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INSIDE
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A CUT-OUT AND
KEEP GUIDE
TO THE GETTYS
(Just in case you meet one)

Wait till you see Santa!





WHERE TO GO...

...TO PUT A SPRING IN YOUR MOTHER'S STEP

Are the two of you seeking adventure?

YES

NO

Are you of the bohemian variety?

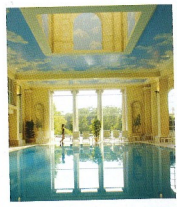
Are you looking for urban thrills?

YES

NO

YES

NO



Hippie kicks Riad Kaiss, Marrakesh

Owned by the glamorous couple who also own Dar Les Cigognes, this riad is secretive and charming. Once a sultan's favourite harem, it's full of pinks and oranges, minarets and courtyards. And is lush, with painted tiles to moon over. Really interested in the plasterwork? A man will teach you how to mix the crushed olives and tempura. The kitchens, awash with staff in pressed linen, whip up lemon-chicken tagines, yes, but also neck, diaphragm and all sorts, cooked in smouldering embers for 12 hours. This place is its own slow food movement – sign up for lessons. Shop with a man in harem pants who plies up your wares in a wheelbarrow, and then hide in the hammam with its green walls, copper pipes and curious clogs; a fat lady scrubs you in silent, mystical ways. Drink wine on the roof as the muezzin calls and a lady throws buckets of water over the tiles. Or play chess in front of a fire in an exquisite high-ceilinged den. Either way, much is to be gleaned by going out or staying in.

Globe-getter Constance Moofushi, Maldives

This is the Maldives away from the oozing newlywed feel of other islands. For ladies who like lying on the beach, a little spa action and lots of diving, Moofushi is a new number that's pulled off the remarkable trick of being the loveliest all-inclusive ever. It's high-end doing all-in. Some may wrinkle their peeling nose at such a thing, but whatever your excesses – cocktails, fags, Facebook (free wi-fi) – it won't cost an extra penny. The relief. The best villas are furthest flung at the tip of very long jetties; interiors are bright and breezy with seaside touches like oversized storm lanterns. Flop off the deck into marine heaven and dive, baby, dive. This is some of the Maldives' best – look out for gorgeous whale sharks for starters. Then oil up at the spa. Forget the buffet – a let-down – but there's a decent restaurant, Allizé. The Italians and French are all on to this new spot but the Brits will soon catch up – there's no kids' club and it's not so snobby that you don't end up talking to the next table.

City chic Le Royal Monceau, Paris

Smart mothers prefer hotels that have the word 'grand' in their names. But bring her here, *un jet de broche* from the Arc de Triomphe and an instant classic, super-grand but also fresh, fresh, fresh. This hotel used to be a crusty hostelry that welcomed the likes of Coco Chanel and Walt Disney; last year the interior was given the fantasia treatment by Philippe Starck and it's now one of the most impressive in the world. Starck-designed spots can seem sneering and silly, but perhaps the trick here was that he had full rein to design every last element. Whatever the reason, it's all good. Join the immaculate non-fat French ladies lunching on little cakes on the comfy front-of-house sofas, fluffed air-dogs on their laps, or browse the art book shop, but don't overlook the rooms: old-world Hollywood with hip-hop decadence and deeply feminine. And just wait until you sit on one of the foos, with their giggle-inducing douching and drying cycles. You'll be tickled pink. Literally.

Seaside spoils Chewton Glen, Hampshire

Sometimes you just need a hotel that maxes out on the grown-up stuff, the ticks, the tells: thick and massive dressing gowns, TVs opposite the bathtubs and killer club sandwiches wherever you want, whenever you want. This hotel seems in many ways more American than English, but in a good way. It might have 58 rooms, a golf course and an enormous spa but it feels cosy and the people who work here are freakishly friendly. Alison on reception is amazing. Ask her anything. And the pool, what a pool – huge, bright and airy with trompe l'oeil that is dreamy rather than chocolate boxy. Outside is just as good – Highcliffe beach is a stroll away and then wham, bam, there are surfers! Go for lunch at the Jetty in Mudeford; it hangs over the harbour so all you see is bobbing fishermen. Many think chef Alex Atken is the best on the planet. Back at Chewton there are pre-stamped postcards – completely sweet – and laundry returns an hour later, crispy fresh in a miniature hamper. Amazing.

BOOK IT

Double, from £154.
Ring 00 212 524 44 01 41
or visit riadkaiss.com.

BOOK IT

Double, from £592. Visit moofushi resort.com. Qatar Airways (qatarairways.com) flies to the Maldives daily.

BOOK IT

Double, from £571. Ring 00 33 1 42 99 88 00 or visit leroyalmonceau.com.

BOOK IT

Double, from £299. Ring 01425 282212 or visit chewtonglen.com.