

# FOOD

*and*

# TRAVEL

**2018**  
AWARDS  
VOTE NOW

**Summer fruit tarts**

*To make today*

*Middle Eastern*

**BBQ**

Lemon curd tart, meringue teardrops, lavender pastry and blueberries

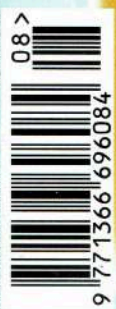
**ATHENS**

*A gourmet odyssey*

**Healthy plates**

*Fresh off the beach*

AUG/SEP 2018



**The Very Hungry Cyclist**

*Ride, eat, relax, repeat*

**Holidays of Self discovery**

**BRING ME SUNSHINE**

CROATIA ITALY USA MOROCCO FRANCE THAILAND INDONESIA SWEDEN DENMARK

*The secret*  
**Algarve**

**WIN**  
FIVE NIGHTS  
IN VIETNAM

TOP UK WATERSIDE  
**HOTELS**

Reviews Drinks Chefs In Season Interviews Recipes Restaurants



Clockwise from left: the old town setting of Sant Francesc; the hotel's lobby; rooftop pool utopia



## SANT FRANCESC MALLORCA

**There are few better places** to embrace summer on the Mediterranean than the balmy Balearics. And this converted 19th-century mansion in the beating heart of Palma is our top pick for a trip this month. You'll find it in an atmospheric square in the old town, where apricot-hued houses come to life with colourful shutters and the dance of laundry billowing in the fresh sea breeze from the balconies above.

Sant Francesc channels the relaxed energy of the island without sacrificing on elegant design. The grand marble staircase, chequerboard tiling and modern art of the lofty entrance hall are more akin to a dream home than formal lodgings. Floor-to-ceiling windows with industrial ironwork framing bring in oodles of light from the charming inner courtyard. Dotted with olive trees, it's a peaceful, historic-feeling spot to ponder a while. Elsewhere, expect plenty of soft-grey banquettes which slink the length of the bar and lounge areas and are coupled with antique mirrored coffee tables and stacks of art and design books. Comfortable and cosy, you'll want to explore every inch.

Warm monochrome is the score across the 42 rooms, where marshmallow-like beds are among the finest on which we've taken slumber. Latte-coloured linen, fresh flowers, rattan light shades and wooden shutters punctuate the rest of the room.

Come morning, breakfasts are a veritable feast of classic Spanish produce – cured meats, Manchego, quince *membrillo*, fresh fruits and creamy yoghurts – best enjoyed from within the walled, palm-dotted garden. The seafront and Palma's grand cathedral are only a ten-minute pootle away along the cobbled backstreets from the square, so fear not, you'll work it off in no time. But do be sure to save some time to bask on the rooftop pool terrace. It's our favourite spot by far, which you'll often have all to yourself, such is the hotel's appeal as a base from which guests disperse to explore the region. With views spanning the city and a smartly conceived drinks menu (including a rather superb vanilla milkshake and gin and tonics the size of fishbowls) it's one worth raising a glass to. *BG. Doubles from £350. [hotelsantfrancesc.com](http://hotelsantfrancesc.com)*

# Places

This month, we enjoy a bird's eye view of eat Cantonese in Beijing, make like royalty



## King Street Townhouse Manchester

**The clock strikes five.** The bell rings out over the rooftops of downtown Manchester from the Town Hall, audible in the attic room at King Street Townhouse, one of the city's more upmarket boutique hotel offerings. For a bird's-eye view of the bell tower itself, you can take a dip in the infinity pool perched on the roof. Or, back in the room, there's a large egg-shaped bath installed under the window from which to truly appreciate the view across Manchester's skyscape, glass of bubbles in hand. Housed in an Italian renaissance building built in 1872 for the Manchester Salford Trustees Bank, no two rooms here are the same. It feels like staying at a posh friend's pied-à-terre: think Temple Spa toiletries and muted shades of blue and green, punctuated by local art. Downstairs, the King Street Tavern buzzes with a hungry after-work crowd seeking comfort food like mushrooms on toast, lamb shank and curry. Ask for the 'black book' of wines, for special vintages by the glass. *RR. Doubles from £120. [eclectichotels.co.uk](http://eclectichotels.co.uk)*



**WALDORF ASTORIA TRIANON PALACE FRANCE**

**September's Ryder Cup** takes place at Le Golf National, just outside Paris. It's the first time the tournament has taken place in France and as such, they've chosen a course worthy of the occasion. Opened in 1990, it's new and fresh, yet mature enough to prove a challenge when Europe and USA do battle. The players will be staying nearby at the Waldorf Astoria Trianon Palace, on the periphery of the gardens of the Palace of Versailles. Opened in 1910, the hotel is no poor relation when it comes to design. Cut in white stone to match the style of the palace, its sweeping grand entrance complements the area perfectly and its history tells a fascinating tale. Between 1939 and 1944, it was employed as headquarters for the RAF, then the Luftwaffe, before American forces occupied it to stake out the geopolitical map we know today. These days, a more sedate pace pervades. Marble hallways lead to two restaurants overlooking the grounds of Versailles. Even though one holds a Michelin star for Gordon Ramsay, our pick is Le Veranda. Its sprawling, covered terrace will no doubt be the setting for victorious golfers long into the night, serving brasserie classics – steak tartare, seasonal tomato salad, grilled sea bass – with a good-value wine list. *MS. Doubles from £394. trianonpalace.fr golf-national.com*

Words by Blossom Green; Renate Ruge; Mark Sansom; Imogen Lepere  
Photos by Next Level Mallorca; Atilla Kemeryfi; Steve Carr Golf; Durston Saylor



**Gourmet bolthole**  
THE WIFE OF BATH, WYE, KENT

**One of the UK's best** northern Spanish restaurants isn't what you expect to find at a six-bedroom B&B in a sleepy Kent village. Unless you knew it were there, you'd never find it. Home to a couple of quaint riverside pubs, a haberdasher and two small restaurants, Wye hasn't (yet) succumbed to the DFL brigade. Some 20km from the coast, it's an ideal base from which to explore Kentish seaside towns, with ample parking and easy access to the M20.

The refurbishment was completed in 2016 by Michelin-acclaimed chef and restaurateur Mark Sargeant, who owns Rocksalt restaurant in Folkestone and The Duke William Ickham in Canterbury. This project is a labour of love. Designed entirely by Sargeant and his wife, it's a light and airy space where the bedrooms host high ceilings, wrought-iron beds and excellent design touches, but the restaurant is worth the visit alone. Sundays see a Spanish take on a traditional lunch (book a seat on the terrace), with superb tapas and a subtly spiced pork belly from local pigs that had us reconsidering our own approach to roasting. Spanish breakfast is equally superb. Tortilla with crispy *jamón Ibérico* beats bacon and eggs hands down in this weather, while Manchego and chorizo scones had us begging for the recipe. *MS. Doubles from £85. thewifeofbath.com*

to stay

Manchester from a bathtub, head to the rooftops in Mallorca, in Versailles and get to know Kent's charming Wife of Bath



**ROSEWOOD BEIJING CHINA**

**Cao Xueqin's saga Dream of the Red Chamber** is considered the Chinese novel, and it is also the scarlet thread which runs through this ultra-luxe hotel in Beijing's CBD. There is a leatherbound copy in each of the 283 bedrooms and exotic art inspired by the story throughout. As with all Rosewood properties, food is a focus: there are six restaurants to choose from. Sham Wing-On, famed for his mastery of Cantonese cuisine, oversees The House of Dynasties, while Red Bowl is the place to try a potent saké negroni. *IL. Doubles from £199. rosewoodhotels.com*

