

FOOD

and

TRAVEL

W
A BOATING TRIP
FRANCE

BERLIN'S
*plant-based
pioneers*

**ECO
ISLANDS**
Greener shores

Taste the spicy
GRENADA
ITALIA
Flavours

Modern
GEORGIAN
cuisine

European
VILLAS
STYLE MEETS SERENITY

**INSIDER'S
GUIDE
KERALA**

**GOURMET
TRAVEL
NIKKO
JAPAN**

APRIL 2025

£6.99



Intimate boutique vibes in Essaouira, barefoot chic in the Maldives, palazzo charm in Verona, immersive comfort on Kassandra Peninsula and a *White Lotus*-esque Thai escape

STAY

A weekend *A week* *For longer*

MOROCCO
ITALY
ST BARTS
MALDIVES
FRANCE
POLAND
GREECE
THAILAND
CAMBODIA

LE JARDIN DES DOUARS ESSAOUIRA, MOROCCO



Tucked into the hills outside Essaouira, this Moroccan retreat just a three-hour flight from London, feels both intimate and deeply in tune with its surroundings. The independent boutique hotel is set among botanical gardens, where bougainvillea spills over terracotta walls and dragonflies skim the surface of two heated pools – one

reserved for adults, the other for families. Rooms, suites and private villas lean into local craftsmanship, with Berber rugs, zellige tiling and carved wooden screens offering a sense of place without looking stage-set. Mornings start with the scent of jasmine and thyme, perhaps followed by a swim or a languid breakfast on the terrace.

Essaouira, with its Atlantic breeze and cinematic medina – Astapor, for *Game of Thrones* fans – is a short drive away, its ramparts once a haunt for Hendrix and Orson Welles. Or stay put, drifting from a eucalyptus-scented hammam to a sun-dappled lounge, a seafood lunch and back again. **RM.** Doubles from £140. +212 700 083233, jardindesdouars.com

HOTEL CHRISTOPHER ST BARTH

With its name an ode to the Italian explorer who revealed St Barts to the western world in 1493, Hotel Christopher St Barth is ripe for 21st-century discovery. Set against a blanket of white sand and deep blue waters, the elegant and modern design of the hotel – 42 rooms and four villas – includes subtle nods to Creole architecture. Having picked up a Green Globe label, sustainability is more than a buzzword, and not only is the wellbeing of the environment

nurtured – that of the guests is uppermost too. This might translate as a scented salt scrub spa-date-for-two or a regenerative facial treatment at the Sisley Spa, recently crowned the Caribbean's Best Hotel Spa. After your mental palate has been cleansed, soak up the sun and cool off in the ocean-side pool, then savour eco-friendly, sea-sourced cuisine by two-Michelin-starred chef Christopher Coutanceau. **EF.** Doubles from £588. +590 590 276363, hotelchristopher.com

