

FRANCE

Today

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Beyond the peaks
RHÔNE-ALPES

Culture, history, gastronomy and more

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FOR 2 WORTH
€1,920

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CHAMPAGNE TASTE TEST

NORD-PAS DE CALAIS

HEAD FOR THE
NORTHERN STAR

LE CORBUSIER

THE MAN WHO TRIED
TO RAZE PARIS

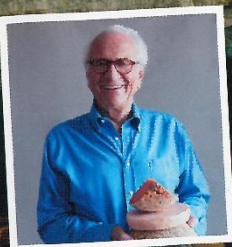
SECRET HISTORY

RISE AND FALL
OF THE CATHARS

THE OTHER LOIR

A (VERY) WELL-KEPT SECRET

THE BIG CHEESE

Michel Roux on his love
affair with the stinky stuff

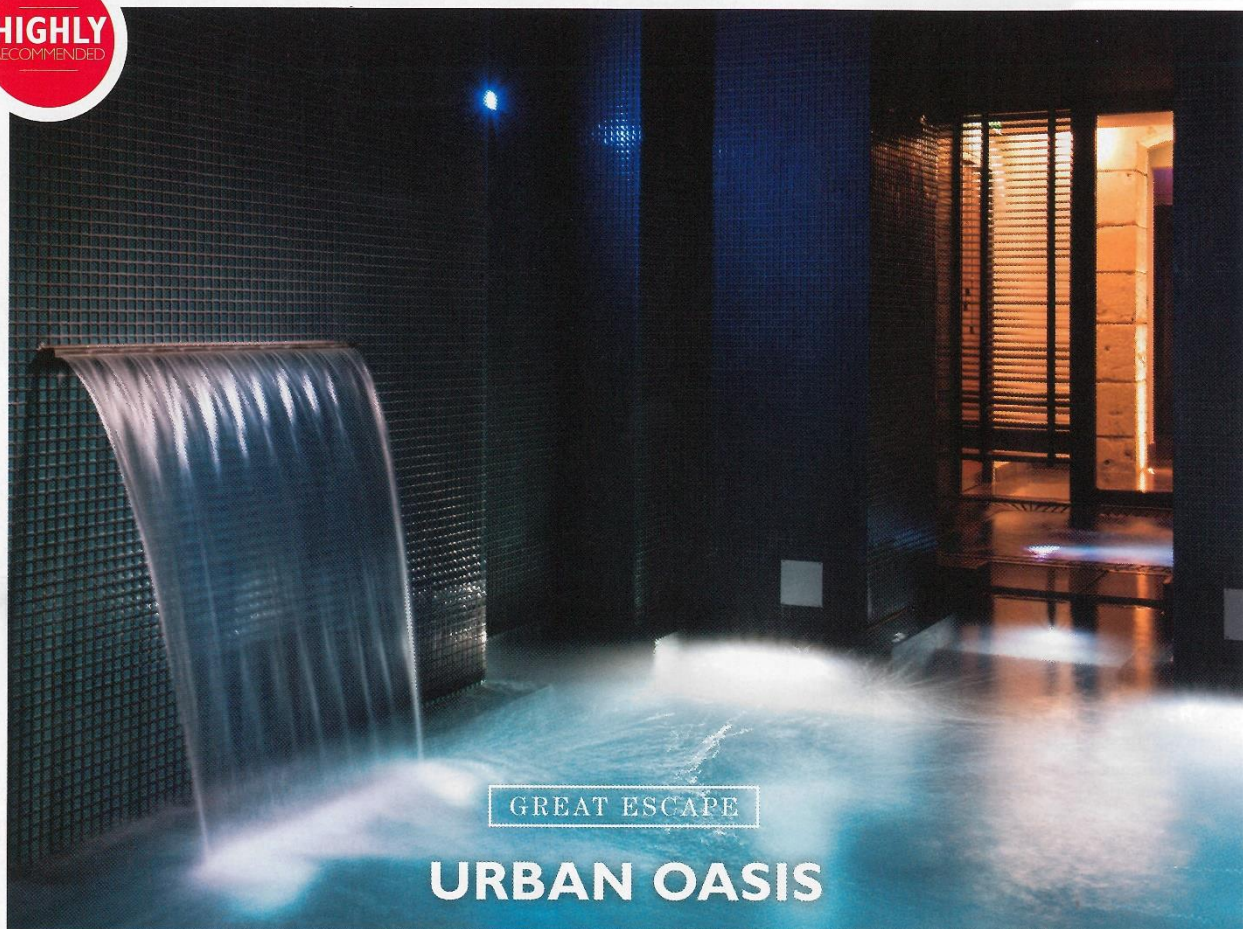
FRENCH STUDY GUIDE 2018

Summer courses, immersion holidays, homestays... c'est parti!



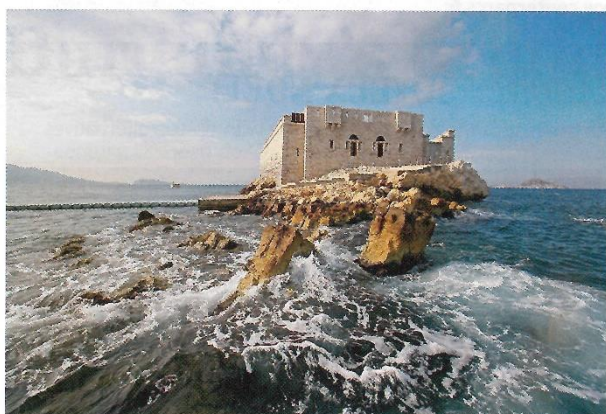
WHERE TO STAY

France Today's insider guide to the Hexagon's most luxurious hotel spas, top pools, best thermal baths, hot springs and indulgent treatments. . .



GREAT ESCAPE

URBAN OASIS



Once bypassed for the sepia-tinged glamour of the Riviera, Marseille's cool edge is now tempting pleasure-seekers back to the fold.

And these days, they make a beeline for the swanky C2 Hôtel. A soulful mix of classicism and urban design, the 19th-century townhouse's stucco mouldings and cherubic frescoes flirt with exposed brick, stark glass and steel details. But it's the romantic candlelit spa and hammam which truly set it apart. Let's not forget the star attraction: C2's private island, an intimate speck of white granite topped with a Vauban-designed fort and sun-drenched terraces – ideal to catch some rays away from prying eyes.

www.c2-hotel.com



PLUSH PALACE

Nestled in Versailles's majestic grounds, the Trianon Palace's opulent Guerlain Spa is fit for royalty. Treat yourself to the signature Beauty Lift Extreme facial. waldorfasteria3.hilton.com



PROVENÇAL PAMPERING

Muted luxury in the lap of Provence's sun-dappled olive groves is Couvent des Minimes' irresistible USP. Bid city-frazzled skin *adieu*, and cast off your worries as L'Occitane Spa's heady body oils work their firming magic. couventdesminimes-hotelspa.com



APRÈS-SKI THERAPY

Shake off the strain of the pistes with Altapura Val Thorens's Nordic Spiral: a bracing medley of heat treatment, waterfall showers and 'frozen-snow rubdown' in the igloo suite to loosen those stiff muscles. en.altapura.fr



WATER BABIES

Le Royal La Baule's detox programmes and soothing waters are just the ticket to knock post-baby bods back into shape. Even tiny tots get pampered at the family-friendly spa with bespoke baby massages. hotelsbarriere.com



HEALING WATERS

Since Roman times, the ailing and hedonists alike have sought out Vichy's healing spring. Today, there's no better place to loll in its restorative waters than the Célestins Spa. vichy-spa-hotel.fr



STAR-STUDDED GETAWAY

Secreted a short spin away from *la Croisette*, Terre Blanche's wisteria-trimmed charm has cast its spell on the glitterati. With 007 Sean Connery himself among the hotel's former owners, it's no wonder A-lists have claimed it as their favourite Provençal hideout. Though we'd wager the dreamy infinity pool and colonnaded baths have a little something to do with it too. en.terre-blanche.com »