

Originally published on Tuesday, 21 September 2010

Bag a weekend away with Mr & Mrs Smith

It would be easy to believe that summer was but a distant memory. But if you want to nab the last few rays before Christmas, why not head to the Southern Mediterranean for a quick getaway. The boutique hotel experts at Mr & Mrs Smith have tipped us off, and these stylish places to stay still have spaces until the end of October.

Italy



La Sommita, Ostuni, Puglia

Located at the top of one of Puglia's prettiest 'white' towns, this historic hotel is set in a converted 16-century palace. The modern spa offers a range of treatments to choose from. The restaurant specialises in excellent Puglian cuisine while the cavernous wine bar has a fine selection of local and international wines. And the ramparts of the fortress are perfect for a sunset aperitif.

Info
September – rooms from €250 (£207) a night
October – rooms from €210 (£174) a night
Fly to Bari or Brindisi

For more information or to book click [here](#)



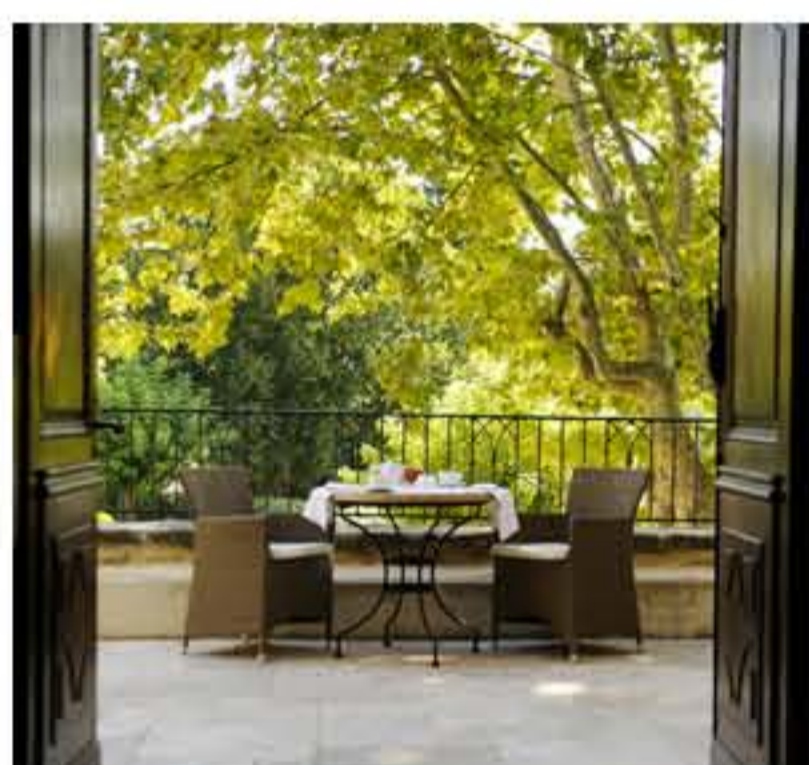
Azienda Agricola Mandranova, Agrigento, Sicily

Hugging Sicily's stunning southern coast, this stylish farm is more than just a guesthouse with friendly owners. To stay here is to be thrust into the heart of Sicilian family life – with its emphasis on conviviality and the cucina. Regular cooking classes, in which ingredients are plucked straight from the olive tree-filled gardens, make the evening meal the focal point of a blissful day.

Info
September and October – rooms from €154 (£127) a night
Fly to Catania or Palermo
Fly to Bari or Brindisi

For more information or to book click [here](#)

France



Le Couvent des Minimes, Provence

Inspired by the fragrant lavender, roses and verbena that grow around its stately stone facade, this rural hideaway is a paean to L'Occitane. Once home to Minimes monks then Franciscan sisters, this sensual hotel has an enticing spa and 15-acre aromatic gardens; the fruits of which are served up in the gastronomic restaurant.

Info
September and October - rooms from €200 (£165) a night
Fly to Marseille

For more information or to book click [here](#)



Le Couvent d'Hérépian, Languedoc-Rousillon

Hérépian, a small village on the fringes of the Haut Languedoc national park, couldn't provide a more scenic setting for this renovated 17th-century convent. Adding modern touches such as a subterranean spa, a terraced garden and a mouthwatering table d'hôte to its ancient vaulted ceilings and period charms, this hotel offers great get-away-from-it-all value in a real rural idyll.

Info
September and October – rooms from €150 (£124) a night
Fly to Montpellier
Fly to Bari or Brindisi

For more information or to book click [here](#)

Morocco



Dar Les Cigognes, Marrakesh

Once a wealthy merchant's house opposite the palace in Marrakech, boutique hotels don't come more stylish and intimate than this. Behind a discreet door in the medina quarter, with the help of celebrity architect Charles Boccara, the owners have turned two riads into a boutique hotel. Dar Les Cigognes translates as 'the storks' in French, as you can see them circling the skies.

Info
September and October - rooms from €190 (£157) a night
Fly to Marrakesh

For more information or to book click [here](#)



Talaa 12, Marrakesh

Staying here is a passport to feeling in the centre of the action within minutes of arriving in Marrakech. Inside the door is a small, dark vestibule leading to a light-filled courtyard. Rooms overlooking the courtyard are shuttered in calm pale green – very Farrow & Ball; there's even a bamboo wind chime clunking softly in the breeze. There are plenty of these intimate seating areas, so even when the hotel is full you'll still always get some private time together.

Info
September and October - rooms from €180 (£149) per night
Fly to Marrakesh

For more information or to book click [here](#)