



LUXE
for
LESS

BEST FOR A WEDDING Masseria Torre Coccaro, Italy

Built in the 16th century, Masseria Torre Coccaro in Puglia is an old fort-cum-working farm that was once a refuge for the Knights of Malta. These days it's a sanctuary for families and wedding parties, with its glorious 18th-century chapel in the grounds. It's owned by Vittorio Muolo, a laid-back Puglian who has combined comfort, style and luxury without losing a sense of what makes relaxing with friends and family fun. Food is a passion (the beach bar has a trained sushi chef) and Muolo has opened a cookery school to inspire people of all ages with Italian flavours. There's a shuttle to the hotel's nearby beach, where a boat is available for guests. Plus there's an Aveda spa for the supine, and visits to the local town of Alberello with its famous *trulli* houses.

Masseria Torre Coccaro (+39 080 482 9310; www.apuliacollection.com), from £113 a person a night B&B.

BEST FOR RIVIERA CHIC La Forestière des Maures, France

La Forestière des Maures is down a wild track a few miles inland from the Côte d'Azur's busy coast road. Hôtel Le Beauvallon's chic Beach Club and Saint-Tropez are a quick drive away. For those who want a rustic family break, but also a hit of glamour and Michelin-starred dining, La Forestière is perfect. Its three conjoined units make multiple-family holidays possible and fun. The styling is classic Provençal French, with leafy pergolas, tasteful linen loungers and umbrellas.

Seven nights, from £6,935 (sleeps 13 plus two children), with Abercrombie & Kent (0845 618 2200; www.abercrombiekent.co.uk).

NEW

BEST FOR EXOTIC HOUSE PARTIES Jahazi House, Kenya

Just 20 minutes by boat from mainland Kenya, Jahazi House (on Lamu's southernmost tip) overlooks a deserted golden Indian Ocean beach. Recently constructed from coral blocks, traditional plasterwork and palm-leaf thatch, the spectacular house has a private courtyard pool for laps under blazing skies, a terrace and five Swahili-style bedrooms. The latter have four-posters and intricately carved doorframes. Solar- and wind-powered, it also has Wi-Fi. Best of all are the accommodating staff, including a captain (with speedboat) and private chef. It's tempting to just read and dine sublimely on local organic produce. Or you could take your boat to Lamu town – a World Heritage Site.

Seven nights, from about £2,315 an adult and £1,755 a child full board, including drinks, flights and transfers, with Scott Dunn (020 8682 5070; www.scottdunn.com).

