

# COOL WITHOUT KIDS

The pool's inflatable-free and nobody sings the theme from Frozen. With the school hols at their height, **Susan d'Arcy** has the top grown-up breaks

**W**e get it. It's not that you don't like children. You were one once. It's just that sometimes — say, when you're on a lovely holiday that you've paid good money for — you'd rather they were neither seen nor heard. Smart hoteliers know this, so they've created serene, stylish resorts with a "No Kids Allowed" sign slapped firmly on the gates, all summer long. Below are our favourite adults-only hotels of the moment. And even if you do have kids, isn't it time Granny and Grandpa spent a bit more quality time with them, anyway?

## BLUE JASMINE, CEPHALONIA

A recent facelift ensures the sand-and-sea palette

of these 12 suites feels boutiquey without compromising on Greek charm. There's a cool pool, flower-filled gardens and

fabulous sea views. A small sandy cove is just a short walk away and Skala's bars and traditional tavernas are five minutes in the car.

*From £844pp, including car hire, booked through Simpson Travel (020 8003 6557, [simpsonstravel.com](http://simpsonstravel.com))*

## DOMES NORUZ CHANIA, CRETE

The actress Helen Hunt described Domes of Elounda as the most serene place she'd ever been. Its new sister property, Domes Noruz Chania, which opened on July 20, repeats the five-star formula: high-spec urban

design, enviable beachfront location, sybaritic spa. This time around, however,

they've subtracted the crèche and the kids' club. The 83 rooms come with either a plunge pool or a hot tub. We're less sure about the MP3 players loaded with mood music. Chania's old town is a pleasant stroll away. *From £1,441pp, booked through Sovereign (01293 762400, [sovereign.com](http://sovereign.com)); [domesnoruz.com](http://domesnoruz.com)*

## CASA COOK, RHODES

The high-street tour operator Thomas Cook opened its first "bohemian lifestyle" resort this summer, which basically works out as white walls, vintage furniture, ethnic cushions and rattan. It's not quite as cool as it thinks it is, but the pool, restaurant and bar merge into one another nicely and all of the 90 rooms back onto swim-up pools. You're a safe eight miles from Faliraki's drunken debauchery. *From £1,175pp, booked through Casa Cook (0844 412 5970, [casacook.com](http://casacook.com))*

## CASA ANGELINA, AMALFI COAST



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This minimalist beauty, cut into the cliffs between Positano and Amalfi, has 39 bedrooms with sugar-white decor and dramatic Murano sculptures that would bring any parent out in a cold sweat. The hotel owns a section of Gavitella Beach (reached by a lift, or 200 steps if you need to work off some spaghetti) and there's a spa, a pool and a terrace with sea views. Extra brownie points on offer if you hire the hotel's boat for a trip to Capri.

*From £2,199pp, booked through **Black Tomato** (020 7426 9888, [blacktomato.com](http://blacktomato.com)); [casangelina.com](http://casangelina.com)*

#### **BOHEMIA SUITES, GRAN CANARIA**

These 67 honey-toned rooms have the indoor/outdoor design concept down to a fine art, with balconies that feel

like a continuation of the slick bedrooms. The rooftop restaurant is the perfect perch from which to weigh up the two miles of Playa del Ingles below. There's an indulgent spa, too.

*From £939pp, half-board, booked through Jet2 Holidays (0800 408 5594, [jet2holidays.com](http://jet2holidays.com)); [bohemia-grancanaria.com](http://bohemia-grancanaria.com)*

#### **HOTEL MARIGNA, IBIZA**

There's mood rather than disco lighting in the 44 Mediterranean-inspired rooms of this retreat in the

heart of Ibiza Town. It has a coffee shop rather than an all-night bar, and a rooftop terrace for sunsets, sangria and stories of celebrated raves of yesteryear.

*Doubles from £95 a night, B&B; [hotelmarginaibiza.com](http://hotelmarginaibiza.com). Fly to Ibiza with easyJet*

#### **HACIENDA DE ABAJO, LA PALMA**

Turn sharp right at Tenerife and discover La Palma, a Canary island of black-sand beaches, pine forests and starry, starry nights (the island was the world's first

designated Starlight Reserve). Base yourself at Tazacorte, on the west coast, home to the island's best hotel. Built on a sugar-baron's 17th-century estate, the 32 rooms are delightful mini-museums of antiques and ancestral oils. One modern addition is the minibar, stocked with free soft drinks.

*From £999pp, booked through Prestige Holidays ([prestige.holidays.co.uk](http://prestige.holidays.co.uk)); [hotelhacienda.deabajo.com](http://hotelhacienda.deabajo.com)*

#### **CASA LA SIESTA, ANDALUSIA**

You can't open a hotel called House of Sleep in Andalusia's snooziest corner and then let kids in. This haven on the Costa de la Luz, 10 minutes from the romantic white village of Vejer de la Frontera, has just eight rooms. The owner is one half of the interior-design firm Bert & May, so expect stucco walls, pitched ceilings with exposed beams and recycled rough-cut wooden furniture, but no artwork — it'd be tricky for paintings to compete with the olive groves and lavender fields outside.

*Doubles from £220 a night, B&B; [casalasiesta.com](http://casalasiesta.com). Fly to Jerez with Ryanair*

#### **THE HOUSE, BARBADOS**

There's no danger of the theme from Frozen wafting in from the room next door at the House, a glitzy retreat in a prime position on the Platinum Coast, between the buzzy capital,

Bridgetown, and the bars of Holetown. Grown-up treats include a jet-lag massage on the beach, champagne on tap at breakfast every morning, and Hobie Cats to sail, all free of charge. Right next door, Daphne's restaurant, the Bajan outpost of London's Le Caprice, serves superior Italian comfort food.

*From £1,649pp, booked through Blue Bay Travel (0844 499 7645, [caribbeanwarehouse.co.uk](http://caribbeanwarehouse.co.uk)); [thehousebarbados.com](http://thehousebarbados.com)*

#### **HURAWALHI, MALDIVES**

The Maldives has more than 1,200 resorts to choose from — Hurawalhi, when it opens in November, will be one of only a handful of adults-only properties. Apart from the standard bone-white beaches and Tiffany-blue waters, this place has 90 cutting-edge

rooms (the pick are the 15 ocean sunset pool villas) and the world's largest underwater restaurant, sunk almost 20ft down.

Two minutes from your balcony is a breeding site for manta rays — some babies you won't mind bumping into.

*From £2,499pp, booked through The Holiday Place (020 7644 1770, [holidayplace.co.uk](http://holidayplace.co.uk)); [hurawalhi.com](http://hurawalhi.com)*

#### **KAHANDA KANDA, SRI LANKA**

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OK, this hotel does let  
in children – but  
they have to be  
older than 12  
and extremely  
well behaved.  
We just  
couldn't leave  
Kahanda Kanda  
out. It's one of  
the island's most  
beautiful boutique  
hotels, set amid Lake  
Koggala's tea plantations, an  
easy tuk-tuk ride from Galle.  
Lush gardens and lily ponds  
form buffer zones between  
the 10 villas, each filled with  
exquisite local antiques and a  
four-poster. The views over  
the jungle and lake will  
lower your blood  
pressure instantly.  
The food is  
delicious: learn  
the secrets  
of that  
sensational  
seafood curry  
during a  
cookery class.  
*From £1,690pp,  
booked through  
Ampersand Travel  
(020 7819 9770,  
ampersandtravel.com);  
kahandakanda.com*



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**Not a bucket and spade in sight**  
Right, raise a glass on your child-free beach. Left, the high-spec decks at Domes Noruz Chania, on Crete

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No fear of being dive-bombed in the pools at Kahanda Kanda, above, in Sri Lanka, or at Casa Cook, left, in Rhodes. Right, from top, Hurawalhi, in the Maldives, has a supersized underwater restaurant; plenty of room on the beach at The House, Barbados; and time for a leisurely breakfast at Blue Jasmine, on Cephalonia



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Packages are for a week  
in August or September  
and include breakfast and  
flights, unless stated