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# europaean

The beauty of the  
Balearics, the magic of  
Mykonos and Sicily's  
eternal style: summer on  
a sun-drenched European  
shoreline is hard to beat



*The Faraglioni rock formations, just off the coast of Capri*

# islands

PHOTOGRAPH: SALVA LÓPEZ



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EUROPEAN ISLANDS

**L**ong hay-bale shadows at dusk; swallows darting into translucent pools; the scent of pine-trees, cracked and scorched from months of sun; a lullaby of gentle waves on hot sand and that unmistakable hum of cicadas – nature, for me, makes the ideal holiday companion, and nowhere does it feel closer than on some of the vast and varied islands of Europe, each one anchored within its own body of blue. Though diverse, these tranquil landscapes are rarely more than a few hours away by plane, and are home to a selection of the Continent's most beautifully designed small hotels, from Mallorca's Can Bordoy Grand House & Garden ([www.canbordoy.com](http://www.canbordoy.com)) to Sardinia's Su Gologone ([www.sugologone.it](http://www.sugologone.it)), where guests can revel in innovative design, dishes made with fresh local ingredients and an azure pool with views of the sea, corn fields and lush gardens.

Artistic types will want to flock to the quaint Isla del Rey, just off the coast of Menorca, where the tastemaker gallerists Hauser & Wirth ([www.hauserwirth.com](http://www.hauserwirth.com)) have turned a series of 18th-century outbuildings into a resplendent new art space. After your visit, return to the mainland to stay at Menorca Experimental ([www.menorcaexperimental.com](http://www.menorcaexperimental.com)), a historic finca that has been redesigned in the style of an artist's retreat. Larger parties may prefer to stay at the eye-catching villa Montana del Aguila, which sleeps up to 22 people. Adorned with geometric tiling, pendant lights and modern sculptures, it has an aquamarine bar that's perfect for cocktail hour ([www.cvillas.com](http://www.cvillas.com)).

It seems that whatever your dream holiday looks like, you can find it delightfully close to our own shores.

*Lydia Steinscoe*

*Above left and right:  
Cali in Mykonos.  
Left: Montana  
del Aguila*

PHOTOGRAPHS: SALVIA LOPEZ ANHALLU



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*Above: Can Bordoy in Mallorca. Far left: Cala Morell in Menorca*

FIRE AND ICE  
 Deplar Farm, Iceland  
 It's not just the warmer European islands that make for a memorable trip – Iceland's moody shores are home to Deplar Farm, a former farmhouse that has been given a luxurious makeover with cosy bedrooms and an open-air pool heated by geothermal energy.  
[www.elevenexperience.com](http://www.elevenexperience.com)

MYCONIAN MAGIC  
 Cali, Mykonos  
 Privacy is key at Cali Mykonos, a Cycladic escape whose 40 minimalist villas overlook the deep blue Aegean and a secluded stretch of beach where you can lounge in peace from dusk until dawn. Take a dip in the serene infinity pool or make use of the hotel's fleet of yachts and speedboats for rides into the Old Town or to other islands.  
[www.calmikonos.com](http://www.calmikonos.com)



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**RISE AND SHINE**  
**The Rooster, Antiparos**  
Until now, the peaceful island of Antiparos has been Greece's best-kept secret – but word is out, thanks to the Rooster. This chic arrival has 16 villas, each with its own private pool, that blend seamlessly into a landscape of olive-trees, lavender and wild grasses. Daily yoga at the holistic House of Healing spa is included in the room price.  
[www.theroosterantiparos.com](http://www.theroosterantiparos.com)

**REFINED FIND**  
**JK Place, Capri**  
To call JK Place Capri a hotel doesn't really do it justice – it's more like the private home of a friend with an excellent personal chef, who'll whip up Mediterranean dishes for you to enjoy on the terrace overlooking the Gulf of Naples. The interiors have been curated by the Florentine designer and architect Michele Bonan, with a crisp palette that offsets the impressive art collection.  
[www.jkcapri.com](http://www.jkcapri.com)

**FEEL-GOOD FACTOR**  
**Six Senses Ibiza**  
Tucked away on the peaceful northern tip of the well-known party island, Six Senses Ibiza is a magnet for the fashion pack, who are lured there by stylish sea-view suites, wellness programmes targeting sleep, fitness and immunity, and shorefront tapas accompanied by live music.  
[www.sixsenses.com](http://www.sixsenses.com)



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**VITAMIN SEA**  
 Lanserhof Syll, Germany

Devotees of Lanserhof, Europe's leader in innovative health, now have the chance to visit the group's first clinic by the sea on Sylt, the 'Hamptons of Germany', an island known for its healing climate and restorative salty air. Residents of the 55 guestrooms will also benefit from groundbreaking diagnostics and rejuvenating spa treatments during their stay.

[www.lanserhof.com](http://www.lanserhof.com)

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**LA DOLCE VITA**  
 Belmond Villa  
 Sant'Andrea and Grand  
 Hotel Timeo, Sicily

The only trouble with going on holiday in Sicily is choosing which Belmond to stay at. There's the seaside Villa Sant'Andrea, with geranium-filled gardens, antique furnishings and a shingled stretch of beach; or its glamorous sister property Grand Hotel Timeo, whose opulent suites have dramatic balconies overlooking Mount Etna. The solution? Take advantage of the free hotel shuttle to make the 10-minute drive, and say you've been to both.

[www.belmond.com](http://www.belmond.com)

*A four-night trip to both hotels costs from £1,699 a person, including airport transfers ([www.italia.com](http://www.italia.com)).*