

# Travel

**On page**  
32  
**'Sanlucar has a dreamy, end-of-the-road feel; it's my favourite place'**  
Robert Elms escapes the tourists in Spain

## Luxury for less Short breaks

### 30 Mr & Mrs Smith deals

The hotel specialists team up with The Times to bring you two-for-one stays in Europe's best hotels

*All prices are per room for two nights as part of the promotional offer*

#### UK

Chic in the country

**1 Cotswolds88 Hotel, Painswick, Gloucestershire**  
£165

This is a Georgian house with an incredibly ornate interior; gilded mirrors, odd chrome statues, flower-print wallpaper, and chaise lounges covered in zebra stripes. Kate Moss and Liz Hurley have both stayed at Cotswolds88, which attracts the fashion set as well as A-list film stars after a trendy but quiet retreat.

**2 Tuddenham Mill, near Newmarket, Suffolk**  
£185

Bedrooms in this converted mill in Suffolk are fitted out in Philippe Starck designs: minimalist and swish. The exposed beams, whitewashed walls and big beds ensure a comfortable stay. There's a restaurant serving modern European food.

**3 Westover Hall Hotel, Lymington, Hampshire** £206

This boutique hotel manages to maintain many charming original features in a Victorian mansion overlooking the Solent and the Isle of Wight. There are stained-glass windows, antiques — and beach huts for guests' use.

**4 Yorebridge House, Leyburn, North Yorkshire** £160

Each of the rooms at Yorebridge in Wensleydale in the Yorkshire Dales has been individually, and quite deliciously, designed. There's a gourmet restaurant and a rather cosy bar. ▶



Above: Château de Bagnols, (25) Beaujolais, France; far left, Woolley Grange (12) Wiltshire; left, San Domenico House, (7) London

## 26 Travel

## Luxury for less

## City breaks

## 5 21212, Edinburgh £250

The restaurant at 21212 quickly gained a Michelin star and it is more a "restaurant with rooms" than an hotel. But the bedrooms are superb with hardwood floors, plush sofas and standalone baths.

## 6 Hope Street Hotel, Liverpool £150

This cool design hotel in the middle of Liverpool has exposed brick walls, wooden floors, warehouse-style bedrooms with black retro armchairs and Bang & Olufsen sound systems. It is a delight.

## 7 San Domenico House, London £276

San Domenico feels a bit like entering an Italian palazzo that's been transported to Chelsea. Opulent, traditional looks combine with flat-screen TVs and DVD players to create a luxury hideaway, set over two elegant, red-brick townhouses.

## Best for bargains

## 8 The Drawing Room, Powys, Wales £80

The Drawing Room, overlooking the rolling hills of Powys, is excellent value for a couple of nights. The chintzy wallpaper manages to pull off its trendy soft, neutral colours. There are standalone baths, chandeliers and a gastro restaurant.

## 9 Museum Inn, Farnham, Dorset £135

This is very much a traditional country pub — but one with a refined seafood restaurant, plus a handful of comfy bedrooms with designer wallpaper. It does not pretend to be a super-cool boutique hotel, but it has a charming, tucked-away atmosphere.

## 10 Brew House Hotel, Tunbridge Wells, Kent £109

Tunbridge Wells has a decent Hotel du Vin, but for something a little different try



Above: Bastide de Saint Mathieu (26) Grasse, France; below, The Brew House (10), Tunbridge Wells, Kent



the slick, futuristic-looking Brew House (which opened a couple of years ago). Rooms are minimalist with lacquer-black wardrobes and silver bed covers.

## 11 The Rectory, Cotswolds, Gloucestershire £95

Log fires, flagstone hallways, muted colours and a lovely Cotswolds setting make the Rectory popular. There are a dozen well-appointed rooms with an airy feel. There is also a heated outdoor pool.

## For families

## 12 Woolley Grange, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, £190

For a seriously stylish child-friendly hotel, it's worth taking a look at Woolley Grange, where a swanky new spa is opening on October 18. The hotel has on-site childcare as well as several sister hotels that are also good for children and on offer from Mr & Mrs Smith: Fowey Hall in Cornwall (£200), The Elms in Worcestershire (£150), and Ickworth in Suffolk (£205).

## 13 Stoke Park Country Club and Resort, Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire £225

There's a great indoor swimming pool and plenty of grounds to explore at Stoke Park near Slough. It's quite grand, yet the hotel welcomes children. Its 27-hole golf course was the setting for the golf match between James Bond and Goldfinger in the film.

## 14 South Sands, Salcombe, Devon £135

This superb beach retreat has pleasingly muted colours and the feeling of a hideaway somewhere in Cape Cod. There's a relaxed, child-friendly attitude, with a casual (but good) restaurant.

## Europe

## 15 Ajia Hotel, Istanbul, Turkey £198

This stunning white classical villa on the banks of the Bosphorus has a breathtaking



“It's a regal palace built in 1912, with a classy, old-world feel — the Claridge's of Berlin”



# Come Walkabout with us.

## AUSTRALIA:

from £699\*

See more of Australia with the Qantas Walkabout Pass offering access to an exciting range of destinations Down Under.

Book now at [qantas.com](http://qantas.com)

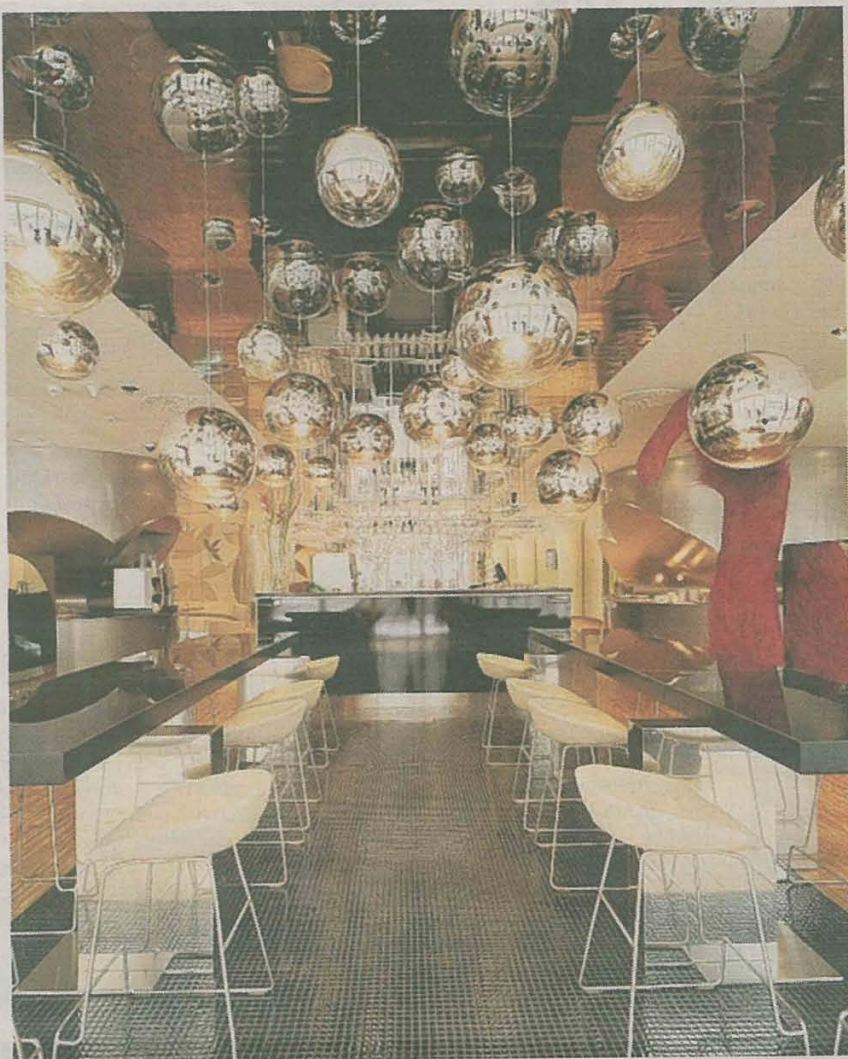


Return economy airfare from London Heathrow. Departures from 16 April – 20 June 2011. Offer ends 3 November 2010 unless sold out prior. Limited availability.

Spirit of Australia.  
[qantas.com](http://qantas.com)



\*Price based on payment at [qantas.com](http://qantas.com). A surcharge of GBP20 per person applies to telephone bookings made through Qantas Airways. Prices correct at 27 September 2010 but may fluctuate if surcharges, fees, taxes or currency change. Fare to Australia is based on return economy flights from London Heathrow to Perth via Singapore. Fare is inclusive of taxes and fees and valid for travel on Qantas Airways and/or British Airways. Qantas Walkabout Pass can only be purchased in conjunction with a Qantas Airways or British Airways return flight from the United Kingdom to Australia or New Zealand. Some changes permitted at a charge. Stopovers permitted on route at an additional charge. Offer period may be extended. Qantas Airways Limited ABN 16 009 661 901.



contemporary interior. The boutique hotel, with only 16 rooms, looks like the home of a top New York designer. Bedrooms are large; bathrooms are just as generous, and there's even a private boat.

**16 Schlosshotel im Grunewald, Berlin, Germany** £199

This hotel is a favourite of Karl Lagerfeld (who once overhauled the design). It's a beautiful regal palace built in 1912, with a classy, old-world feel — the Claridge's of Berlin, if you like. It has formal gardens, a fine-dining restaurant, very posh spa and swimming pool.

**17 Heritage Av Liberdade, Lisbon, Portugal** £125

The best of Lisbon is on your doorstep at this grand 18th-century townhouse, painted an eye-catching blue. Inside it's a true comfort zone: plush interiors in warm, spicy colours and antique furnishings. Rooms have fabulous views over the city.

**18 Palacio del Retiro, Madrid, Spain** £198

This historic five-star palace with 50 rooms is in Madrid's "golden triangle" of museums — the Prado, Thyssen and Reina Sofia. Behind the 19th-century façade, you will find hip, cool, masculine interiors with clean lines, designer furniture and hi-tech gadgetry.

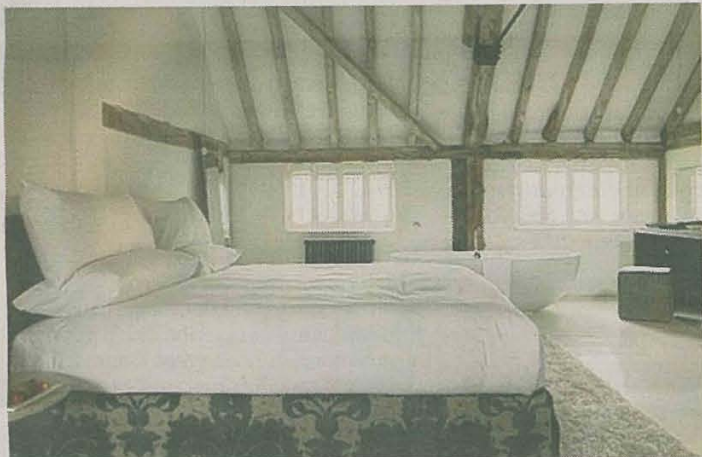
**19 Riva Lofts, Florence, Italy** £175

Wallpaper readers should head for this design hotel on the banks of the Arno. This palazzo has been sympathetically revamped to blend old and new, so along with the original distressed walls there are bright modern features, retro-style furniture and a sleek modern pool. There are eight spacious "studios" (Room 4 is like an apartment) each with a private terrace.

**20 Three Sisters, Tallinn, Estonia** £158

History is alive in this trio of 14th-century merchants' houses in a corner of the medieval old town. This comfortable 23-room hotel has a restaurant and wine bar with a cellar to store your own wines.

Clockwise from top left  
 South Sands (14) Salcombe, Devon; Hotel Yasmin (22) Prague, Czech Republic; Cotswolds88 Hotel (1) Painswick, Gloucestershire; Seaham Hall (28) Seaham, Co Durham; A'jia Hotel (15) Istanbul, Turkey; Tuddenham Mill (2) near Newmarket, Suffolk; Aquapura (30) Portugal



From flights...  
 ...to nights...  
 ...to reaching new heights

**The most flexible way to book your ski trip**

www.skidomtrips.com  
 or call 0844 879 8151  
 or see your local travel agent

**Ski dom trips.com**

Freedom to ski your way

NEILSON

HUSKY-SLEDDING, SNOWMOBILE & REINDEER SLEIGH RIDES ALL INCLUDED!

**FREE KIDS\***

**ESPRIT Santa's Lapland**

A Private Meeting with the 'real' Santa Claus - Guaranteed!

FOR YOUR FREE BROCHURE (24/7) OR TO BOOK CALL 01252 618 300 VISIT **SantasLapland.com**

ANTARCTICA 19814 \*Conditions apply