



Lap of luxury: for entertainment, visitors at Le Grand Château will be spoilt for choice

A REAL BATHING BELLE

DESTINATION SAINT-TROPEZ

LE Grand Château St Tropez is now available for rental for the first time through SJ Villas. The listed, restored Belle Epoque château in the centre of

St Tropez village is comprised of the main house and La Maison d'Etoiles, also in the grounds, both sleeping eight in four king-sized suites with dressing rooms and marble and granite bathrooms.

The entrance is fittingly grand,

reached by a palm tree-lined drive and set in manicured gardens with a large fibre optic-lit swimming pool. Inside are exposed beams, oak floors and heavily draped floor-to-ceiling windows, lots of glamorous white furniture and twinkling chandeliers.

If all this isn't enough to entertain, there's an in-house cinema and the resort's famous nightlife nearby.

■ *Three nights from £656pp based on 16 sharing including breakfast and the services of a housekeeper, a gardener and a concierge. sjvillas.co.uk*

WEEKEND IDEA



The Lugger, in the Cornish fishing village of Portloe, near Falmouth, has a two-night romantic break this weekend for £190 per double room with breakfast, a three-course dinner and a dozen local oysters and trio of desserts (on one night) with champagne and chocolates in your room. ■ luggerhotel.co.uk

WHAT'S GOING ON IN...

MELBOURNE, MARCH 4-14
Nigella Lawson and Angela Hartnett will be attending this year's Melbourne Food and Wine Festival as it celebrates "Women of the Kitchen".
■ Australia.com
■ Qantas flies to Melbourne from £788 return
■ qantas.com

LAST MINUTE HOTEL NEWS

■ Ravella at Lake Las Vegas, a sprawling new 349-room and suite hotel from Dolce Hotels and Resorts, just opened on a vast manmade lake with the only over-water chapel in Las Vegas, a sandy beach, two marinas and a 30,000-foot Mediterranean-inspired spa, ravellavegas.com
■ The newly opened W London: Leicester Square, W's first hotel in London, in a 10-storey tower veiled in translucent glass, has doubles from £269. whotels.com/london

AHEAD OF THE PACK

Out next month, the snappy new digital compact 14-megapixel Olympus SZ-10 has a multitude of features to help you take sharp pictures, including dual image stabilisation and Olympus's new 3D shooting mode. Then there's the three-inch LCD screen, Eye-Fi compatibility for uploading images to the web and Magic



Filters suitable for HD movies and images. In other words, you can take great, clear, close-up pictures and put them on Facebook.
■ Available in black and silver. £199.99, available to pre-order from Amazon (out on March 15). amazon.co.uk



SAYS SIMON CALDER

You snap up a bargain flight – and then the price falls even further. What are your rights?

UNFORTUNATELY, as so often with air travel, you haven't any. Some who took advantage of Virgin Atlantic's seat sale at the start of the year, for example, could have snapped up a London-New York return for £349, travelling off peak.

Not a bad fare: the days of the sub-£200 transatlantic trip have long gone, and these days £300 return is difficult to find even on "fifth-freedom" airlines such as Kuwait Airways, which has rights to carry passengers between Heathrow and JFK. For premier-league airlines such as Virgin and British Airways, we have to accept that £349 is as low as they go.

Or is it? Anyone who bought at that price may have been irritated that, almost as soon as the January sale was over, Virgin launched another – knocking a fiver off that lowest price. And then this month, the airline staged a five-day sale in which that same London-New York flight on Virgin came down to £329. Virgin is not alone in this as BA often reduces its fares, too, all depending on demand and what the competition is doing.

If you find you could have paid less by waiting, there's no way to claim anything back. Fixing fares is a dark art, and prices can go down as well as up as the airlines seek to fill every seat at the best price they can. If you are happy with the deal, buy it – but don't complain that you could have saved an extra £20 by waiting.

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