

MINE ALL MINE

Push-the-boat-out pads for your own private party



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RIAD MENA MARRAKESH, MOROCCO

It's only fitting that it was originally built as a private residence, because now you can have this chic new hotel/riad/home (ever so much nicer than your *actual* home) all to yourself. On the edge of the Medina and surrounded by Indiana Jones-style narrow alleyways, Riad Mena is a groovy six-bedroomed affair. The aesthetic is pared-back-cool meets Marrakesh-eclectic: crisp Egyptian-cotton sheets, sleek contemporary lamps, vintage kilims and lots of leather pouffes to plonk onto. The chef magics up wicked tagines, and black and white movies are shown under the stars on the terrace, or you can retreat to your own sweat-it-all-out hammam. The owner also has a permaculture farm nearby – escape the city heat for dips in the natural pool or yoga facing the Atlas Mountains.

NO. 38 THE PARK CHELTENHAM, ENGLAND

The Lucky Onion group is slowly taking over Cheltenham and raising the bar wherever it goes. Its latest venture is a Jane Austenesque villa, the kind of place where Sir Walter Elliot would be shocked to find his drawing room turned into an enormous turquoise boudoir sleeping two. There are 12 other bedrooms and the whole house comes at a bargain £2,600, with a chef thrown in. Nannies, butlers and spa treatments can also be booked. Witty decorative touches by Georgina Pearman abound – huge portholes frame mirrors, tea cosies are mini Arran sweaters – and there's a retro-style honesty bar that could make a dishonest woman out of you. It's your ideal house party, on a plate.

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MATAKAURI LODGE OWNER'S COTTAGE QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND

Make sure you tell your friends the second you book in, so they'll have more time to think of increasingly outrageous ways to suck up to you in the hope of being one of the lucky few you take along. The cottage has four bedrooms with glass-panelled balconies, soothing cream interiors and rainforest showers. The sitting room has sleek white leather and timbered ceilings – telltale signs that this is the work of local interiors grande dame Virginia Fisher. But the absolute highlight is the view. Head out onto the enormous balcony, fling off your clothes and hop into the hot tub, where you and your pals can gaze out across icy Lake Wakatipu and the snow-capped Remarkables. It sleeps eight, so best suckers-up only, please.

BOOK IT TURQUOISE HOLIDAYS
(TURQUOISEHOLIDAYS.CO.UK;
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BOOK IT
TREEHOUSE
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SALGADAS
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PEDRAS SALGADAS PEDRAS SALGADAS, PORTUGAL

There is a little part of us that will forever dream of treehouses – that misses the scuffed knees and twiggy hair and wild sense of adventure that we last felt when perched, aged nine, high up in gnarled branches, legs swinging. Recapture some of that spirit at Pedras Salgadas, set in the middle of a century-old forest in Portugal. Here, you'll discover very slick, very futuristic, very grown-up treehouses (twiggy hair just won't do) that look like something George Lucas sketched on the back of an envelope. Outside they're slate and wood; inside it's sleek and pale, with high-thread-count cotton sheets and an enormous skylight for stargazing. There are also little stilted cabins with private terraces, dotted in between the soaring sequoias – book a bunch for a (literally) wild party. This is a place to yomp in, to get lost in, to hide away and rejoice and holler at the freedom of the forest.