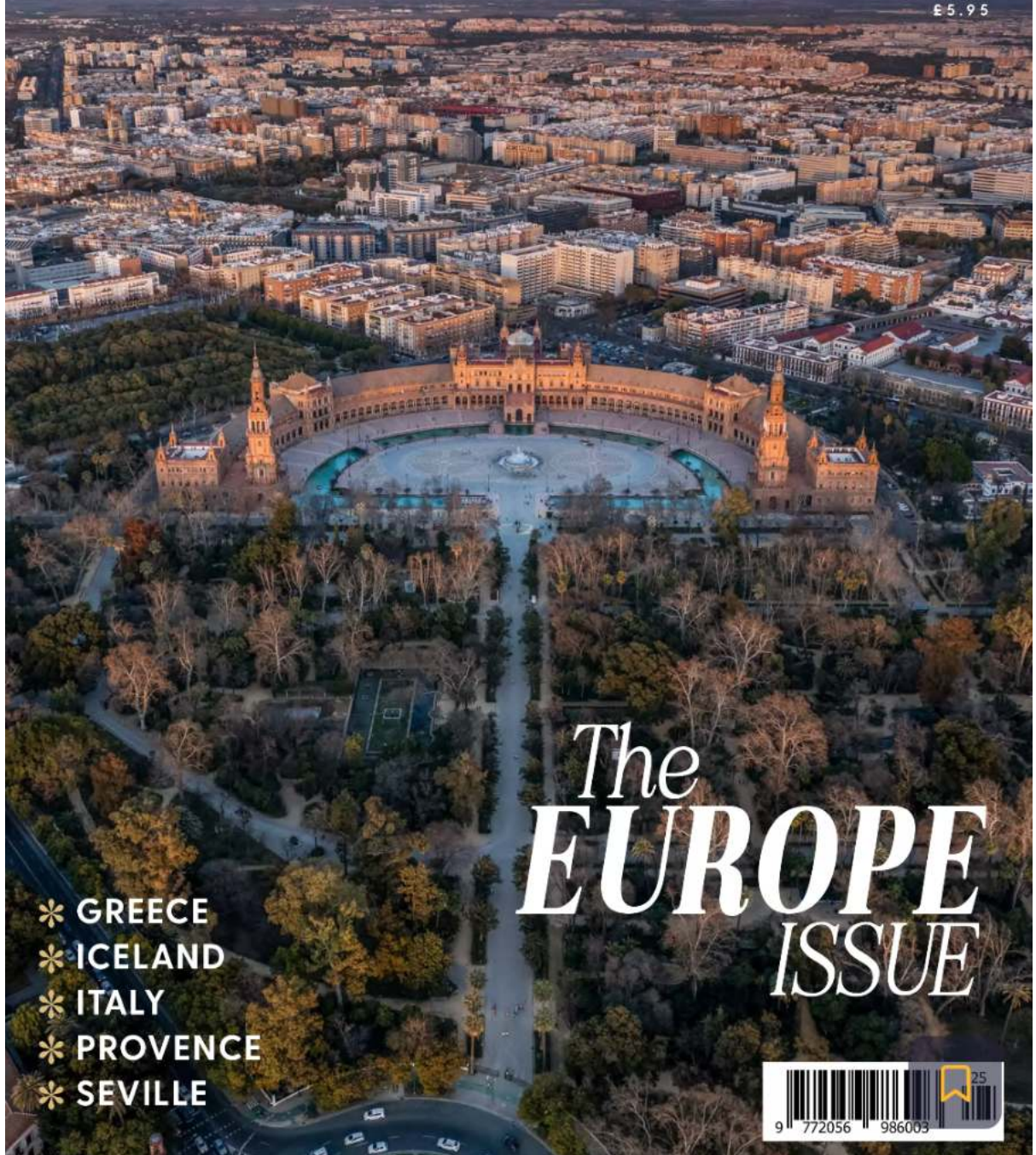


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A Romantic hideaway in Provence



High above the rolling hills of Provence, occupying a romantic 12th-century bastide, is the Hôtel Crillon Le Brave, a gorgeous five-star hideaway in Vaucluse.

HANNAH TAN GILLIES goes into the heart of Provence for a getaway to the French countryside

There is an inimitable feeling of romance and whimsy that greet you when driving through the picturesque towns of Aix en Provence on the way to the Hôtel Crillon Le Brave. From the outside looking in, the hotel looks like it could have been lifted off a vintage Provençal postcard and inside, the feeling of whimsy and grandeur continues.

Sitting at the top of the village of Crillon with gorgeous views of Mont Ventoux, Hôtel Crillon Le Brave is a majestic labyrinth of 17th and 18th-Virginia creeper-lined buildings, surrounded by lush vineyards and olive groves. Secret passages lead to terraces with breathtaking hilltop views, while others lead to the dozen or so old houses that make up this beautiful five-star hotel.

Part of the Maisons Pariente Hotel Group, Hôtel Crillon Le Brave is everything you could wish for and more for a getaway in Provence. There are 16 rooms and 18 suites scattered around the estate, all designed by the inimitable Charles Zana.

Throughout the houses, there is a lived-in feeling of refinement which respects the history and heritage of the buildings they occupy. Picture red terracotta floor tiles, muted linens, tasteful upholstery and colourful patterned fabrics and artwork which are spread throughout the public spaces.

No two rooms are alike, but each one does have the distinctive Charles Zana touch. We stayed in suite 32, a

wonderfully rustic and traditional space, which offered some pretty awe-inspiring views of Mont Ventoux and the hotel's multi-level terraces. The sprawling balcony, decorated with rosemary bushes, is the perfect place to watch the sun rise above the pastoral landscapes of Provence. Everything in the rooms will inspire a desire to totally redecorate your house in the likeness of the hotel - from the traditional patterned curtains to the exceptional Simmonds linens.

During the day, you will inevitably find yourself poolside at Crillon Le Brave, which is one of the most picturesque parts of the hotel. The stone vaulted Spa des Ecuries, though small, offers some of the most incredible Tata Harper facial treatments you'll ever try - and you will leave looking and feeling like a new person.

Hôtel Crillon Le Brave offers an inspiring menu of experiences outside of the hotel from tours of medieval villages to shopping trips to nearby market towns and of course wine tastings at all the best local wineries. Aix en Provence boasts 2,000 years of history and art de vivre and is home to some of the prettiest villages in the whole of France.

Avignon is known for its black truffle markets, while Vaison-la-Romaine and Beaumes-de-Venise are world-renowned for their wines. Get lost in the antique shops of Roussillon, L'Isle sur la Sorgue or wander the charming cobblestone streets of Les Baux de Provence, Saint-Rémy de Provence and Arles. We visited the nearby Chateau Pesquié, a passionate Provençal wine producer, which produces some of





the most delicious wines and olive oils.

There are two restaurants at Crillon Le Brave, La Table du Ventoux and La Madeleine. Both are led by Chef Adrien Brunet whose culinary mission is to put Provençal cuisine in the spotlight. Breakfast is served at the bistro-inspired La Table du Ventoux, which makes the most of the gorgeous Mont Ventoux views. We recommend grabbing a seat at the edge of the terrace, which is probably one of the most romantic settings for a sunny lunch in Provence.

The dishes are hearty, homey and made with the very best locally sourced ingredients from La Vaucluse. Dining here feels like you are dining in a family home, and you will taste the difference in the dishes, such as the signature Melon de Cavaillon, which truly taste like it was made with love.

La Madeleine is Crillon Le Brave's gastronomic offering and takes inspiration from the incredible terroir of Provence. You will notice subtle references to the Madeleine, a regional sweet treat, throughout the tasting menu which is so spectacular that it was awarded a Plate in the Michelin Guide in 2021. There were pan-fried scallops, croquettes and delicious ravioli – all fabulously executed by Chef Adrien and paired with a tantalising selection of French wines. Truly – it is one of the best tables in the whole of Provence.

For the perfect cocktail, head to the bar on the ground floor of Maison Rouche. This chic cave-like dwelling is the perfect place for a nightcap, cigar of pastis – which is a typical after-dinner treat in Provence. This stylish space is cosy, informal and a great place to chat with other guests in the early evenings. As you watch the sunset from the hotel's incredible terrace, surely you will think to yourself – *now this, this is living.* *

Need to know

* Nightly rates at Crillon Le Brave start from €350 Euros on a bed & breakfast basis.

* crillonlebrave.com





COMPILED BY:
HANNAH TAN-GILLIES

What to wear for: A romantic rendezvous in Provence

Embrace the 'joie de vivre' of the French countryside in these chic, easy breezy pieces that will give your holiday wardrobe a bit of 'je ne sais quois'. We're packing feminine floral frocks and summer-inspired accessories that will make even Emily in Paris swoon

1. Silver Ring by Annie Hoak available at anniehoakdesigns.co.uk
2. Burnt Orange Swimsuit by Reina Pyo available at reina.pyo.com
3. Lia Toke Greek Sun Print by Poppy Lissiman available at uk.poppylissiman.com
4. Blue velvet kimono by Joe Browns available at joebrowns.co.uk
5. Sunglasses by Salvatore Ferragamo available at erogamo.com
6. Harriet Wedges by Collo Shoes colloshoes.co.uk
7. Lilac Dress by Mango available at shopmango.com/gb
8. Nude rockstar stud heels by Steve Madden available at stevemadden.co.uk
9. Gold frame sunglasses by Victoria Beckham available at victoriabeckham.com
10. Top
11. Alba Mirage Pyjamas by Olivia Von Halle oliviavonhalle.com
12. DNA Watch by Hey Harper available at uk.heyharpershop.com
13. Green Fringe Trousers by Temperley London available at temperleylondon.com
14. Multi-colour floral print dress by Palm Noosa available at palmnoosa.com.au
15. White embroidered cardigan by Rue Agthons available at rueagthons.com

