

FIT FORA FEAST

101 BEST HOTELS AUTUMN



**Prime time**  
Mid-September for cheese, wine and more cheese at TASTE, the region's biggest foodie market.

## Drake Devonshire

ONTARIO, CANADA

Toronto's too-cool-for-school Drake Hotel has a cult following, and now those hipster fans are flocking to the Drake's new little brother – a groovy retreat in a quiet lakeside setting a two-hour drive from the city. This historic waterside hotel has been whizzed up to date – all is bright and colourful and playful. Rooms have forest-green and teal walls, cool art, white wood panelling, bright rugs and quirky cloth dolls propped up on beds. Some have balconies overlooking the salmon-filled creek, others look over whacking great Lake Ontario. The smallest is the Stargazer Crash Pad – still a winner thanks to its giant skylight for gawking at the twinklers. The barn-sized industrial-chic restaurant spills out onto the wooden deck with bump-along-to-cram-everyone-on benches – live music and beach bonfires bring in the crowds. Zip about the area on a bike taking in the DIY way of life in nearby villages and snaffling up hand-stitched quilts, locally made pinot noir and buffalo-milk cheese. Back at the house, sip Bloody Caesars (a Mary with a sharp shot of clam juice) and enter into a staring competition with the ever-calm lake. **BOOK IT** Double, from £170 (mrandmrsmith.com; 0330 100 3180).



Kyle Connaughton, former ideas maestro at the Fat Duck, is going back to his Californian roots with *Single Thread*, a restaurant with rooms in the middle of Sonoma wine country. [singlethreadfarms.com](http://singlethreadfarms.com)

## La Bastide de Gordes

PROVENCE, FRANCE

Clamped to the side of Provence's most fashionable hilltop village, La Bastide de Gordes has been transformed (thanks to an £18m slam-dunk of a renovation) from a good hotel to a terrific one. Paying homage to the spot's various pasts, rooms are sumptuously Louis XV, public spaces are manorial and 800 years' worth of nooks and crannies are ubiquitous. Grey-green Med gardens step down the slope in stone terraces, with outstanding views across the valley to the Luberon. Staff – dressed as if for a day out in 1907 – are one big communal smile. Fine dining is in the hands of celeb cook Pierre Gagnaire; cheaper eating is at the brasserie just along the terrace – same view, same service, same extravagant wine list. Oh, and should you need a spa, there's a big Sisley number; they're making it bigger yet this winter. **BOOK IT** Double, from £195 (bastide-de-gordes.com; 00 33 4 90 72 12 12). Eurostar (eurostar.com) travels to Avignon from £100.



**Prime time**  
October. Your view of the vines below will be a riot of orange and red.

ILLUSTRATIONS: JON ROGERS/PHOSPHOR ART; PHOTOGRAPHS: SHUTTERSTOCK; NIKOLAS KOENIG; ALESSANDRO MOGGI; STUDIO-BERGOEND.COM; DEEPIX.COM; FRANCESCA ANICHINI; DON FEATURES; GETTY IMAGES





# 101 BEST HOTELS SPRING

## Sant Francesc Hotel Singular

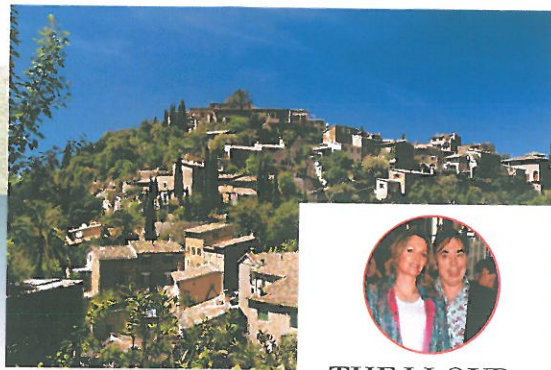
PALMA, MALLORCA

Here's what you must do in the early evening at the Sant Francesc Hotel Singular. You must head to the rooftop pool. You must acquire a glass of cold fino. Then you must dangle your legs in and gaze at the gothic cathedral and the shimmering sea beyond. It's a languid sort of a place, and elegant, housed in a 19th-century mansion, with rooms arranged around courtyards. The Heeley products in the bathroom have that delicious Mediterranean scent that you've been searching for all year - Figuiet, in case you were wondering. The grandest rooms give onto the square; the most romantic are under the eaves and have views into secret patios. Both are within tripping distance of that rooftop pool, that fino, that view. **BOOK IT** Double, from £205 (hotelsantfrancesc.com; 00 34 971 495 000).



### Prime time

March, for the dramatic Princess Sofia Trophy regatta - boats from 50 countries streaming out of Palma Bay on Mallorca's Balearic *embai* wind.



## THE LLOYD-WEBBERS' Mallorca

### FIRST THING WE DO

Book a table at Sebastian's restaurant in the village.

### FAVOURITE SPOT

The fish restaurant in Cala Deià, Ca's Patro March. It's wonderfully unsmart, with a view over a lovely pebbly beach and spectacular cliffs.



### WE CAN'T DO MALLORCA WITHOUT...

Actually, it's a must-NOT-pack item - stilettos. There are too many steps and cobbled streets.

### BEST BUY

A bottle of local olive oil or a lovely wicker basket with long leather straps.



### TOP TIP

Sa Fonda bar is always buzzy after dinner, and it's especially good for teenagers - scruffy, fun, with lots of people to meet.

### WE'D RATHER NOT TELL YOU ABOUT...

The set menu at Joseph's - real name Es Raco des Teix - in Deià. The restaurant has a Michelin star, but go for lunch and you can eat for under £30.

### FELLOW GUESTS

Deià is kind of a secret place, but you'll always see someone famous - like Richard Branson, the Geldofs, Kate Moss or Nick Grimshaw. But it's not about showing off. No one would ever ask for a selfie or that kind of rubbish.



Kate Moss

## The Spectator Hotel

CHARLESTON, USA

We love a good dose of Southern charm. This just-opened spot has it in spades; you almost expect the bar to be filled with linen-clad plantation owners doffing their panamas at you. There's a pleasing Twenties-inspired theme, with dark-wood floors, soft leather and strokeable brass - a shady reprieve from the heat of the city.

The Spectator sits in the French Quarter of Charleston, and most of the understated, dove-grey rooms (with slightly at-odds carpets, but then the Americans do love their carpets) overlook the jade-hewed South of Broad neighbourhood, with its porches and colonnades. Opt for a suite with its own balcony, and order an icy gin cocktail from your butler - Southern charm personified. Breakfast is room-service only and comes with fresh-cut flowers. We're charmed. **BOOK IT**

Double, from £230 (spectatorhotel.com; 00 1 843 724 4326).

### Prime time

March, when you can stuff yourself silly at the Charleston Wine + Food Festival.

