



CHIVA-SOM, THE LEGENDARY THAI SPA



HEBRIDEAN PRINCESS, SCOTLAND'S RITZIEST CRUISE SHIP



TY COCH, A FABULOUS WELSH FARM

CELEBRATE with a fabulous getaway

Glory in the good times with luxe house parties, high-spirited escapes and unforgettable holidays, as picked by Jane Hayward



CAVENDISH HALL, AN AUTHENTIC REGENCY HOME IN SUFFOLK



AUGILL CASTLE, A CUMBRIAN GETAWAY THAT OOZES STYLE

GO CELEBRATE



Amazing views are the draw at W Hotel Barcelona

Designer fizz in Barcelona

W Hotels are Europe's sexiest brand. Their designer sparkle and innovative service ideas are perfect for a weekend when you want to toast your relationship. **ENJOY THE SPACE** W Barcelona looks like a gleaming glass sail over Sant Sebastiá Beach, and the wow factor in the sophisticated rooms is floor-to-ceiling windows that take in the whole vista. **TO SEE, TO DO** Indulge yourselves! Laze on chaises longues on the beach (the hotel will bring drinks). Perk up your looks with an Oxygen Blast facial, £63, while he picks from the "guy maintenance" menu in the Bliss spa.

BIG NIGHT Take advantage of the "whatever, whenever" service – anything legal is the promise! Then whizz up to 24th-storey Bravo, for superb steaks and Spanish brandies. **WHAT IT COSTS** Doubles from £219 per room. Call 00 800 325 25252 or see whotels.com/barcelona. Flights from around £98 return. See skyscanner.net.

STAY
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Spa in Thailand

A pampering spa break at Chiva-Som in Hua Hin is perfect for a solo escape. **ENJOY THE SPACE** Serenity reigns in elegant, terraced rooms, and there are seven acres of tropical gardens, gazing out to the Gulf of Thailand. This is a holistic experience, so on arrival, you'll receive a wellness consultation. **TO SEE, TO DO** Don't treat the trip as a detox. You deserve the Spa Pampering package's feel-good menu of blissful daily massages, confidence-enhancing facials, manicures and pedicures. **BIG NIGHT** Though the atmosphere's peaceful, there's plenty of opportunity to make friends over evenings of gourmet Thai cuisine and glasses of chilled coconut milk. You may even encounter a Hollywood celeb or two! **WHAT IT COSTS** A seven-night Spa Pampering package costs from £3,775pp with W&O Travel (0845-2773310; wandotravel.com), including meals, treatments, flights and transfers.



Unwind in elegant style at Chiva-Som

w&h
DEALS

Scotland's floating five-star

The Hebridean Princess is Scotland's ritziest cruise ship and its west-coast island sprees make a magical anniversary trip for two. **ENJOY THE SPACE** You'll feel you're in a floating five-star country house hotel. And with a crew-to-guest ratio of almost one to one, you're sure of good service.



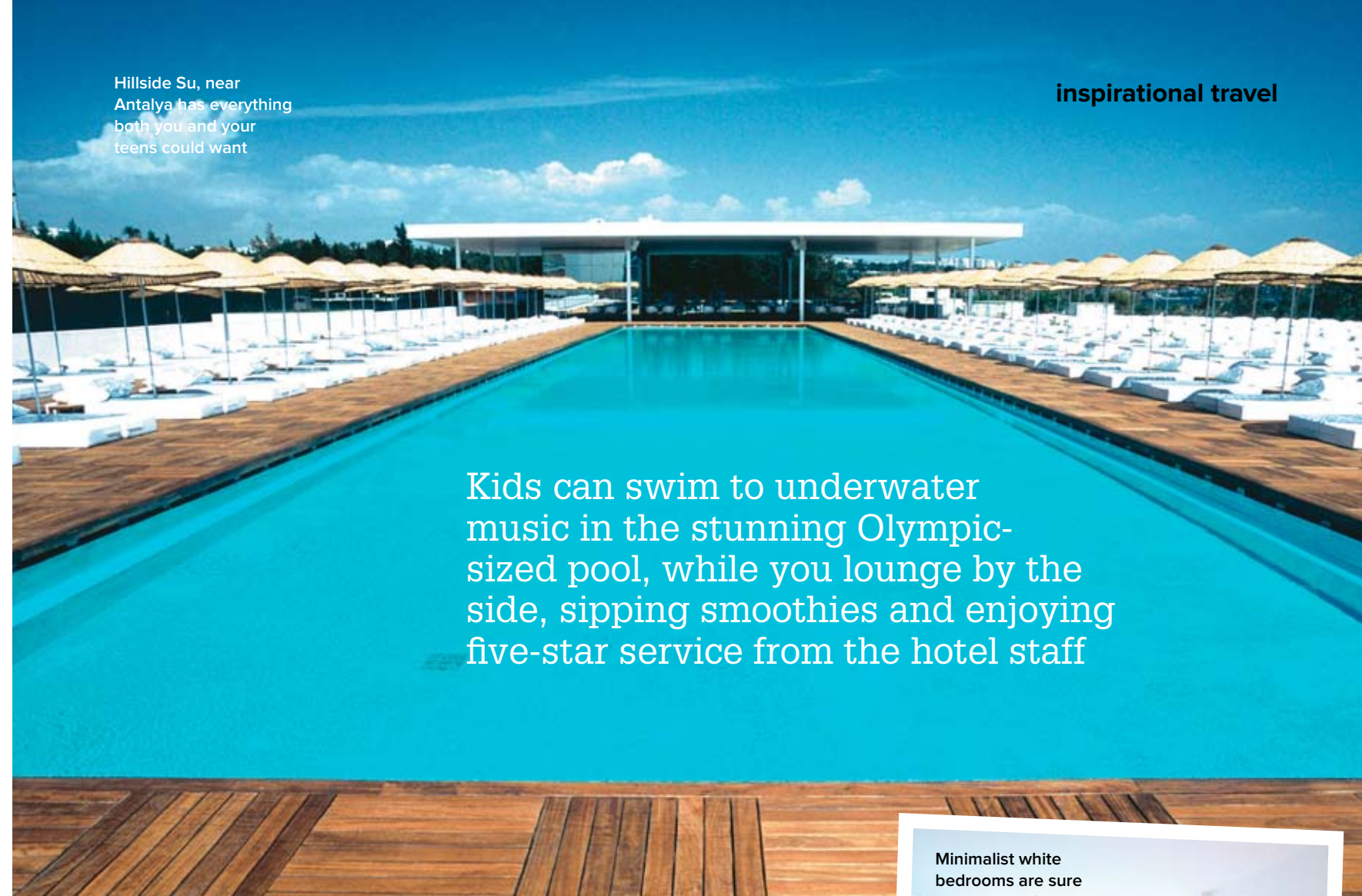
The Queen chartered the cruise ship for her 80th birthday



All the benefit of a five-star hotel, on the water

TO SEE, TO DO There's a whole string of themed cruises to choose from. How romantic is May's flower-themed trip, sailing from Oban, and drifting between gorgeous island gardens? **BIG NIGHT** Each evening is a fine dining, Champagne-flooded event. But for that special date, staff are a dab hand at rustling up a cake or chocolates – and can even arrange a private helicopter trip. **WHAT IT COSTS** From £3,320pp for seven nights full board (including drinks, tours and tips). Call 0800-0893929; prideofbritainhotels.com. Departs 3 May. + For 10% off an east-coast cruise, go to womanandhome.com; click "Offers".

inspirational travel



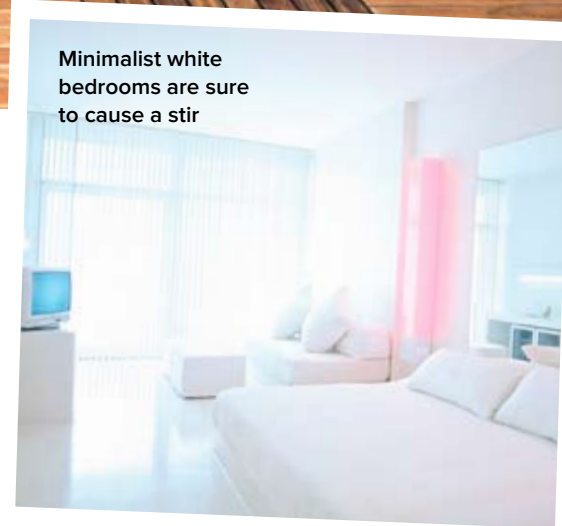
Hillside Su, near Antalya has everything both you and your teens could want

Kids can swim to underwater music in the stunning Olympic-sized pool, while you lounge by the side, sipping smoothies and enjoying five-star service from the hotel staff

Teen-friendly Turkey

The Hillside Su, near Antalya, combines hip design with chilled activities – and is very adept at providing teen-friendly fun. **ENJOY THE SPACE** Expect excited texts to fly off their fingers from the moment your kids clap eyes on the supercool, seafront building, and keep your shades on for futuristic all-white interiors. Cleverly, the mood manages to be both funky and relaxed. Minimalist white bedrooms, with endless mirrors, sunset balconies, and red and pink mood lighting are sure to trigger yet more texts! **GET ACTIVE (FOR THEM)** Imagine a week without hearing, "I'm bored", as they get to grips with the hotel's hi-tech segways, bash bongos at a percussion workshop or swim to underwater music. Younger ones aren't neglected either, as a KidSide club keeps them entertained. **CHILL-OUT (FOR YOU)** Sip smoothies by the pool and you can enjoy that most five-star of treats: having a member of staff polish your sunglasses! Or head for the private blue-flag beach for blissful

Mediterranean views. A La Prairie treatment in the sleek spa is a must. **TO SEE, TO DO** Antalya Old Town is worth exploring. Check out the ancient Hadrianus Gate and stone lighthouse Hidirlik Tower before coffees gazing at yachts in the harbour. See goturkey.com. **BIG NIGHT** Evenings have a real frisson, with guests glamming up. Youngsters will adore the beach bar, Pasha, where they can sip non-alcoholic mocktails and listen to DJs spinning funky beats. Twice a week, you can watch movies under the stars at the *al fresco* cinema. And for a special meal, try the fifth floor seafood restaurant. **WHAT IT COSTS** Seven nights for a family of two adults and two teens costs from £2,992 in two double/twin rooms B&B, including flights and transfers. Call 0800-2949315; classic-collection.co.uk. >>



Minimalist white bedrooms are sure to cause a stir



Enjoy a spa treatment while the kids play

STAY
HERE
FOR

This great package to a fabulous luxury resort works out at £748 per person for a week.

IMPECCABLE MANORS



Hire a 16th-century country house in beautiful Dorset

Imposing village houses aren't hard to find, but it's much trickier to track down one that feels vogueish and contemporary. The Butterfly House (sleeping ten adults and four kids), on Dorset's Compton Estate, is as chic as could be!

ENJOY THE SPACE Allow at least an hour for preliminary "oohs and aahs". Vast ceilings and windows that date from the 16th century now frame ultra-white modern rooms. Bedrooms (three are en suite) have oversized chandeliers, funky armchairs and power showers – and there'll be no shortage of volunteers to rustle up breakfasts in the utterly gorgeous Poggenpohl kitchen. **TO SEE, TO DO** Roam eight private acres of grounds. Whizz through chocolate box villages to Lulworth Cove.

Discover surprisingly metropolitan pubs, such as the Queens Arms at Corton Denham. And stock up on estate goodies at nearby Trencherman Deli – they'll do dinner party catering, too. **BIG NIGHT** Movie night! Pièce de resistance is your own private cinema, so settle down in plush purple velvet sofas for a screening of your favourites. Popcorn essential! **WHAT IT COSTS** £2,400 (£172pp) for a two-night weekend; £2,595 (£186pp) for three nights with Unique Home Stays (01637-881942; uniquehomestays.com).

STAY HERE FOR

When you have a group of 14 people, this stunning house costs just £186pp for three nights!



A 16th century house, with an oh-so-chic interior



Just add popcorn and a fab flick!

Stay in a castle in Cumbria

Five-star Augill Castle near Kirkby Stephen just oozes special occasion. **ENJOY THE SPACE** Bedrooms are sumptuous enough to sweep you off your feet, but it's the relaxed atmosphere and attention to detail that really score. **TO SEE, TO DO** You're betwixt Lake District and Yorkshire Dales. So draw up a list of group jaunts, from breathtaking Wastwater to the Ribbleshead Viaduct. **BIG NIGHT** Take over the whole house and things really swing. You can theme a party around a casino, a murder mystery or simply a gourmet night. **WHAT IT COSTS** Doubles from £160 per room B&B; dinner from £20pp. House party from £8,400 for up to 28 people for two nights full-board (with drinks). Call 01768-341937; stayinacastle.com.

STAY HERE FOR

Gather a group of 28 and it'll cost just £300pp to hire the entire castle for two nights full board.

Take over the castle for a special party



inspirational travel



Cavendish Hall feels like Jane Austen country



Period features lend an air of authenticity

Host a smart gathering in Suffolk

An authentic Regency home is perfect for hosting a smart gathering. One of the Landmark Trust's newest properties, Cavendish Hall (for 12), in Suffolk feels like stepping into a Jane Austen novel. **ENJOY THE SPACE** Once owned by George IV's physician, this is a charming

six-bedroom home that's hung on to most of its original features. Factor in period antiques and a refreshing lack of modern trinkets, such as TVs, and you've got time-warp elegance par excellence. **TO SEE, TO DO** Cavendish village is just the first taste of gloriously unspoilt

Suffolk countryside. Long Melford is nearby – browse for art and antiques before lunch in the 15th-century Bull Inn. See visit-suffolk.org.uk. **BIG NIGHT** The dining room, complete with Regency red walls, marble pillars and dangling chandelier, is black tie and evening gown territory. It might be fun to research a 19th-century menu, too – the Trust will suggest local caterers. **WHAT IT COSTS** From £2,174 for a three-night weekend (£182pp). Call 01628-825925; landmarktrust.org.uk. >>

FRESH IDYLLS



There'll be fresh air aplenty at Ty Coch

Farm takeover in North Wales

Would your tribe's dream celebration consist of rounders matches, rumbustious meals and fire-lit beach parties? Hire Ty Coch, three converted farm buildings (sleeping up to 14) near Caernarfon, for total fun and freedom.

ENJOY THE SPACE Everyone will approve the blend of Scandinavian and Welsh style. You can configure bedrooms to suit – say, dividing the generations, or stick to families for privacy. Big dining and sofa areas give the opportunity to gang up, and there are books, games and WiFi.

TO SEE, TO DO You've five all-natural acres to enjoy. Best of all, you can set up a camp (or invite six more friends to camp) by a sand-and-pebble beach. Want some adults-only time? Book surfing lessons for kids via West Coast Surf (westcoastsurf.co.uk).

BIG NIGHT Scrub up for dinner at five-star Plas Bodegroes (bodegroes.co.uk), or buy lobster from local fishermen for a fishy feast (catering can be arranged).

HOW MUCH £1,450 (£104pp) for a weekend of two or three nights; 07866-467979; red-welly.com.



Hideaway chic in Norfolk

A unique, architect-designed house puts the wow into an easygoing riverside escape. Mill House (sleeping nine) near Stalham comes with its own windmill.

ENJOY THE SPACE This is *Grand Designs* territory: a millkeeper's cottage with a bold, modernist extension. Take chic countryside togs to complement the cream-and-white, open-plan interior and look forward to views of kingfisher-patrolled marshes through vast windows. **TO SEE, TO DO** Enjoy Broads and beach walks. Evenings are beyond tranquil: only the hooting of barn owls distract from your beautifully lit windmill view.

BIG NIGHT Head to bustling Norwich for theatre (see visitnorwich.co.uk) and



dinner. For people-pleasing dishes and a genial atmosphere, you can't beat The Last Wine Bar (lastwinebar.co.uk).

HOW MUCH From £1,050 (£117pp) for three nights with The Modern House (08456-344068; themodernhouse.net).

STAY
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FOR

An architectural dream, this house is a bargain at only £117 per person for a three-night stay.

w&h
DEALS



Go glamping in East Lothian

Set behind dunes on a stunning east-coast beach, Lochhouses is a collection of seven stylish safari tents.

ENJOY THE SPACE Irresistibly folksy interiors will delight everyone – each tent has two bedrooms, a loo, and a dinky kitchen with wood stove/oven. There's not a hint of roughing it – even 70-something guests have had a ball.

TO SEE, TO DO Revel in the great outdoors, picnicking on the beach and scorching bangers around a campfire. Kids will adore the treehouse and pirate boat.

BIG NIGHT For low-key revelry, the farm supplies delicious breakfast, BBQ and party hampers, plus its own duck and venison. Or take over a woodland log cabin for a party with nature-based games.

HOW MUCH From £2,625 for all seven tents for a three-night weekend, or from £375 for one tent. Each tent sleeps six to eight. Call 01275-395447; canopyandstars.co.uk. **w&h** + For a Champagne hamper, go to womanandhome.com; click "Offers".