

THE BEST IN INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AND DECORATION

February  
2015  
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# HOUSE & GARDEN

**THE LATEST  
IN DECORATION**

**BOLD NEW WALLPAPERS  
IMPRESSIVE KITCHENS  
JAPANESE-INSPIRED  
FURNITURE AND FABRICS**

**PLUS**  
**TALES OF A  
PLANT HUNTER**

## STYLISH FAMILY LIVING

**From country house grandeur to modern simplicity in the Alps**





# CITY BREAKS

Laura Houldsworth highlights luxury-holiday destinations and travel products



## FLORENCE

**WHERE TO STAY** The effortlessly chic **Portrait Firenze** hotel is conveniently situated in the heart of the city and has wonderful views over the historic Ponte Vecchio. Designed by Florentine architect Michele Bonan, the 34 suites have dark wooden floors, hand-crafted furniture, black-and-white fashion photographs and vast Carrara-marble bathrooms. Rooms cost from £355 a night. 00-39-055 2726 4000; [www.lungarnocollection.com](http://www.lungarnocollection.com)

**WHERE TO EAT** Tucked into a quiet square not far



from the Ponte Vecchio, **Trattoria 4 Leoni** is a hidden gem that serves up exquisite fresh pasta and prime cuts of meat. Don't leave without trying the pear ravioli with walnut and gorgonzola sauce. [www.4leoni.it](http://www.4leoni.it)

**WHERE TO DRINK** Sip on refreshing cocktails surrounded by the Italian city's most glamorous locals at the **Fusion Bar** in the Gallery Hotel Art. [www.lungarnocollection.com](http://www.lungarnocollection.com)

**WHAT TO DO** Book a guided tour with **City Wonders**, so you can skip the queues and have your own English-speaking guide. Tours from £38. 0800-098 8019; [www.citywonders.com](http://www.citywonders.com)



## ISTANBUL

There's a wide variety of tourist accommodation on offer in Istanbul. At the 'signature brand' end of the market is **Raffles** ([www.raffles.com/istanbul](http://www.raffles.com/istanbul)), which forms part of the Zorlu Centre - the city's newest shopping and cultural-arts hub. Those wanting to be right on the Bosphorus, and close to the historic quarter of the old city and the bohemian Beyoglu district, should stay at the elegant **Vault Karakoy**, **The House Hotel** ([\[hotel.com\]\(http://www.thehousehotel.com\)\). And the one to watch for this year is \*\*Soho House Istanbul\*\* \(\[www.sohohouseistanbul.com\]\(http://www.sohohouseistanbul.com\)\), in Beyoglu's Palazzo Corpi, the site of the former US consulate, which promises 87 rooms and a Cecconi's restaurant. \*\*TOP TIP\*\* For one of the best Turkish baths in town, head to \*\*Kilic Ali Pasa\*\* \(left\) in Tophane \(\[kilicalipasahamami.com\]\(http://kilicalipasahamami.com\)\). Built in 1580 and recently reopened, this hammam is an architectural wonder and an exquisite place for a scrub-down and a snooze.](http://www.thehouse</a></p>
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## NEW YORK

The newly refurbished and rebranded **SIXTY SOHO** on Thompson Street has one of the area's most popular rooftop bars (above). The hotel is comfortable and discreet with 97 rooms, designed by Tara Bernerd, all of which have caramel leather furnishings with blue mohair accents and planked timber floors. Rooms cost from £289. 00-1-87 74 31 04 00; [www.sixtyhotels.com/soho](http://www.sixtyhotels.com/soho) □

## PACKING LIST



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