

# GREAT ESCAPES

ARTA GHANBARI presents a round-up of new hotels and travel launches across the globe to have on your radar this year, as well as holiday ideas for families of all kinds – from sun seekers to thrill chasers

## TRAVEL IN STYLE

Following a successful career as an editor for the likes of *Elle*, *Grazia* and *Houzz*, design lover Kerstin Bognár decided to apply her trained eye to curating tailor-made holidays for discerning families looking for both style and substance. She founded membership-based online platform The Niche Traveller in 2018, which recommends unspoilt destinations and unusual properties throughout Europe. That could mean rural German towns and lakes, Swiss mountain resorts or sleepy Mediterranean islands. For each destination, Kerstin and her team have curated a collection of design-led boutique hotels and villas. Memberships start at €250 per year. [niche-traveller.com](http://niche-traveller.com)



## FUN UNDER THE SUN

New openings in Europe and villas in the Caribbean from Elegant Resorts' collection for 2021

### BALEARIC ISLANDS

Set to open this summer, the new Six Senses Ibiza overlooking Cala Xarraca Bay will accommodate 134 guests in townhouses, pool suites and beach cave units spread over 25 acres – ideal for families looking for a private villa experience with the amenities of a hotel. Relax, recharge and hit reset in this quiet corner of Ibiza.

### THE MALDIVES

In the North Malé Atoll of the Maldives, the Ritz-Carlton, Fari Islands is a 100-villa resort opening later this year, which will be anchored around the Maldivian tradition of *boduberu* – an indigenous form of dance and drumming dating back to the 11th century. Its Ritz Kids Club is promised to be knock-out, too.

### MONTENEGRO

Sandwiched between Croatia and Albania, pint-sized Montenegro will be a top European destination post lockdown. Delivering immense natural beauty, pristine beaches, scenic routes and historic lakeside towns, the Balkan country will be elevating its luxury offering with the opening of One&Only Portonovi this May on the picturesque Boka Bay.

### THE GRENADINES

Elegant Resorts has added a new collection of villas in St Vincent and the Grenadines, coinciding perfectly with Virgin Atlantic's first direct flights from the UK launching in June 2021. The new route will offer much easier access to this corner of the Caribbean, including Mustique, Canouan and Bequia. [elegantresorts.co.uk](http://elegantresorts.co.uk)

## FAMILY TRAVEL

### CLOSER TO HOME

Wales has become quite cool over the past decade, with the arrival of designer hotels, gastropubs, interiors brands and makers adding to the appeal of its rugged beauty and crafts scene. Sian Tucker and James Lynch, the founders of fforest, were drawn to the depths of west Wales 'to celebrate how good "simple" could look, feel and taste'. Joining fforest's impressive collection of accommodation (a converted farmhouse, cabins, lofts and futuristic glamping domes) will be its first hotel, set to open later this year. The Albion in Aberteifi will take over two warehouse buildings on the banks of the River Teifi, where 23 bedrooms have been carved out to complement fforest's rustic, outdoorsy spirit while offering a more sophisticated stay. It will be a Welsh bolthole full of maritime charm. Later this year, fforest will also launch a series of cycling tours under SpiritCymru, sleeping in pods and churches across Wales along the way. [coldatnight.co.uk](http://coldatnight.co.uk) | [spirit.cymru](http://spirit.cymru)



### All aboard

Sustainability has become the travel industry's watchword in recent years. Charged with the aim to eliminate carbon footprint and emphasise travelling less but better, Original Travel continues to grow its collection of train and road-trip adventures throughout Europe. Its 14-day 'The Swiss Alps and Italian Lakes by Train' itinerary is ideal for families with teenage children, sending travellers from London to Italy via France and Switzerland. From £4,275pp. [originaltravel.co.uk](http://originaltravel.co.uk)



FUN HOUSE  
ON ANTALYA'S BEACH-  
STUDD COAST, MAXX  
ROYAL KEMER IS A  
SPRAWLING RESORT WITH  
ONE OF THE BEST KIDS'  
CLUBS AROUND.  
MAXXILAND ALLOWS  
CHILDREN THE CHANCE TO  
INTERACT WITH PEERS IN  
THEIR OWN AGE GROUP,  
BONDING OVER SPECIAL  
SHOWS, DANCING AND  
CRAFTS. [MAXXROYAL.COM](http://MAXXROYAL.COM)

### Paradise island

Corfu may be the family favourite of the Greek islands, but its neighbours further south offer a more rustic, unfiltered version of the Ionian, while sharing the gentle seas and green landscapes. For your next villa holiday, consider Kefalonia or Ithaca. Alternatively, try up-and-coming Lefkada, which, according to Ileana von Hirsch of villa company Five Star Greece, 'is not for celeb spotting, clubbing or shopping like Mykonos or Hydra, but the quintessential laid-back family destination'. With direct flights from the UK and calmer winds than the Cyclades, charming museums, churches and medieval castles to visit and some of Greece's best sandy beaches, the southern Ionian Islands have all the ingredients for families of all ages. Five Star Greece has an excellent collection of villas catered to a range of tastes and needs. [fivestargreece.com](http://fivestargreece.com)

