

THE BEST IN INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AND DECORATION

HOUSE & GARDEN

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£3.90



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Insights into trends and prices

COMFORT ZONES

Delicious, warming recipes for cold nights

Cosy woollen fabrics for curtains and covers

Ideas for pretty bathrooms

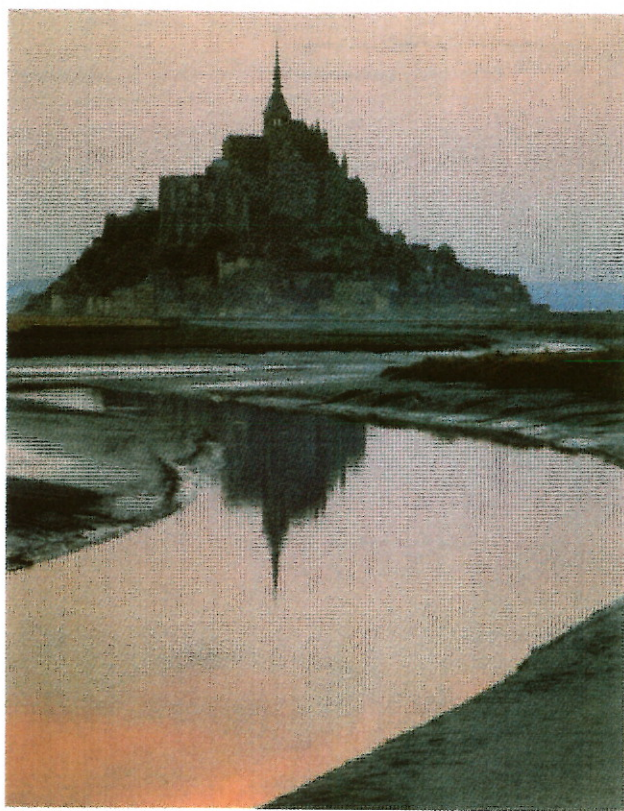
inspiring interiors

Over extension of a Victorian village house | *Country-house style in the city*
creative couple's Paris apartment | **Fifties period piece in California**

NEWS

ITALIAN IDYLLS AND TASTY WEEKENDS BY THE SEA

Tidal treasures The narrow medieval streets that lead up to the abbey on Mont Saint-Michel are delightfully deserted during February and March, making it the ideal time to visit. Other reasons to head to Normandy this season are the fresh scallops and Chausey lobster served by chef Guillaume Lerous at **L'Ermitage**, a new boutique hotel with seven luxury suites, 4km from the landmark. *Two-nights' B&B is €338pp (two sharing) until March 31. 00-33-2-3389 0999; www.lermitage-montsaintmichel.com*



GOURMET GEM

Hugging the coastline in the Irish village of Ardmore, Cour Waterford, The Cliff House is beautiful property both inside and out. The hotel, which opened in 2009 on the site of a former inn dating from 1900, overlooks **Ardmore Bay** and blends into the landscape remarkably well for a contemporary stone-and-glass building. A modest footprint at ground level belies its sizeable interior: the lobby (on level five) unfurls to reveal 39 spacious rooms over six floors. On level three, a 15-metre infinity pool boasts views of the Irish Sea, plus a sauna, outdoor hot tub and The Well spa, offering Voya treatments. A natural seawater pool provides



swimming options for the brave in summer, while, year-round one can stroll around blustery Ardmore Head and Ram's Head or towards the twelfth-century Round Tower. The dramatic location isn't the only attraction of this Relais & Châteaux property. **The Cliff House** also boasts Ireland's only Michelin-starred hotel restaurant – The House, run by Dutch chef Mar Kajuiter. Kajuiter embraces the native produce (West Cork scallops, Clare Island organic salmon, Ballynatray pigeon) while adding plenty of surprises to traditional Irish dishes. *The Cliff House offers a two-night Cliff Break until May 31, including breakfast and dinner one evening at The House, from €558 (based on two sharing). 00-353-24 87 800; www.thecliffhousehotel.co*



COUNTRY KITCHEN

Relax in the Umbrian countryside and discover the region's gourmet secrets on a new cooking escape in Perugia. The five-night, small-group trip from Expressions Holidays includes cooking classes exploring all aspects of Umbrian cuisine and Italian cooking methods, held on three consecutive days at the **Villa di Monte Solare**, a member of Small Luxury Hotels, located a few miles south of Lake Trasimeno. The itinerary also includes excursions to the wine-producing town of Torgiano, the chocolate factory of Perugia, as well as a visit to Assisi. *From £1,870pp including B&B, cooking classes, excursions, flights and transfers. Departs April 24. 01752-878075; www.italianexpressions.co.uk*

HEAVENLY HIDEAWAY

Casa Angelina is a little piece of heaven in the heart of the Amalfi Coast. Perched on the cliffs in the sleepy village of **Praiano**, the hotel looks out onto a breathtaking view of sea and sky, with picturesque Positano across the bay. The hotel has 39 spacious, light-filled rooms and suites, each with its own private sea-view balcony or terrace; contemporary clean lines and simple finishes accentuate the wonderful light and beauty of the location. As well as both indoor and



outdoor pools, there is access to a private beach on the shore below the hotel, and an extensive spa and wellness centre that offers daily private yoga and Pilates classes for virtuous guests. The hotel's rooftop restaurant affords both fabulous views and great cuisine, centered around

the plentiful local seafood. *Casa Angelina reopens in April. Their two-night Dolce Vita package, which includes vintage car hire for a day, costs from €830. 00-39-089 813 1333; www.casangelina.com*

CHANNEL HOPPING Guernsey's annual Spring Floral Festival takes place from April 14-22 with walks and talks around the island. Start at the five-star Old Government House, whose two-night Discover Guernsey package includes car hire and costs £457. www.theoghhotel.com