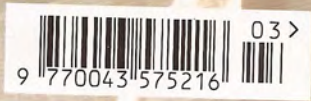


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- CULTURAL CITY BREAKS ■ LUXURY IN BODRUM

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PROMOTIONS

## ENGLISH PASTORAL

Surrounded by ancient oak and beech trees, the fishing lodge on the Dogmersfield Estate in Hampshire is the perfect spot for a picnic or intimate summer soir e. Available on request to guests of Four Seasons Hampshire, the picturesque lodge on Tundry Pond is a short stroll across the 500-acre estate from the hotel.

Even at first glimpse, the hotel sets the right tone for a weekend retreat – a grand house (where Henry VIII wooed Catherine of Aragon) and welcoming staff (kitted out in flat caps and gilets) waiting to open doors and handle bags. Once inside, you can't help but feel cosseted – big cosy armchairs and oversized sofas abound. The decoration is quietly elegant, reflecting the house's Georgian heritage. Rooms and suites, looking

out over the stables or gardens, are luxurious. But it's the magnitude of the grounds that really impresses.

Outdoor lovers will find scores of quintessentially English pursuits to occupy time, including horse riding, coarse fishing for trout, clay pigeon shooting, falconry, tennis, cycling and croquet. Alternatively, book your family on board the hotel's own canal boat as it circumnavigates the estate on the Basingstoke Canal.

Once you've had your fill of fresh air, head for the spa – located in the eighteenth-century stable block – for treatments using organic Sodashi products or the ESPA range, and an indoor pool and outdoor vitality pool. All this and you need only travel to Hampshire. *Doubles from £280, B&B. 01252- 853000; [www.fourseasons.com/hampshire](http://www.fourseasons.com/hampshire)*

## NEWS

CULTURAL TOURS, SPRING FITNESS AND A NEW ROUTE FOR A CLASSIC TRAIN



## BURIED TREASURE

For those whose appetites for Pompeii are whet by the major exhibition – Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum – which opens at the British Museum on March 23 until September 29, Fine Art Travel offers a six-night, expert-led tour of Naples and Paestum, which includes a visit to the buried city with lecturer Robin Lane Fox. *The tour takes place on September 14–20. £3,250, half board, plus two dinners, lectures, coach trips and entry fees. Excludes flights. 020-7437 8553; [www.finearttravel.co.uk](http://www.finearttravel.co.uk)*

## NEW TRACKS

The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express makes its inaugural Scandinavian journey on April 8, departing Venice for the first of its new, two-night journeys to Stockholm. The itinerary will see the legendary train visit Stockholm for the first time in its history, with an overnight stop in Copenhagen, having travelled through Italy, Austria, Switzerland and Germany en route. The return journey to Venice departs Stockholm on April 12 and all journeys include two nights at the Hotel Cipriani, Venice, pre- or post-train. *From £3,800pp, excluding flights. 0845-077 2222; [www.vsoe.com](http://www.vsoe.com)*



## FOREST FITNESS

Cycle or hike in the New Forest and tone your muscles walking on sand dunes as part of the Forest Fit women's 'boot camp' run by personal trainers at the Herb House spa at five-star hotel Lime Wood. The three-day health and fitness breaks take place every month and include a tailored programme of cardio, strength, body conditioning and nutrition. The next Forest Fit breaks take place on February 24–27 and March 24–27. *Three nights' full board costs from £2,200pp (based on single occupancy), including fitness sessions and full use of the Herb House spa facilities. 023-8028 6998; [www.limewood.co.uk](http://www.limewood.co.uk)*

## ALL TSAR CAST

As Russia celebrates the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Romanov dynasty in 2013, the Hotel Astoria in St Petersburg – Russia's first luxury hotel – enters its centenary year. To mark the occasion, the hotel has renewed its longstanding relationship with the Mariinsky (Kirov) Ballet – whose dancers feature in black and white prints displayed throughout the property – to offer guests a backstage tour and exclusive access to a private box at the Mariinsky Theatre. The 'Mariinsky Golden Age' package also includes free access to St Isaac's Cathedral and dome and an after-hours visit to the Hermitage Museum. *From £350 per night, including tickets for two in the Hotel Astoria box at the Mariinsky Theatre plus dinner at Davidov restaurant. 00-7-812-494 5757; [www.thehotelastoria.com](http://www.thehotelastoria.com)*



## DESIGN CAPITAL

Interior designer Susan Llewellyn leads a one-off tour of the design highlights of Berlin this May, including a private visit to the Bauhaus Museum of Design and the showroom of carpet designer Jan Kath. The four-night itinerary has been researched and tailored by Susan to offer an insight into the creative processes of interior designs of the past and present. Other excursions include architectural tours of Templehof Airport and the Jewish Museum, with four nights' accommodation in the five-star Brandenburger Hof Hotel. *The tour takes place May 2–4 and costs from £1,750pp (based on two sharing). All meals are included, from dinner on the Thursday to breakfast on the Monday. Excludes travel to Berlin. 07803-070204; [www.thesusanllewellynacademy.co.uk](http://www.thesusanllewellynacademy.co.uk)*

