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OLD FRIENDS



Lou Pinet – Saint-Tropez



Finca Maris – Mallorca



Hotel Pellicano – Tuscany



Santa Clara 1728 – Lisbon

Lou Pinet – Saint-Tropez

A tantalising smell of freshly sliced truffles, lobster and pine trees wafts under the wooden pergola, and a glass of Hotel Lou Pinet's ice-cold house rosé signals the start of a holiday in Saint-Tropez. Bienvenue in the former fishing village in the south of France, where Jane Birkin and Serge Gainsbourg once frolicked. The vintage spirit of the 60s and 70s still seems close enough to touch at Hotel Lou Pinet. The eclectic design of the rooms and suites with their own gardens come courtesy of architect and interior designer Charles Zana. His ideas were inspired by artists such as Matisse, Calder and Picasso and they incorporate elements of the decorative art of Provence. Instead of a key card, guests here are given a golden key. This small detail is emblematic of the style of the hotel, which provides moments of authentic luxury rather than the Saint-Tropez party glitz and the booming bass from the town's clubs. Instead, kick back and enjoy the soothing chirrups of the cicadas. Très provençal!

Finca Maris – Mallorca

Nestling between cacti, olive trees and citrus groves lies the charmingly modern Finca Maris, a hideaway in the southern part of the island which is as far as you can get from the tourist clichés. Everything about the finca is eco-conscious, and the reduction to the absolute essentials is reflected in the timeless design and the values of owners Maris and Patrick Schmidt-Dold, who are committed to a holistic approach and slow living. Book this minimalist villa near Ses Salines with friends or family and you can encounter Mallorca's authentic side and feel like a local – albeit a fairly affluent local! The villa with its four bedrooms, pool and outdoor BBQ is furnished and equipped with great taste and incredible attention to detail. The floors are made of rugged stone, and you dine from pottery handmade by local artisans. The interior and outside flow into each other, with natural light and shade flooding through the large panorama windows. Throughout the renovation, the owners deliberately chose natural materials and sustainable sources. The water is drawn to a large extent from the finca's own well and the aim is to leave the smallest possible ecological footprint. One of the island's most beautiful natural beaches (Es Trenc) is close by. Home away from home, sustainable and very stylish!

Hotel Pellicano – Tuscany

What the Italians call sprezzatura refers to a stylish nonchalance that conceals the effort it takes to pull off. It's an art that the staff at Hotel Pellicano have down to a T. The legendary hotel, situated between Rome and Pisa, spills down to an azure private bay with a stunning view of Monte Argentario, close to the yacht harbour of Porto Ercole. In the 1960s, the cove with its dramatic cliffs became the romantic hideaway for an American socialite and a British aviator. The house attracted a glamorous, international set of guests who came to party in the moonlight. In 1979, Roberto Sciò bought the property, and his daughter Marie-Louise, the Creative Director, keeps the Pellicano style up to date with a combination of freewheeling spirit, tradition and discreet luxury. She also personally picks the entertainment programme, from music to excursions. For the in-house boutique, she curates special fashion pieces and develops brand cooperations, including with Birkenstock, to ensure that guests can take the unmistakable Pellicano style home with them. Anyone who has ever lounged on the yellow-and-white striped towels will want to return and experience la dolce vita at its best.

Santa Clara 1728 – Lisbon

Tranquil natural shades, linen, wood and marble from Lisbon dominate in the magnificent 18th century building. The family-run hotel Santa Clara 1728 offers an incredibly soothing and inviting setting, with a secluded garden promising moments of relaxation despite the villa being situated in the lively Alfama quarter, where the legendary "Feira da Ladra" flea market takes place and fado songs echo through the narrow lanes. The venerable house has six suites, some providing a breathtaking view of the river Tejo and the rooftops of the old city centre. Owners Joao and Andrea Rodrigues live with their family on the top floors, which instantly gives one the feeling of staying with friends. Architect Manuel Aires Mateus restored the building with great sensitivity for its history and has created an oasis of peace. Breakfast at Santa Clara is taken at a communal table, where you can enjoy freshly squeezed orange juice and home-made granola as you make your plans for the day. This hotel is the perfect place to experience Lisbon's morbid beauty in a modern setting.