

# STAY

*A weekend* *A week* *For longer*

UK  
USA  
AUSTRIA  
CROATIA  
MOROCCO  
SOUTH AFRICA  
SRI LANKA  
THE BAHAMAS  
AUSTRALIA

Recreate a carefree Sixties paradise in Sri Lanka, cosset yourself in an innkeeper's cottage in Massachusetts, admire Table Mountain from a glass sanctuary in Cape Town, or explore ancient sites from Hvar Island

PALM HOTEL, NEAR AHANGAMA  
ON SRI LANKA'S SOUTHERN COAST

# HOTEL MOTTO

Step back into the age of jazz in the retro setting of a **VIENNA** townhouse in the heart of the city, where baroque architecture and old-school Venetian furnishings meet urban chic head on



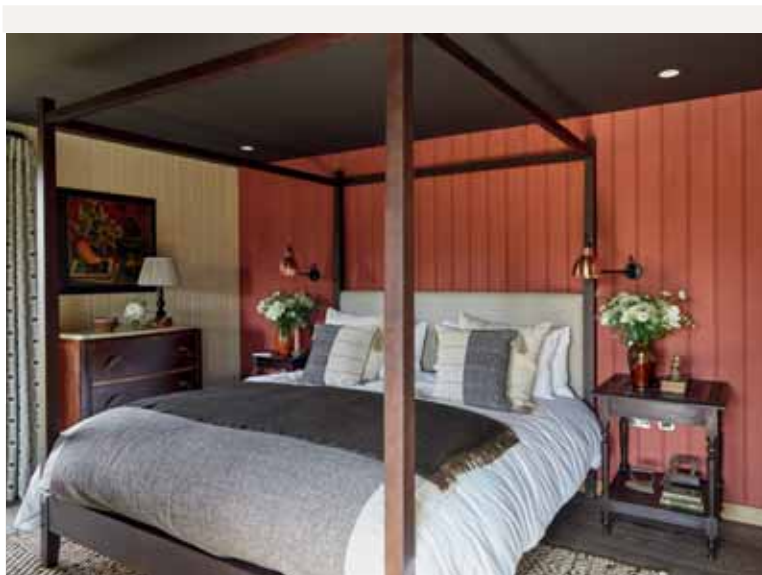
A stone's throw from the romantic Museumsplatz, settled amid the vibrant window displays of Mariahilfer Strasse, Hotel Motto shares the love story between Vienna and Twenties Paris. While its doors only opened in October, the eight-storey baroque building has hosted a line-up of hotels since the 17th century – noteworthy guests include members of the musical Strauss dynasty – and retro chic shines through every detail. Inside, you'll feel like the protagonist of a jazz-age novel. Walls clad in floral fabrics, tasselled lampshades, Venetian mirrors, parquet floors and a mix of blush pinks, moss greens and teals call for a waltz through the decades, while industrial-grit accents and touches

of Scandi comfort bring urban flair to 91 rooms and suites set around a showpiece spiral staircase. Aim for the upper floors for superb cityscapes from cast-iron balconies.

Further up, flooded with natural light from an impressive glass dome, restaurant Chez Bernard serves modern Austrian plates with French and North African influences – think brioche-striezel French toast with stewed berries, mussels à la crème and steak tartare paired with natural wines or beers brewed from surplus bread. After, head to the rooftop bar for views of St Stephen's Cathedral – the on-site bakery Motto Brot has the next day's breakfast covered, with the flakiest pastries in town. **JM. Doubles from £162. 00 431 581 4500, [hotelmotto.at](http://hotelmotto.at)**

Words by Blossom Green and Jasmina Matulewicz  
Photos by Matt Kinsday and Ola A Smit

# S T A Y *A weekend* Y



## LAKES BY YOO COTSWOLDS

**Luxury and wilderness** unite at this quarry-turned-lakehouse community in Lechlade Upon Thames. Nestled amid 344ha of rolling meadows and woodland, with some 135 properties it's prime weekender territory. Take your pick from four-bed rustic-luxe cabins with log burners to cosy home-

from-home apartments or a spacious, three-storey abode (sleeping 12) complete with kayaks, private beach and deck area for family barbecues. Guest services will stock your fridge with local staples on arrival, so you can get to the business of enjoying the raft of lakeside activities on

offer – fishing, boating, horse riding, zip lining et al – and as the sun sets over the water, leave supper in the capable hands of a private chef. Keep eyes peeled for 27 new lodgings on neighbouring Marley Lake come June. **JM.** Cabins from £695 (2-night min). 01367 254 260, [thelakesbyyoo.com](http://thelakesbyyoo.com)

## LIFE HOUSE NANTUCKET MASSACHUSETTS

**In the land of** Edward Hopper, John Updike and Herman Melville, this former inn, dating back to 1833, is Nantucket's longest-serving hotel residence. Relunched under the Life House banner after a full revamp back in 2020 to evoke the coastal spirit of a stylish innkeeper's cottage, you'll find it tickling one of the highest points of the island – which sits pretty off the shores of Cape Cod – in a quiet residential clutch. Clad in the region's white clapboard, its impact on the scene is quietly serene. Within, inviting interiors play on New

England's heritage style with rooms bedecked in Gucci-esque island flora with raffia writing desks and a flair for antiques. Elsewhere, its history is evoked with a wood-paneled breakfast nook, comfortable lounge area and a garden terrace with hooded wicker chairs and fire pit. Sister Ship, the house restaurant serving New England stalwarts, is a five-minute walk away. Success with visitors and the community is noted in the launch of a second Nantucket property due soon. **BG.** Doubles from £163. 001 866 466 7534, [lifehousehotels.com](http://lifehousehotels.com)



# MASLINA RESORT

The ethos of this therapeutic retreat in **CROATIA** takes its cues from the exceptionally well preserved ancient Greek landscapes nearby, complete with gardens and pebbled coves to lose yourself in



As the boat approaches a hidden bay on the north-western edge of Hvar Island, Maslina Resort peaks from behind the olive trees that inspired its name, cascading towards a glimmering Adriatic shore. This idyllic corner of Croatia might just be Europe's most therapeutic destination, with its inviting pebbled coves, endless lavender fields and lazy, sun-soaked streets of Unesco-listed Stari Grad. Maslina's ethos of wellness and mindfulness fits right in.

Hugged by a lush pine forest and a stunning 8,000sq m landscaped garden, 50 rooms and suites plus three recently-unveiled villas blend naturally into the surroundings. Materials such as terracotta, wood, local stone and brushed brass take the helm in chic, contemporary interiors. Colour palettes clearly take inspiration from nature, with some surprising design touches in the form of vintage-style

travel-trunk wardrobes, blown-glass pendant lamps and carved stone bathtubs. Minimalistic decor gives way to breathtaking seascapes, which are ever present, whether you choose to kick back on the terrace of five-room Villa Uvala or take a dip in the plunge pool of the open-plan Panoramic Pool Suite.

Staying in one of the villas, having a sommelier on call can only be expected, what with Hvar's viticulture traditions dating back thousands of years, but the on-site restaurant takes hyper-locality to another level. Organic ingredients grown in the gardens are transformed into simple, authentic, Mediterranean plates with a global twist – think ravioli with homemade goat curd, chamomile sauce, pine nuts and chicken jus, the morning's catch served with seasonal sautéed veg or flame-grilled, Croatian Black Angus fillet complemented by an array of local wines or craft cocktails

that reflect the botanical harvest of the island. The Whisky Sour features Maslina's signature pineapple and sage liqueur, the Old Fashioned calling for their own pink grapefruit sherbet.

For your culture fix, borrow a bike to tour Stari Grad Plain, the Mediterranean's best-preserved ancient Greek landscape, visit the Renaissance Tvrđalj Castle in Stari Grad or island hop the Pakleni archipelago. Then retreat to the gallery, the library or browse the garden-to-skin treatment menu at the spa, where bespoke herbal concoctions – straight from the garden, of course – massages and sound therapy, courtesy of Tibetan singing bowls, promise an evening of rejuvenation. Sunsets are best admired from the resort's infinity pool or from A-Bay Beach Bar, accompanied by small seafood plates and champagne. **JM. Doubles from £350. 00 385 21 888700, maslinaresort.com**

## HOTEL SAHRAI MOROCCO



**If one word** encapsulates Hotel Sahrai, it's the meaning behind its name: magic. On a hillside overlooking Fez's medina, acclaimed designer Christophe Pillet has transformed this historic holiday home into a palatial retreat. Sand-hued arcades lined with copper lanterns invite a

stroll through leafy terraces to the infinity pool and Morocco's first Givenchy spa, while interiors fuse traditional, intricately carved plaster walls and Fassi ceramics with a contemporary aesthetic. All 50 rooms and suites are fitted with floor-to-ceiling windows; Deluxe rooms are

your best bet for a spectacular sunrise. Later, stop by Les Arcades for an alfresco lunch or head to Amaraz for Moroccan and Lebanese plates. Refreshing mint concoctions at the Jungle Bar are a must after a jaunt to the souks. **JM.** Doubles from £218. 00 212 535 940332, [hotelsahrai.com](http://hotelsahrai.com)

## THE RESIDENCE BY ATZARÓ SOUTH AFRICA

**Lofty and light-filled**, this four-storey mid-century villa sits resplendent at the foot of Cape Town's Table Mountain. Seven suites – some with outdoor space – do justice to the setting, with panoramic views of Devil's Peak and Lion's Head all the way down to the City Bowl below, thanks to glass-forward architecture. Within, chic yet homely interiors form a feast for the senses that takes its cue from modern African design. Abundant lounge areas and terraces are on hand, whether

you're renting the entire pad or a single suite, alongside a smart kitchen, in-house gym and wellness suite. A pool deck surrounded by lush gardens with sunbeds and a braai station are ideal for groups, although the in-house team are also available to organise adventures like beach horse-riding, paragliding, hiking, wine tastings and boat days for a holiday par excellence. **BG.** Villa buy-out from £1,106 (3-night min); suites from £116. 00 27 0 210 071 813, [atzaroresidencecapetown.com](http://atzaroresidencecapetown.com)



# PALM HOTEL

Backtrack to the original boho spirit beloved by Sixties travellers to **SRI LANKA** in a modern take on tropical luxury with a touch of Shoreditch



Perched amid paddy fields on an old coconut plantation, Palm is a boutique hotel in the most modern way. A quick jaunt from Sri Lanka's southern coast at Ahangama, it's pitched as a 'tropical lifestyle retreat' and evokes all the breezy boho spirit beloved by the surfers and hippies who discovered the area in the Sixties.

Comprising six black A-frame cabanas and two stilted deluxe suites, to say this one's for design lovers is an understatement. Sustainable local materials combine with a Shoreditch warehouse-like style evidenced by cool concrete interiors and an open-plan steel- and glass-clad pavilion made from old shipping containers. Tropical

minimalism is at play here: think floor-to-ceiling windows and neutral tones accented by brass and gold fixtures juxtaposed with cane furniture and low-slung beds. Sprawling the estate, so as to ensure P&Q for guests, each haven features outdoor showers, patios and hammocks made for sun-soaked days. Framed by a pastel pink sculptural wall, a generous pool set amid the greenery is tacked on to the industrial all-day kitchen, which serves up authentic Sri Lankan flavours. A dreamy spot to toast your choice of abode over a sundowner made from the arrack collected daily by local toddy tappers. *BG. Doubles from £130 (2-night min). 00 94 77 289 1663, [palmhotelsrilanka.com](http://palmhotelsrilanka.com)*

Words by Megan Dickson and Blossom Green  
Photos by Holly Farriner, Aaron Citti, Danilo Scarpati

# S TAY For longer A Y



**Landing via** private sea plane onto the pristine white sands of Kamalame Cay, on the Caribbean Island of Andros, is something not easily forgotten. With ocean-facing bungalows and villas, 5km of private beach, an overwater spa and 39ha island at your feet, it's hard to know where to explore first. Decamp to

rustic-chic rooms filled with nautical decorations, then head to the Andros Great Barrier Reef – just 3m offshore, iridescent angelfish, parrotfish, stingrays and nurse sharks lurk below the surface. Further out, dolphins and whales glide through a deep trench known as the Tongue of the Ocean. In the evening, dine alfresco at The

Grove, where freshly caught seafood is combined with Asian flavours that sing across sharing plates. Sip rum concoctions in the lavish cocktail bar until the early hours – on waking you'll find a hand-delivered basket filled with fruits, pastries and jams. **MD.** Beach bungalows from £393. 011 44208 819 3911, kamalame.com

## KAMALAME CAY THE BAHAMAS

## SEQUOIA AUSTRALIA



**It may only be** a 20-minute drive from Adelaide, but wellness retreat Sequoia Lodge feels a million miles away from it all. Sitting beneath Mount Lofty, this private estate comes with views stretching across the scenic Piccadilly Valley. Its 14 luxurious open-plan suites are light and spacious with natural colours and textures that reflect the area's unique landscape. There are four world-class wine regions on the doorstep, including McLaren Vale and the Barossa Valley, with plenty of places on site to savour a glass or

two, whether that's on your suite's sun-kissed terrace, by the infinity pool or during a sommelier's masterclass. By day, hike through the bushland for waterfalls, hidden creeks and to spot wildlife (this is home to the largest wild koala population) or head to the organic spa (complete with hot-spring pods). Nightfall brings chef Jin Choi's seven-course tasting menu at Hardy's Verandah, followed by a spot of stargazing. **MD.** Suites from £750. 00 61 881 309230, sequoialodge.com.au

# GOURMET *Boltholes*

Look across to the Outer Hebrides from a manse house in a **HIGHLANDS** fishing village or find sanctuary in a quintessential **SOMERSET** inn located in one of the Domesday Book's smallest settlements



## THE DIPPING LUGGER

An 18th-century former parish manse sits on the harbourfront of the fishing village of Ullapool, overlooking Loch Broom and the Outer Hebrides. Aptly named after a sailing vessel, The Dipping Lugger marries luxury with maritime legacy – amid velvet upholstery, marble tabletops and charming vintage touches, chef David Smith's tasting menus showcase the Scottish Highlands' finest produce in simple dishes bursting with flavour. Your four-course lunch might include Loch Broom oyster and red

deer; the seven dinner courses incorporating Hebridean Blue and spiced carrot.

Don't miss an intimate sampling of Seven Crofts gin in The Tasting Room before you head upstairs, where three bedrooms pay tribute to the roots of Ullapool, named after those who helped write its history. Tartan blankets and free-standing rolltop bathtubs are complemented by quirky wallpapers depicting the likes of whales and golden blossoms, while flowers in antique oil tins, bespoke pottery and open

fireplaces add to the heritage atmosphere. Stay in Maclnnes for elegant, ink-blue furnishings and views across the water or in Telford, whose burnt oranges and coppers contrast with the Scoraig Peninsula beyond. In the morning, typical Highland delicacies – porridge, black pudding, smoked salmon – will set you up for wild swimming, exploring the Corrieshalloch Gorge or a trip to the Isle of Lewis, a ferry ride away. JM. *Doubles from £410, including dinner and breakfast. 01854 613344, thedippinglugger.com*

Clockwise from top left: seafood at The Dipping Lugger; the dining room; scallop from the lunch menu; chef David Smith; The Tasting Room; Somerset fare at The Holcombe; relax beside the fire; a menu fed by the kitchen garden; rooms have an elegant country air

## THE HOLCOMBE

A speck of a destination in the Mendips of Somerset, Holcombe epitomises all that's good about an English village stay, and not just because it appeared in TV's *Poldark*. Dating back beyond the Domesday Book – when its eight houses made it one of the smallest places recorded, The Holcombe snuggles into the countryside, bringing tasteful five-star luxury and a seasonal menu fed from not only the best local farms, but also its own kitchen garden. Ducks from Beech Ridge Farm are cooked up with beetroot and orange purée, braised chicory; there's a 'polytunnel salad' showcasing their own larder; cheeses come from the likes of Bruton; and sirloins served

with red onion purée, roasted and sweet and sour shallots, are also Somerset-born. Sundowners – cocktails, English sparklers or local craft ales – are naturally taken on the terrace overlooking the nearby abbey. There are eight non-fussy, elegant rooms plus three lodges, two of which welcome four-legged friends (you're sure to bump into the owners' dog, Truffles).

Just in case you want something more active than a potter around the village and the medieval Old Church – once known as 'plague church' – you can arrange to have tennis lessons or just a casual hit at nearby courts. AM. *Doubles from £160, 01761 232478, theholcombe.com*



Words by Jasmina Matulewicz and Alex Mead  
Photos (The Holcombe) by Mark Bolton Photography