TATLER®

TRAVEL GUIDE 2017



WHILE YOU'RE THERE

In less than half an hour you could be on ivory-sand Mediterranean beaches, treasure-hunting in local antiques-centre Pézenas, or Tarbouriech oyster-tasting on the Thau Lagoon.

CHATEAU ST PIERRE DE SERJAC

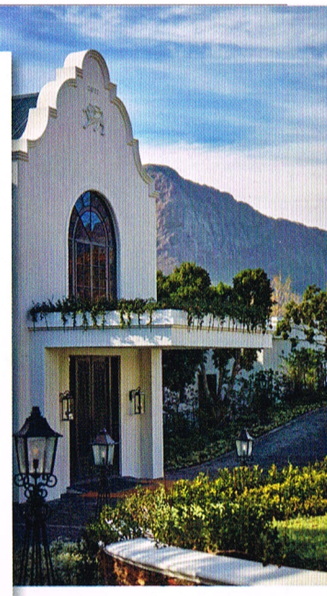
LANGUEDOC, FRANCE

It's all sunshine, oysters and knockout wines in the Languedoc, which is a damn good start. Chuck in this sumptuous conversion of a 200-acre, 19th-century wine estate, and you've got something rare: a chic retreat that's as laidback as your local. There's everything a done-up chateau should have: antique mirrors, polished-steel baths, original frescos, chalky-pale stone walls, undulating vineyards and whopping beds with brilliant-white linen, which you won't want to leave. Sprogs in tow? Some of the self-catering apartments (smart as a pin yet still comfy enough to wrestle in) are in wood-beamed outhouses, with pools for splashing about in or sipping rosé next to. Although first you should sip on a Serjac, the signature cocktail (tastes as summery as freshly mown grass), on the Gatsby-esque terrace. Then graduate to wine from the swooningly good list, best glugged with seasonal fare at the restaurant – the Pyrenean lamb is a winner. There's more: a 100ft infinity pool, Cinq Mondes spa treatments, bike rides, games of tennis or boules. And the kids' club goes above and beyond: den-building and archaeological digs, anyone? **BOOK IT** Double, from £200 (serjac.com; 00 33 4 67 93 12 34).

LEEU ESTATES

FRANSCHHOEK, SOUTH AFRICA

As you gaze out from the wide veranda, it's obvious why Indian billionaire Analjit Singh fell in love with the place. The view is nothing short of monumental, with its rolling fields of grapevines and ancient oak trees backed by jagged *Lord of the Rings* mountains. Every manicured inch of Singh's 168-acre estate has been tamed and polished: the gardens neatly pruned, the South African art meticulously curated, the creamy rooms fitted with flawless marble bathrooms. Grown-ups will love the Ila spa with its mini pool to laze by, the Mullineux winery in which to retox and the restaurant serving crayfish open omelette and pressed-pork terrine with still-warm brioche. Families might prefer the charming thatched Cape Dutch cottages and a hike into the mountains, or a bike into Franschhoek village for a craft beer and tapas at Mr Singh's colourful Tuk Tuk microbrewery. **BOOK IT** Africa Travel (africatravel.co.uk; 0845 450 1535) offers four nights from £1,975, including breakfast, flights and car hire.



WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Ramble around the huge kitchen gardens at nearby Babylonstoren Farm Hotel before porking out with a farm-to-fork lunch at its light-filled restaurant, Bable.



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