

travelnews

May breaks and summer sun.



PAINT THE TOWN

Art-lovers or budding enthusiasts looking to combine a sun holiday with learning a new skill and meeting new people should look towards Crete's Mistral Hotel and its new watercolour course. Devised for the independent, solo traveller, the week-long course includes visits to ancient villages, beaches and harbours, all under the tutelage of professional art teacher Anne Urquhart. Taking place from 29 May to 5 June, the package includes seven nights' accommodation, half board, airport transfers, all painting tuition and materials, all day trips and one lunch at the hotel for £685 per person (approx. €823). Go to singlesincrete.com for more information.

Life on Film... San Sebastián's ubiquitous Astoria 7 is a delight for film lovers visiting the area, and a tribute to the city's annual Film Festival, held in September. Each room in the former cinema has been dedicated to a film star, personality or director. The 102 rooms feature photographs of Alfred Hitchcock, Anjelica Houston and Gregory Peck among others, including those taken during each star's stay in San Sebastián itself. astoria7hotel.com.



PIZZA PALAZZO

The newly opened Palazzo Margherita is a block-long 19th century building in the birth town of Francis Ford Coppola's grandfather in southern Italy. Lovingly restored by Coppola, it now has seven large suites and two garden rooms, each styled with hand-painted ceilings, exotic tiling and luxurious linens. With input from his own children, the property has been designed for families to return to as they grow, with rooms sequestered around a courtyard, a maze of private gardens and a secluded pool. coppolaresorts.com

FAMILIES IN THE WILD

&Beyond Safari group has created a new portfolio for those who want a luxury safari with their family in tow. Introducing spacious suites on its new circuit in Tanzania, the holidays take in the Serengeti national park, World Heritage Sites and a private tropical island, with preferential rates for kids (six-16 pay half, fives and under are free) and rangers specially trained to look after small travellers' needs. Activities range from collecting feathers and leaves to identifying species, fishing and frogging safaris and cookie baking. It's the perfect family adventure. andbeyond.com



The Heat is On...

And it's time to protect yourself from the summer sun. The Prevage Triple Defense Shield SPF 50 (€62.50) by Elizabeth Arden is a super high protector from UVA, UVB, and Infrared-A radiation with the all-important matt finish and a handy, built-in applicator brush. Pop it into the new Nude Perforated Leather Bag (€1,850) by Alaïa at Havana boutique – our latest crush when it comes to summery totes, perfect for beach stays and airport travel.



THIS MONTH...

...Take in the Splendours of India, with the Travel Departments 11-night tour of Delhi, the Taj Mahal and Rajasthan. Featuring fully guided tours along the way, all accommodation is five-star and half board, and the special price of €1,799 per person includes flights from Dublin and luxury coach transfers. From 25 April, traveldepartment.ie