

A woman with dark hair and large hoop earrings is shown from the chest up, looking off to the side. She is wearing a red, long-sleeved top with gold sequins. The background is a soft-focus view of the ocean under a sunset sky with warm, orange and pink tones.

THE
BAZAAR
TRAVEL
GUIDE

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Luxe for less

Chic retreats for under £150 a night



Le Grimaldi Nice, France

The good-looking guy at the front desk, with a 'nothing is too much trouble' demeanor, epitomises this charming hotel. There may not be room service, but they can get the restaurant next-door to rustle up something delicious. There's no pool, but coupons for a private beach a couple of blocks away allow you to watch French holidaymakers sunbathing. The rooms are lovely, and eating dinner on your balcony overlooking the roofs of Nice makes you feel like you're in a 1960s French film. You'll also love the added touches, such as Etro toiletries, free internet access and home-made jams at breakfast. If you have reason to be in Nice, then Le Grimaldi is definitely a place to consider. *Le Grimaldi* (+33 4 93 16 00 24; www.le-grimaldi.com), from €90 a room a night. **NOREENA HERTZ**



Hotel Casablanca Gaucin, Spain

Imagine this: you're lying beside a courtyard swimming pool (a straw hat, towel and sunscreen

on every cushioned lounger), a warm breeze sending a waft of magnolia scent in your direction. Raising your head, you take in the Mediterranean and the Rif Mountains of North Africa across the lush Genal Valley. You press a button by your side and a waiter appears. There's no menu – you simply tell him what you want to eat and it's prepared to order. It's the attention to detail and unobtrusive yet highly efficient service, along with the utterly chilled-out, private-house ambience, that make Hotel Casablanca so irresistible. *Hotel Casablanca* (+34 95 215 1019; www.casablanca-gaucin.com), from €140 a room a night **B&B. BELINDA MORRIS**



Hotel Carasco Lipari, Italy

This serene hideaway is settled into the rugged cliffs of the largest of Sicily's Aeolian islands. The Carasco offers the perfect chilled holiday, with vine-strewn arches giving a feel of old-school elegance. It's a short walk to the small port and central square of Marina Corta. Or stay put and enjoy the cavernous piano bar, seawater pool, terraced restaurant and private seafront access. A free minibus to and from the harbour saves you from having to walk the gruelling cliff road. *Hotel Carasco* (+39 090 981 1605; www.carasco.com), from €40 a person a night **B&B. MATT CARTMELL**



Palazzo Soderini Venice, Italy

Escape the opulence and flamboyance of Venice in this shrine to white-box minimalism. Palazzo Soderini fills the ground floor of a three-storey property dating from the 18th century. It's set in the quiet district of Castello, only a short stroll from St Mark's Square. There are three sizeable double rooms and a living room-cum-breakfast space that opens onto a large, leafy raised Venetian garden. *Palazzo Soderini* (+39 041 296 0823; palazzosoderini.it), from €150 a room a night **B&B. IAN McCURRACH**



Villa Bordonni Greve-in-Chianti, Italy

As you ascend a twisting, bumpy track surrounded by the

grey-green Tuscan hills, it is the beautiful pale blue walls of Villa Bordonni that signal your arrival. This 16th-century villa is a labour of love – the Gardners (a charming Scottish couple) have spent two years restoring it, and it is bursting with authentic charm; their hospitality is generous. The restaurant grows its own organic fruit and vegetables, produces its own olive oil and serves delicious meals, as you'd expect, since the Gardners also own the famed Beccofino and Baldovino restaurants in Florence. Enjoy alfresco meals in the walled garden and soak up views of the Greve valley from loungers amid olive groves by the pool. In winter there are roaring fires and deep sofas to sink into. *Villa Bordonni* (+39 055 884 0004; www.villabordonni.com), from €190 a room a night **B&B**, with a minimum two-night stay; or from €2,200 a night for the entire hotel (sleeps 22). **ELEANOR SOUTHALL**