

THE SUNDAY TIMES

travel

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magazine

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The best hotels

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& jasmine

Savour a slooow
journey through
southern USA

Italy's secret
Riviera idyll

No hordes or hassle
in the tiny timewarp
of San Fruttuoso

Canada
The Total Guide

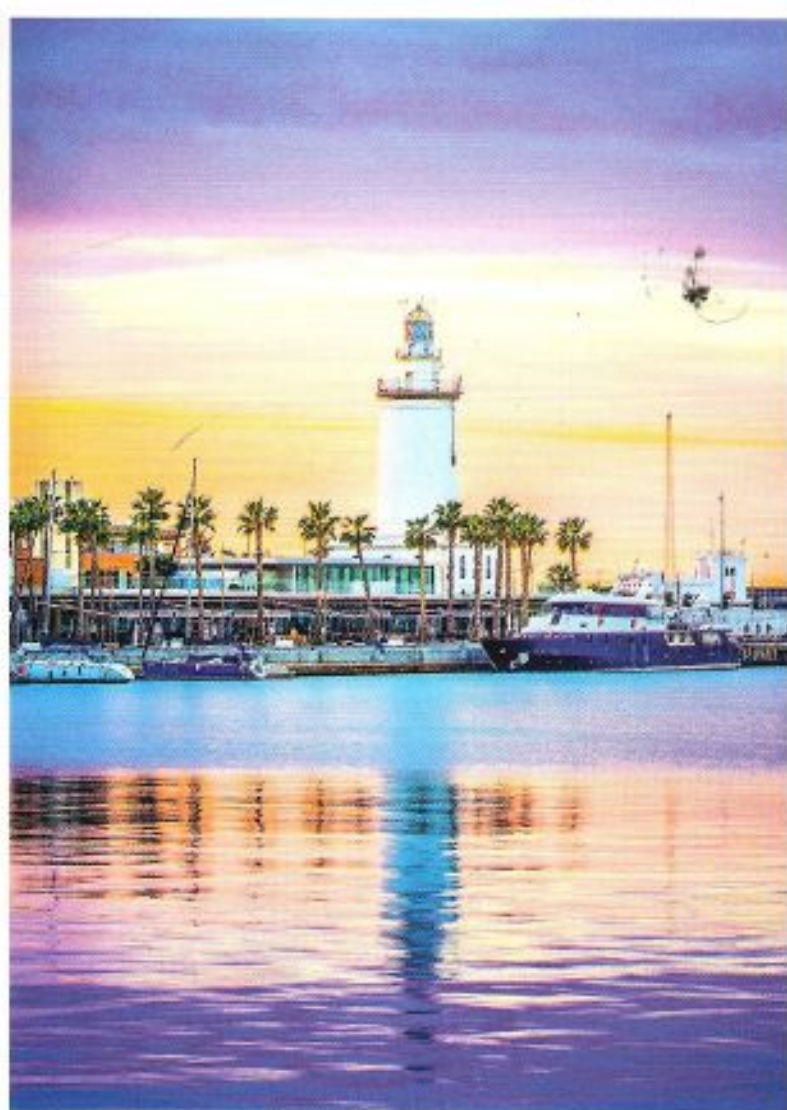
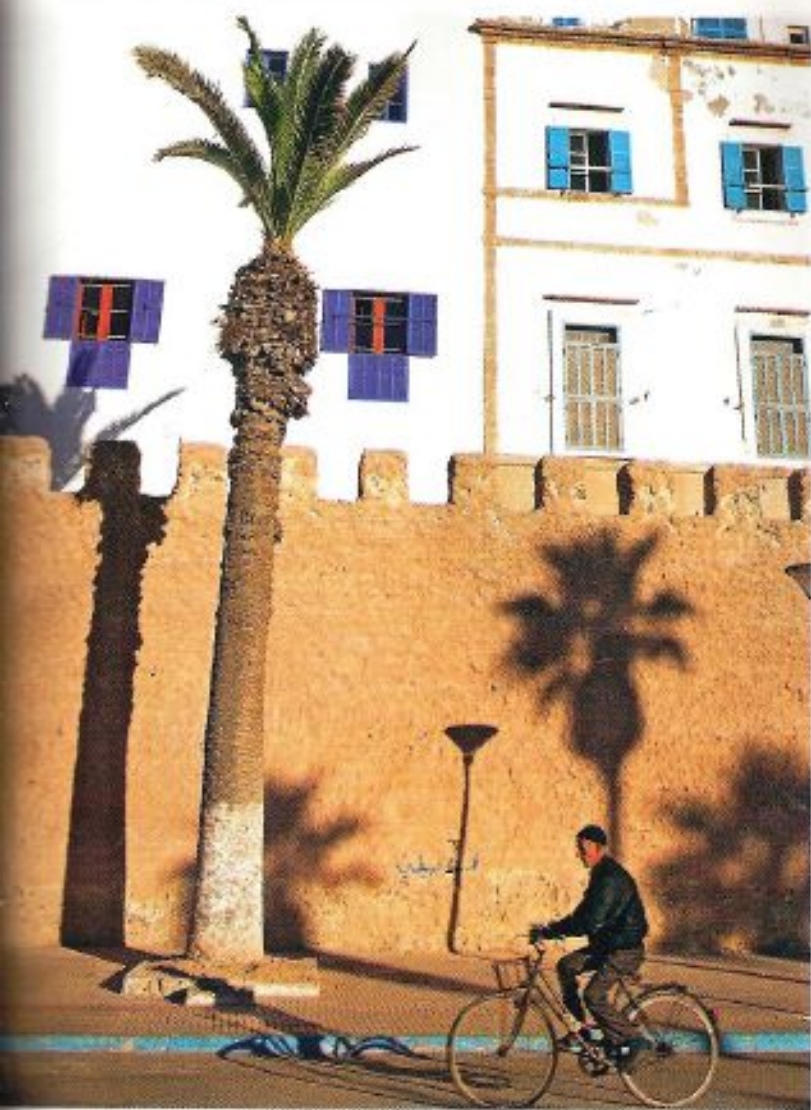
Slick cities, dream drives, grizzlies
— and gourmet everything!

Summer's not
finished yet!

6 late-season sizzlers,
from Spain to Sardinia

Plus Modish Malta + Cabaret Berlin + Discreet Crete + Cool Copenhagen





2 Essaouira, Morocco

Boho and breezy

October daytime high: 20°C

Run to the sun: It's said that you can walk the breezy, Atlantic beaches all the way from Essaouira to Cape Town. Luckily, you need only stroll 45 minutes to find beach bars touting fried fish, lolloping camels, and groovy surfers (watch out for the fierce rip tides). Or grab a taxi down to Sidi Kaouki (about £10, 30 minutes), a wilder beach that's actually more sheltered. If poolside is your preferred spot, head out to the Jardin des Douars (jardindesdouars.com) where, for the price of lunch (£10), you have access to two pools among gardens bursting with jasmine and roses.

Alfresco eats: The driftwood dining room of Ocean Vagabond (oceanvagabond.com; mains

about £14) at the far end of Essaouira beach is perfect for whiling away an afternoon over a bottle of rosé and Saint Pierre fish steamed in coconut milk. In Sidi Kaouki, don't miss Chez Abdou (00 212 613 03769), a stone beach shack for fish fresh off the boat.

Sunny sleep: About 3km out of town on a gentle rise above the beach, Auberge Tangaro (auberge-tangaro.com; doubles from £63, B&B) is a boho bolthole in desert gardens surrounding a great pool. Rooms are simple, but each has its own little sunny terrace, and there are plenty of breezy nooks, like the open-sided reading room.

Get me there: EasyJet (easyjet.com) flies from Luton to Essaouira from £23 one way.

3 Málaga, Spain

Cool and cultured

October daytime high: 24°C

Run to the sun: Málaga is blissful now — summer's crowds have gone, but the waters are a come-on-in 21°C. Malagueta beach is closest to the centre; carry on east and you'll reach the secret sands of Baños del Carmen. Málaga has serious art cred, too, but you can stay alfresco: check out Soho's street art, and the stained-glass cube atop the Pompidou gallery.

Alfresco eats: Continue beyond Baños del Carmen to Pedregalejo beach for espetos — sardines skewered and grilled over olive wood — at restaurants such as El Cabra (restaurantelcabra.es; mains about £8). These places are popular with Sunday-lunching families, so book ahead. Come evening, grab a jacket for a topas

crawl round the Old Town. Try Wendy Gamba (10 Calle Fresca), Los Gatos (9 Plaza de Uncibay), or take a tour with insider Victor Garrido (welovetapas.com; £4/pp).

Sunny sleep: Málaga's recently restored '20s grande dame, the Gran Hotel Miramar, is right next to Malagueta beach, but if you don't want sand between your toes, its outdoor pool stays open 'til late October. Rooms are modern (bag one of the few with sea views). Doubles from £196, B&B (granhotelmiramar.malaga.com).

Get me there: Málaga airport is a 20-minute cab ride from town. Monarch (monarch.co.uk) flies year-round from five UK airports, including Manchester and Gatwick, with returns from £86. ➔