





Harry 'may have to adj expectations of key witn **Mail hearing**

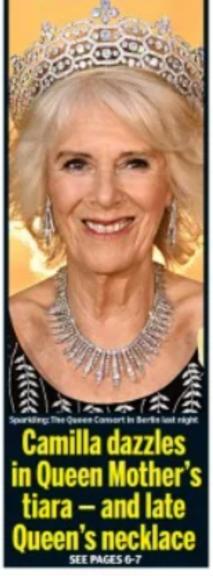
Single-sex toilets abandoned and parents kept in the dark when pupils change

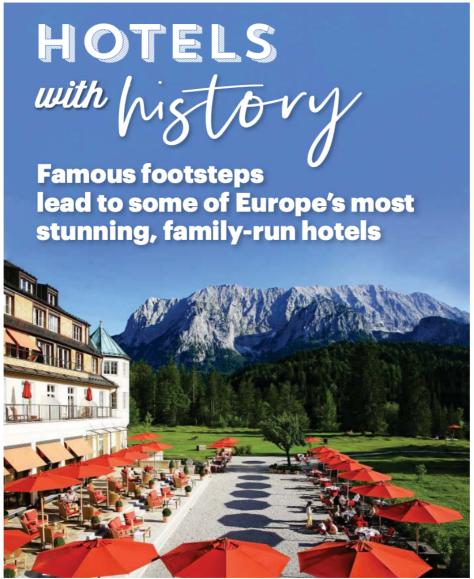
CHILD welfare is in SyMartin Beckford danger from 'gender and Connor Stringer identity theory in schools, a damning

report claims today.

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and abandoning single-sex





PECIAL occasions deserve to be celebrated in very special places. And if you've got a big birthday, anniversary

or memorable event coming up then one of Europe's most historic hotels is the perfect place to mark it.

Each of these 'fabulous five' boutique hotels is family owned (some run by the grandchildren of the founders), so you can expect a very personal welcome. No surprise their jealously guarded guest books include the names of some of the world's most famous people.

Hotel Arlberg, Lech, Austria

In summer, this postcard-pretty, ski-in, ski-out hotel becomes an equally glorious swim-in, swim-out paradise with stylish, indoor and outdoor pools, sunny, flower-filled gardens and a brand-new spa built of ancient, mountain granite.

All 51 rooms and suites are unique, beautifully decorated and look like the backdrops to a style magazine photoshoot. The largest suites resemble private mountain chalets. They were a favourite of Princess Diana, who brought William and Harry to the friendly, family-run hotel five years in a row.

Today you can enjoy treatments

in the hotel's small but perfectly formed spa, sit in cosy corners enjoying dinner by candlelight, or enjoy lunch and afternoon tea on wide sunny terraces with stunning mountain views. Alberghotel.at

Schloss Elmau, Bavaria, Germany

Celebrate special occasions with music at this fairy-tale retreat just over an hour south of Munich – the resort has seven Steinway pianos and a full-size concert hall after all. Now run by the grandson of its founder, the spa hotel has changed dramatically since its launch in 1916, but the music has always played. Benjamin Britten and Yehudi Menuhin are two guests to have played and recorded there.

More recently the hotel hosted Angela Merkel, Joe Biden and others at a G7 summit. Choose between the 47-room Retreat, or 115-room Hideaway, both promising oversized rooms, mountain views, fine dining (the Luce d'Oro restaurant is a top choice while the Hideaway Terrace and summer BBQs are pictureperfect) and no fewer than six spas. schloss-elmau.de/en

Grand Hotel Excelsior Vittoria, Sorrento, Italy

Clinging to the clifftops of the Amalfi Coast, this 188-year-old, family-run hotel has views over the Mediterranean towards Vesuvius on one side and has walks around five acres of olive groves, orange and lemon trees on the other.

The hotel's celebrity links go way back – the Emperor Augustus had a villa on the site in Roman times. More recent guests include Marilyn Monroe, Jackie Kennedy and Julia Roberts. Today the hotel has a spa and Michelin-star restaurant. It even employs three full-time furniture restorers to look after its historic interiors. Exvitt.it

Hotel Hassler, Rome, Italy

Set at the top of the Spanish Steps right in the heart of Rome, the 125-year-old Hotel Hassler is a gentle stroll to other must-see sights like the Trevi Fountain and the Colosseum. Now run by the sixth generation of the same family, the five-star hotel's famous guest book includes signatures from Audrey Hepburn, Frank Sinatra and John F Kennedy. Expect antiques and well-chosen art in each of the 70 rooms and 21 suites - and don't miss the chance to enjoy drinks, dinner and a spectacular sunset from the seventh floor terrace, reserved exclusively for hotel guests. Hotelhasslerroma.com

Hotel Lou Pinet, St Tropez, France

Nothing beats the old-school glamour of the French Riviera – and nowhere in St Tropez matches the relaxed, luxurious vibe of this unique country house hotel. Fivestar, yet determinedly low-key, it was the first hotel to be run by the Pariente family, whose grandparents fell in love on the South of France and visited throughout their lives.

Today guests can enjoy the largest and most elegant pool in St Tropez or meander past fig trees, jasmine flowers and lavender bushes in the hotel's 'secret garden'. The colours of the Mediterranean and the style of the French Riviera are on full display in the hotel's boho-chic restaurant, or you can dine on the sunny, stone-paved terrace outside. Maisonpariente.com



PLACES WITH A
PAST: clockwise
from above,
Grand Hotel
Excelsior
Vittoria,
Sorrento;
the restaurant
terrace at
Schloss Elmau,
Bavaria;
dine with views
of Rome at the
Hassler; relax
by the pool at
Lou Pinet,
St Tropez



