

ELLE
DECORATION

ESCAPE

TRAVEL / CULTURE / HOTELS / RESTAURANTS Edited by CAT OLLEY



A ROOM *of one's own*

As we grapple with the return to restaurants, the private dining room has quietly come into its own. New concept APT pairs groups with a revolving roster of the capital's top chefs, including Skye Gyngell, Jackson Boxer and Santiago Lastra, who will cook a bespoke menu for up to 10. The first setting of several is a repurposed apartment in east London's hip Town Hall Hotel, with ceramics by Kana London and candles by Wax Atelier. Minimum spend £800 (aptand.co).

Road-trip restaurants

Pairing seasonal, local produce with stylish interiors, these rural dining rooms are worthy of a weekend away

INVER

It will come as no surprise that seafood is Inver's speciality, such is its winning proximity to Loch Fyne. This diminutive dining room, decked out in vintage Ercol furniture, has inspired many a Highland jaunt – and for good reason. Here, nature's bounty takes centre stage, both on the inventive menu concocted by Noma alumni Pam Brunton and via the pretty shuttered windows that frame the Scottish scenery (inverrestaurant.co.uk).

TRY Crab, sourced straight from the loch, served with hot brown butter and sourdough. There's a tasting menu, too.

STAY Bed down in one of four charming Scandinavian-style bothies, constructed in 2018, with art and textiles by local artisans. From £205 per night for two adults, including breakfast.

SEE Local attractions are gloriously few and far between. Plan a walk via the atmospheric ruins of Old Castle Lachlan, just along the shore.



Clockwise, from left Local crab is on the menu at Inver, which serves inventive Scottish fare; the restaurant sits on the banks of the beautiful Loch Fyne; the former school now refined restaurant, The Clockspire

THE CLOCKSPIRE

This 19th-century former school in Somerset's Milborne Port was sensationally converted last year by London-based firm Studio Indigo, which reinstated the historic floor plan and created a mezzanine level to admire the vaulted ceiling. Opened in the autumn, the restaurant is named after the clock tower that locals were adamant should also be restored. Interiors are refined, with polished concrete floors and sprays of dried flowers (theclockspire.com).

TRY The delicate pea and elderflower tart with courgette and English pecorino. There's also a dedicated vegan menu.

STAY Papilio Creek is a cosy self-catering cottage with an option to book in-situ spa treatments. Sleeps four, £1,150 per short break (uniquehomestays.com).

SEE Arts space Messums Wiltshire. Clock the similarly spectacular ceiling, and recreation of sculptor Elisabeth Frink's studio, until 18 October (messumswiltshire.com).

PICTURES: JAMES McDONALD / MOCKFORD & BONETTI, PHILIPPE BLANCHIN



Above and left Farm buildings meet fine dining at Pensons; with seasonal duck salad **Below and inset** Michelin-star fare at Ynyshir; its 'Not French Onion Soup'

YNYSHIR

Something of a cult aura surrounds Michelin-starred chef Gareth Ward and his restaurant Ynyshir. This is surely aided by its remote mid-Wales location, unusual fusion of Welsh and Japanese flavours and, of course, the ever-evolving tasting menu that usually stretches to around 20 courses. It's had a facelift over lockdown, but the moody-hued walls, chocolate-brown sheepskins and original oak floors remain (ynyshir.co.uk).

TRY There's only one option, but it's a good one: the gloriously seasonal set menu, to which you'll need to surrender four hours.

STAY We'd sequester in one of the secluded garden rooms, which have floor-to-ceiling windows and wood-burning stoves. From £400, including breakfast and dinner.

SEE Ynyshir is a gateway into the magnificent Snowdonia National Park. For those not ready to tackle its eponymous peak by foot, there are plenty of gentler trails – or take the train to the summit.



PICTURES: JODI HINDS, GARETH WARD



The new ADDRESS

Converted from a cavernous old postal office, Villa Copenhagen is a big hotel with boutique sensibilities and eco credentials, too



From top The striking covered courtyard; Kontrast brasserie has a mid-century aesthetic; the imposing neo-baroque façade; rooms have an elegant simplicity



At 390 rooms, new eco hotel Villa Copenhagen was always set to make a splash in the compact capital. Style and sustainability are what the Danes do best – doing it at this scale is different altogether.

Though the neo-baroque façade of the 1912 Telegram Central Post Building could more than match such grand ambitions, it belied an interior that had been comprehensively stripped in the 1960s. ‘The rooms were essentially bare,’ says Richard McConkey of London firm Universal Design Studio, who were brought in to bring the vision to life while maximising reclaimed and local resources. ‘We began by reinstalling stately window surrounds, timber panelling, cornices, flooring and architraves.’

The ‘quiet beauty’ of paintings by Danish master Vilhelm Hammershøi inspired a palette of grey-greens, pale ochres and faded golds, which serve to diffuse Copenhagen’s soft light. Lower floors have embraced their four metre-high ceilings, while rooms within the converted attic feature cosier proportions and timber beams overhead. ‘If you respect how the building works, then there are always solutions,’ says Jo Littlefair of Goddard Littlefair, whose hospitality offshoot Epicurean designed public spaces including zero-waste brasserie Kontrast, a rooftop pool and spa.

Decorative metal arches spotted in historic photographs were recreated for breakfast spot Public from the copper cladding of the old roof, while the Earth Suite, designed by Danish architect Eva Harlou, utilises recycled materials and sustainably-made furniture by Mater Design.

Natural materials – namely linen, marble, oak, walnut, glass and brass – were selected throughout for their propensity to develop a gentle patina over time. ‘They’re designed to wear-in, not wear-out,’ explains McConkey. ‘Just like a beautiful period building.’ From £160 per night (villacopenhagen.com).





MATERIAL WORLD

The titans of mid-century design are well remembered, but what of its makers and manufacturers? Islington gallery The Estorick Collection's new exhibition 'Italian Threads: MITA Textile Design 1926-1976' includes plenty of the former – there are designs by Gio Ponti, Ettore Sottsass and futurist painter Fortunato Depero – but its real focus is the firm itself. Founded in Genoa in 1926, Manifattura Italiana Tappeti Artistici (MITA) produced illustrious textile commissions for 50 years, thanks to its collaborations with Italy's modernist artists and designers. This showcase celebrates the diversity of the firm's output, with tapestries, rugs, carpets, art panels, printed fabrics and scarves, as well as photographs and original design drawings. If lockdown has spurred you to support smaller museums and galleries, start here. From 30 September to 17 January 2021, £7.50 (estorickcollection.com).



From top Enrico Paulucci's 'Barche' ('Boats') tapestry, around 1953; Flavio Costantini's 1962 'Rosoni' textile design; Enrico Paulucci's rooster lithograph; Gio Ponti's 'Seggioline' rug from 1935

Extended exhibitions

There's still time to catch these cultural hits

Kimono: Kyoto to Catwalk V&A, London

Until 25 October 2020

Though the team filmed a lockdown tour fronted by curator Anna Jackson, it only served to motivate us to make it in person. The exhibition highlights the cultural heft of the much misunderstood Japanese garment, tracing its trajectory from exquisite 17th-century designs to bold iterations by Rei Kawakubo and Alexander McQueen.

Bill Brandt/Henry Moore The Hepworth Wakefield Until 1 November 2020

The pairing of sculptor Henry Moore and photographer Bill Brandt might not seem an immediately obvious one, but this exhibition draws convincing threads between its two subjects. There are more than 200 diverse works on display, including sculpture, photography, drawings and collage.

Andy Warhol Tate Modern, London Until 15 November 2020

This retrospective of the pop art pioneer covers all the crowd pleasers – think Marilyn triptychs and cans of Campbell's soup – but there are quieter moments, too. Themes of immigration, queer identity and Warhol's preoccupation with death are in focus, as are his unflinching self-portraits.

Formafantasma: Cambio Serpentine Gallery, London Until 15 November 2020

Amsterdam design studio Formafantasma takes on the timber trade with a series of confronting installations, which serve to highlight the often uneasy realities of the supply chain. It's both a celebration of wood as a wonder material and a request for us to recalibrate our expectations of its place in everyday life.

The pull of Provence

The prospect of a journey sans plane is another boon for France's prettiest province. Here are three stylish new places to stay



LILY OF THE VALLEY

Famed French designer Philippe Starck is surely not short on requests to design luxury hotels, but this latest location on Gigaro Hill – above some of the Riviera's most sought after sandy beaches – clearly proved a winner. Inspired by Babylon's hanging gardens, Starck's vision of Côte d'Azur hospitality is a series of discreet villas surrounded by fragrant jasmine and Virginia creepers, deftly positioned to maximise privacy and startling sea views. Furniture is largely by the man himself, with textiles by daughter Ara Starck and a smattering of flea market finds. Unusually for the area, it's open all year round. From £380 per night (lilyofthevalley.com). ➤



HOTEL LE SUD

'Joie de vivre' might be a well-worn French expression, but there's none better to capture the spirit of this new boutique hotel in lively Juan Les Pins. Designed by native Stéphanie Lizée, interiors are both an homage to the resort itself and the illustrious former residents who settled there for long stints to paint, sculpt and write – think Jean Cocteau, Fernand Léger and Picasso (the latter is the focus of an eponymous museum in neighbouring Antibes). The hotel's 29 rooms, bar and outdoor terrace are infused with that same soulful creativity, with simple white-plaster walls and wicker furniture to temper illustrative details and colourful vintage ceramics. Perhaps most joyful are the wide stripes in navy blue and orange, seen everywhere from seating to shower curtains. From approx £89 per night (hotellesud.com).

PICTURES: VALERIO GERACI





LA BASTIDE DE FLECHON

You'd be hard-pressed to find a more convincingly Provençal retreat than this 18th-century bastide in the foothills of the Alpilles. Natural materials and rich, earthy tones – think exposed beams, dark-stained floors and walls coated in clay, sand and lime – root the five bedrooms in their rural surrounds, while striking arched windows open the main living space onto a garden of cypress and centuries-old olive trees. It's the second project from husband and wife team Alain Meylan and Liliana Atilova, who have also revived the nearby Mas de Chabran. From approx £7,184 per week, with hotel service (bastidedeflechon.com). **ED**

