

Client: Hotel Continentale

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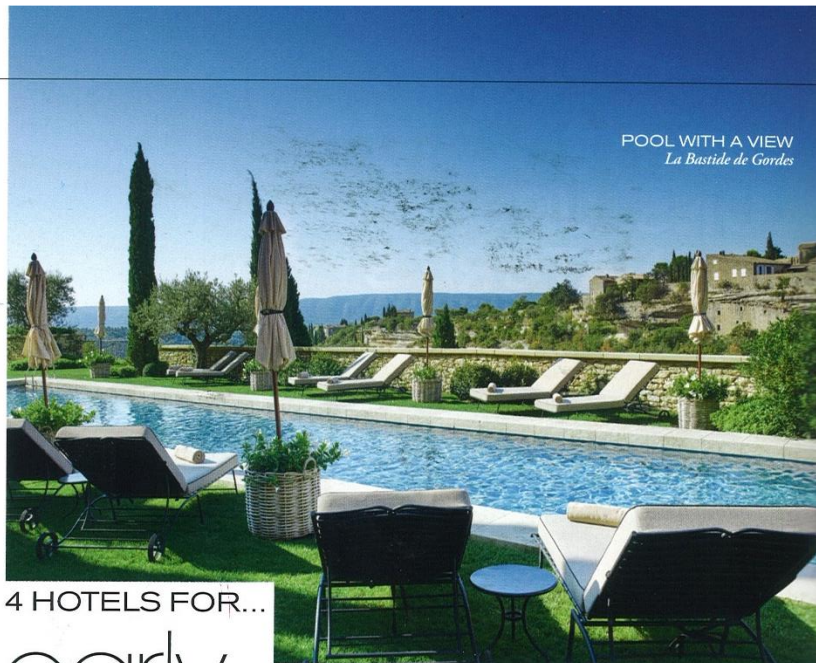
TRAVEL

LA BASTIDE
DE GORDES
Gordes, France

Early summer, and Gordes is just starting to bustle: the markets selling cheese and linen are the right side of busy, and hikes to the lavender fields and monasteries are wonderfully quiet. La Bastide is the place from which to explore, a dreamy residence carved into the chalky rock, with 18th-century decor, and terraces and tiered gardens spilling out over a gorge beneath. You come for the views: it's cool and shadowy for a croissant breakfast, ablaze by sunset, when you can drink Luberon rosé as the olive trees below rustle in the breeze (they're lit up at night). Wrap yourself in the cashmere blankets and make your way through steak covered in foie gras and kirsch-soaked cherries preserved by local grandmothers. The pool is chilled, there are panama hats for midday snoozes and bicycles for a picnic. Or you can simply head to the spa for a massage using herb-scented oil. *Double, from £345 (labastidede.gordes.airellescollection.com).*

HOTEL
CONTINENTALE
Florence, Italy

It might be mere minutes from the lively Ponte Vecchio, but the Ferragamo family-owned Hotel Continentale feels a million miles from anywhere. There's the quiet, cobbled courtyard leading to a cool, white interior. Then, upstairs, suites are airy, with Duomo vistas and huge beds curtained with swathes of gauze; downstairs you'll find a tiny spa, where the massages are bone-crunchingly good. Yes, it's small, but no matter – you've got the run of next-door Caffè dell'Oro, where pastries and cheese boards are served up for breakfast,

POOL WITH A VIEW
La Bastide de Gordes

4 HOTELS FOR...

early
summer
sun

and linen-dressed locals tuck into polpo and tiramisu by evening, at gleaming tables that look out over the Arno through flung-open floor-to-ceiling glass doors. The main scene is Terrazza on the top floor, where the crowd is beautiful and sunsets across the Boboli Gardens are picture-perfect. You'd be mad to miss the Aperols, which are reassuringly strong. *Double, from £215 (lungarnocollection.com/continentale-hotel).*

D-RESORT GÖCEK
Göcek, Turkey

Göcek, Bodrum's laidback little sister, is a ravishing slice of Turkish coastline, and pleasantly bling-free too. It's impossible not to unwind here. Spend lazy mornings on your own pool terrace with a paperback, then hop on a bike and meander along to the private beach.

The Pool Bar is just the spot for a lobster lunch, and in the afternoon you might opt for a trip on the private speedboat, zipping along the coast and stopping for whooping leaps into the bright sea. Or maybe some spa time – this one's a stunner: three floors, with a marble hammam, two saunas, fancy gym and ESPA facials to smooth out sun-furrowed faces. Sundowners are obligatory on the rooftop at Q Lounge, with its fabulous sea views, followed by delicious Japanese. Back in your suite, you'll sleep the sleep of queens. The best bit: the next day, you get to do it all again... *Double, from £386, incl. breakfast (dresortgoccek.com).*

EAGLES VILLAS
Halkidiki, Greece

Private beach: tick. Olive trees and mountain panorama: tick. Fully geared up for families: TICK. Eagles Palace makes it terrifically easy to have a terrifically relaxing beach break, and the new Eagles Villas ticks even more boxes – 42 private villas, all angled towards Mount Athos, have their own little kitchens and plunge pools. So you can hang out at your villa, hit the golden beach or pop over to the main resort to enjoy the oodles of facilities: tennis, aquasports, spa, pools and a kids' club by Scott Dunn (they run movie nights, so you can sneak off for dinner à deux). The service is warm, and the food tasty (Armyra for beachside seafood, Lofos for lovely Greek suppers). Don't miss the boat trips around the nearby islands, where the water is Maldivian turquoise. *Double, from £380, incl. breakfast (eaglesvillas.gr).*

PHOTOGRAPHS: HENRY TROLL; TERRAZZA DE SANTE CHIMAS