

# STYLE ETC.

The Art of Appropriate Acquisition

In Tuscany, Borgo Pignano's pool boasts a commanding position overlooking the rolling countryside



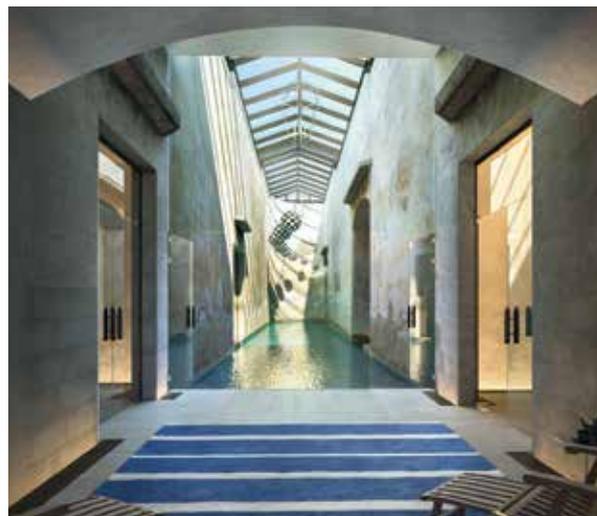
LIVING WELL

## GREAT ESCAPES

Europe's sunny southwest beckons with slick city sanctuaries and sumptuous rural refuges to soothe the soul and revive the spirit

BY CLAUDIA ROELKE

A spate of new and new-look spas is ushering in a summer filled with all manner of opportunities for pampering. In Monte Carlo, **Hotel Metropole's** Givenchy spa ([metropole.com](http://metropole.com)) makes a graceful entrance – befitting the feted French marque – with age-defying therapies built around the black-algae-based Le Soir Noir skincare collection. Mallorca's **Cap Rocat** ([caprocat.com](http://caprocat.com)), too, unveils a new spa: a breathtaking space with a romantic saltwater pool set under a conservatory-style glass ceiling and featuring a range of treatments using homegrown ingredients like olive oil and almonds. On a picturesque hilltop in Provence, the palatial **La Bastide de Gordes** hotel ([bastide-de-gordes.com](http://bastide-de-gordes.com)) – perhaps best known as the home of Michelin darling chef Pierre Gagnaire – recently inaugurated its Sisley spa. Next to striking »



Clockwise from top left: Palazzo di Varignana's pastoral surrounds; the avant-garde interiors of Cap Rocat's new spa; the colourful cafe at La Maison Sisley in Paris; a restorative treatment at Monte Carlo's Hotel Metropole



interiors inspired by local abbeys – think arched ceilings, Burgundy stonework and walnut doors – standouts include the brand's signature phyto-aromatic rituals, which are administered in four suites with private terraces overlooking the majestic Luberon mountains. The former's launch follows on the heels of the Paris debut of **La Maison Sisley** ([sisley-paris.com](http://sisley-paris.com)), a 360sq m urban sanctum complete with five treatment rooms, a chic boutique and clients-only cafe just off the Champs-Élysées. In Italy, meanwhile, therapies at the new spa at **Borgo Pignano** ([borgopignano.com](http://borgopignano.com)), an idyllic 18th-century villa in the lush Tuscan countryside, draw upon herbs, flowers and honeys from the retreat's own grounds. Due south in Emilia-

Romagna, the **Palazzo di Varignana Resort's** ([palazzodivarignana.com](http://palazzodivarignana.com)) sprawling spa boasts an eclectic mix of multicultural features, from a Turkish hammam and a Japanese ryokan to a Finnish sauna and Kneipp circuit. In Milan, lifestyle emporium Dsquared2's **Ceresio 7 Gym & Spa** ([ceresio7gym-spa.com](http://ceresio7gym-spa.com)) is a members-only temple dedicated to the art of wellbeing, boasting state-of-the-art Technogym equipment, one-on-one-training sessions and a dedicated sports physician on hand. An assortment of après-workout temptations, including a jacuzzi, Turkish bath and derma-reviving procedures by skincare authority Biologique Recherche, round out a thoroughly invigorating array. ♦



**THE WHOLE PACKAGE**

Occupying a swish 1,672 square metres in Knightsbridge, **The Lanesborough Club & Spa** makes its mark on the London wellness scene with an exhaustive concert of health-focused offerings purveyed within the confines of sophisticated interiors by local design firm 1508. Personalised workouts, professional nutritional advice – bolstered by the lean fare plated at chef Florian Favario's on-site restaurant – join facilities such as a hydrotherapy pool and thermal suites for a 360-degree experience only topped by an intriguing treatment menu created in partnership with La Prairie, ila and holistic-facial guru Anastasia Achilleos. [lanesborough.com](http://lanesborough.com)

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: © PALAZZO DI VARGINANA RESORT & SPA. © CAP ROCAT. © LA MAISON SISLEY. JAMES MERRELL, LOIC THEBAUD