential block in the 16th Arrondissement, Romain Corbière, former head chef at Ducasse's Le Relais du Parc, leads small classes with the help of such topflight toques as Christophe Moret, from Alain Ducasse au Plaza Athénée. A day might start with a trip to a farmers' market to pick up ingredients for a soupe au pistou, followed by a hands-on demonstration of dishes like blanquette de veau. 64 Rue du Ranelagh; 33-1/44-90-91-00; ecolecuisine-alainducasse.com; classes from \$248 per day.

PERFUME MIXING

Montpellier, France

Lavender, geranium, and mint are some of the scents that may inspire you during GoLearnTo.com's weekend perfumery course in France's verdant Languedoc region. In a sprawling 18th-century farmhouse near Montpellier, study base and top notes and concoct your own signature scent. In the evening, meals—spit-roasted pork paired with wine from nearby vineyards—are served before guests retreat to the antiques-filled rooms. You get to take your bespoke creation home in a carry-on container that meets airlines' requisite three-ounce limit. Domaine de Alabrena, Laval de Nize, Lunas; 44-845/625-0445; golearnto. com; four-day courses from \$633, including lodging and meals.

YOUR OWN ROMAN HOLIDAY

Rome

The olive-oil maker Armando Manni's one-bedroom Casa Manni Roma is an Adam Tihany-designed space overlooking the Piazza Colonna. The real draw here is access to Manni's black book: request a private agnolotti-making class with Oretta Zanini de Vita, Italy's mistress of handmade pasta, or a decadent fourhanded Thai couples massage at Acanto, a spa favored by well-heeled locals. Manni can also arrange a Roman Holiday-esque tour by vintage

Piaggio. 70 Via di Pietra; 39-06/9727-4787; casamanni.com; daily rentals from \$800, two-night minimum.

A VENETIAN PALAZZO

Beyond the crowded Rialto, this city is more than gondolas and Gorgonzola. In the serene Accademia neighborhood, just beyond the Campo San Stefano, the 22-room Palazzina Grassi has a superb collection of Modernist glass from Murano masters in a sparkling space designed by Philippe Starck. The bar is molto romantico for Prosecco cocktails and the canal-side restaurant turns out a perfect raviolo. San Marco 3247; 800/337-4685; designhotels.com; doubles from \$483.

SKIING BY MOONLIGHT

St. Moritz, Switzerland

For a truly otherworldly trip down the slopes, nothing beats full-moon skiing at Diavolezza, the most spectacular of St. Moritz's five ski areas. Once a month, a tram drops night-owl skiers off at the craggy peak's nearly 10,000-foot summit, which affords jaw-dropping views of the glacial Bernina Range. The 3,000-foot vertical trail is blanketed in soft blue light. After a few runs, take the lift back to the top for a traditional Swiss dinner of Bündnerfleisch, Rösti potatoes, and cheese fondue at the Berghaus Diavolezza restaurant. 30 Via San Gian; 41-81/830-0001; engadin.stmoritz. ch; lift tickets from \$30.

A DAY OF PAMPERING

London

Decadence abounds inside London's new Dorchester Spa, an ivory-andcoral-colored subterranean paradise with cream chiffon curtains and a chandelier made from 72,000 South Pacific pearls. Seasoned aesthetician Vaishaly has developed a menu of facials, administered in enormous, mood-lit double treatment suites. Afterward, wrap yourselves in oversize robes and slip past the large glass doors to the relaxation room, where you'll

find fresh lychee juice, copies of the latest glossies, and plenty of Louis Roederer champagne. Park Lane; 44-207/319-7109; treatments from \$90.

A LIGHTHOUSE HOTEL

Devon, England

Set high on a mile-long headland with sweeping views of the Channel, the 1863 Start Point Lighthouse is flanked by keepers' quarters, which were recently transformed into two charming cottages. Inside you'll find pillowy beds, modern kitchens, fireplaces, and a basket filled with English Breakfast tea and freshly baked bread. Don't miss the spectacular walk along a stretch of the adjacent South West Coast Path trail. Start Point, near Hallsands Kingsbridge; 44-1386/701-177; ruralretreats.co.uk; doubles from \$310, two-night minimum.

THE CARIBBEAN, BERMUDA, AND THE BAHAMAS

PURE PRIVACY

Antigua

The recently redone Jumby Bay, A Rosewood Resort, situated on a private 300-acre island 10 minutes by boat from Antigua, is still the standard-bearer of Caribbean luxury. Following a \$28 million reconstruction, 28 new suites have ocean views and outdoor bathtubs in lush private courtyards. But the most exciting addition is the property's first-ever spa, Sense, an open-air facility with a garden just 50 feet from the beach; book the Sense Hammock Massage treatment for two. St. John's; 888/767-3966; jumbybayresort.com; doubles from \$1,350, all-inclusive.

ISLAND-HOPPING MADE EASY

Eastern Caribbean

Regent Seven Seas Cruises has perfected the island escape with a new eastern Caribbean itinerary on the Seven Seas Navigator. The cruise begins in Fort Lauderdale and continues on to classic ports of call on St. Bart's, St. (Continued on page 118) Maarten, and