

FOOD

and

TRAVEL



WORLD FOOD

from China, Estonia
and Morocco

Horseback adventures in

Mongolia

CITY BREAKS

France, Germany and Croatia

Raymond Blanc

shares his kitchen secrets

Why it's worth indulging in

California wine

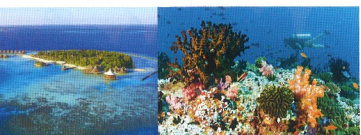
£3.95

BEST OF BRITISH

FOOD FESTIVALS GOURMET TRAVEL SEASIDE RENTALS SAVING HONEY

JUNE 2011





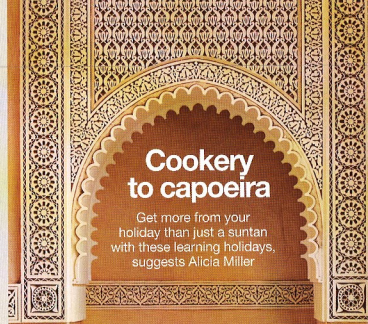
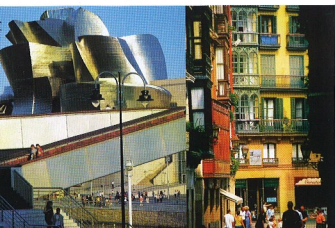
Reef encounters

Baros Maldives has become the first resort in the islands to be awarded Eco Dive Centre status. This means that when you dive there you can do an EcoDive course, qualifying you to take part in the Reef Check EcoDive programme which involves collecting data on the divers-friendly coral reefs. Do some good for the planet while enjoying its underwater treasures. baros.com

Travelnews

Crossing over

A trio of festivals held in and around Bilbao in June offer just three of the many reasons for heading to the Spanish municipality. A blues music festival in Gexto during the second week of the month, the city's annual summer solstice celebrations of the San Juan Festival on 24 June (legend has it that bonfires burned on the eve of the festival can cure skin diseases and cleanse the body and soul), and the mouthwatering feasts of the 'Semana Gastronómica' (gastronomic week) in San Sebastián on the last week of June provide plenty of incentives to try out a new twice-weekly UK ferry service from Portsmouth to Bilbao. The crossing, the first new port destination that Brittany Ferries has offered in 25 years, arrives at a brand new terminal in Bilbao. brittany-ferries.co.uk



Cookery to capoeira

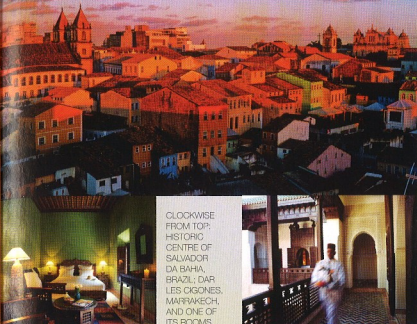
Get more from your holiday than just a suntan with these learning holidays, suggests Alicia Miller

Capture the sparkle of the **Emerald Isle** on camera when you join a photo tour with professional photographers Nick Meers and Chris Coe. The pair will lead photography enthusiasts through the breathtaking landscapes of County Mayo and County Galway. With their tips and tricks, you'll learn how best to shoot the misty mountains of Nephin Beg, the region's golden beaches and traditional fish music sessions in lively Westport. The next week-long lessons this year are due to take place on 25-31 July. photo.co.uk

Get elbow-deep in clay while sculpting your own pottery masterpieces in a luxurious riad in **Marrakech**. Export Ohiem potter Julio Miranda Thiel will teach you the secrets of creating traditional Moroccan pottery at Dar Les Oigones, a 16th-century merchant's house turned boutique hotel in the city centre. The trip also includes visits to galleries and pottery stalls, and a rooftop party. The next confirmed dates for the course are 13-16 June. sanskoucollection.com



FROM LEFT: COOKING CLASS: THE NAM HAI; CHEF PICKING INGREDIENTS: HOI AN; ST AGNES; ISLES OF SCILLY; GLEN CAR LAKE, IRELAND



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: HISTORIC CENTRE OF SALVADORI DA BAHIA, BRAZIL; DAR LES OIGONES, MARRAKECH; AND ONE OF ITS ROOMS

All the colours of the rainbow will be needed to capture the diverse landscapes on the picture-perfect **Isles of Scilly**. Learn how to translate your vision to canvas on a week-long landscape painting tour. You'll master how to depict light and shade while gazing across turquoise waters and lichen-dotted rocks. The ruins of a 14th-century Benedictine abbey, with its floral terraces and subtropical plants, could inspire any inclination. Join the next course, which begins on 18 June. authenticadventures.co.uk

Potter about an organic farm in Hoi An, **Vietnam**, and soak up the scents of its fragrant crop: the red basil, lemongrass, coriander and water spinach grown here will be used in the cookery classes you'll join at luxury resort The Nam Hai. Daily classes, taught by local chefs, suit all skill levels and include market visits. thenamhai.com

Capoeira is paired with Portuguese lessons on a two-week trip to Salvador, home of the martial art-cum-dance form. You'll leave Brazil with two new skills, at least – three if you get involved in the free samba class too. Courses run through the year. goleirto.com



GardenLOVERS

3 FOR

Fans of all things floral are spoilt for choice at this time of year, says Alicia Miller

1 A Japanese garden in the heart of Cheshire might not sound like a traditional haunt for flora enthusiasts, but this year Tatton Park's version of an Asian oasis is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Pay a celebratory visit to the newly restored garden, which includes a Shinto shrine, water features and a bamboo grove. tattonpark.org.uk

2 The ancient ruins aren't the only reason to visit Machu Picchu. Flower lovers flock to the region annually for a different reason: to marvel over the world's largest private orchid collection. The Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo, a hotel resting on 12 acres of mountain cloud forest, is home to 372 unique species that bloom throughout the year. inkaterra.com

3 Italy is awash with colour from late May to June as many towns and cities celebrate the tradition of Infiorata, a festival that sees flowers turned into art. Enormous mosaics of petals are created along main boulevards to mark Corpus Domini, a holiday celebrated nine weeks after Easter. Head to Genzano di Roma, which has held the festival since the 18th century, or Bolsena. italiantouristboard.co.uk

Photography by Christine Knapman for Travel



Cannes in six stops

Koya Modessa heads for the glitz of Cannes, the jewel of the French Riviera

1 Art lovers should make a beeine for the Musée de la Castre, in the ruins of a medieval castle on the hills of old Cannes. Here you'll find impressive artwork and artefacts from all over the world. Don't forget to climb the castle's tower to admire views of Cannes and the surrounding bay.

2 The beachfront walkway, La Croisette, is the glamorous heart of Cannes. Spend the day strolling along the promenade, dipping in and out of boutiques, and later hire a sun lounger, sip cocktails and watch the colourful locals go by.

3 With its retro decor, Le Caveau des Années 30 is a popular restaurant loved for its tasty local seafood dishes as well as its impressive wine list. Highlights include bouillabaisse and seafood paella – best eaten al fresco so you can take in views of the old port. lecaveau30.com

4 Pack a picnic made up of local favourites including *charts tartes* and take the ferry to the small archipelago of Îles de Lérins. Get off at Île St Honorat, named after Saint Honoratus, who established an abbey here in AD410. Visit the island's monastery before snorkelling in one of the pretty little coves and then tuck into your basket.

5 Follow your nose at the atmospheric Forville morning market in Le Suquet, a charming old fishing village. Start your day off by sampling aromatic cheeses such as Roquefort as well as olives, honey and freshly picked fruit.

6 Bed down in the quirky 3.14 Hotel, where each floor represents five of the seven continents of the world, including Asia and Africa. Expect dazzling colour and friendly service here – and if that isn't good enough, the beach is just a stone's throw away. 314hotel.com