

TRAVELL



TOM HOLLANDER
TAKES A GRAND
TOUR OF SOUTH
AMERICA'S
MOST MAGICAL
COUNTRY | P12

SUMMER'S ON SALE

Relax! We've found the best last-second escapes | p6

SUMMER'S STILL ON SALE

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Phew – there are holidays left this year. **Chris Haslam** knows the best deals

It's high summer, and for those of us who haven't got round to booking their holiday, there should be nothing left on the shelves. But 2016 has been a bit different. Terrorism, civil unrest and Brexit have hit sales to almost everywhere except Cornwall. So, if you look around, you'll find some great deals for departures in the next few weeks. Except you don't have to, because we've done it for you.

F GREAT FOR FAMILIES

DARTMOUTH APARTMENT Inexplicably overlooked by the staycation crowd, 21 Dart Marina is a luxury riverside flat at the fashionable end of Dartmouth. It sleeps four, and you'll get complimentary membership of the Dart Marina Spa, as well as a £400 discount. A week here costs £1,633, arriving on August 19 (01803 839499, coastandcountry.co.uk).

DARTMOOR COWSHED In the prettiest part of Dartmoor National Park lie the Haytor View barns, former cowsheds turned into luxury holiday homes sleeping six, with interiors almost as eye-catching as the surrounding wilderness. Hike, bike, play in the River Lemon and eat cream teas at Widecombe-in-the-Moor. A week costs £781, arriving on August 19 – a saving of 15% (01548 202020, toadhallcottages.co.uk).

PEMBROKESHIRE BOLTHOLE Bang on the harbour's edge in the pretty hamlet of Portgain is Coastal View, which sleeps four. It's not much to look at, but for the combination of price and

location – a few feet to the pub, yards to the coastal path and a mile to Traeth Llyn beach – it's unbeatable. It's also available: a week costs £726, arriving on August 20 (01437 772760, coastalcottages.co.uk).

FIVE-STAR FRENCH CAMPING French campsites are rammed this summer, so snap up the last pitches at the five-star Camping Berny-Rivière, in Picardy. Indoor and outdoor pools, lakes and all manner of watersports await. The weeks beginning August 6 and August 13 are available, and prices start at £669, including ferry crossings (01233 629950, venueholidays.co.uk).

F Prefer the seaside? A week in a four-berth mobile home at Camping L'Atlantique, near Concarneau, in southern Brittany, starts at £776, arriving any time in August (0131 510 6944, francebreak.co.uk).

DORDOGNE FOR TWO Here's a week for a couple in Elenor, a 14th-century *pigeonnier* on an ancient estate at Pomport, in the Périgord Noir – the prettiest corner of the Dordogne. Hiking, biking and kayaking are on offer, but we recommend doing none of it, because this is wine country – specifically, the Côtes de Bergerac. A week's self-catering costs £332pp, arriving on August 13 (00 33 5 53 54 54 31, simply-perigord.com). Fly to Bergerac with Ryanair.



In the pink
Left, the
Pounda Paou
pension, on
the Pelion
peninsula,
Greece. Above,
easy pedalling
through the
French Alps

CEPHALONIA VILLA

The town of Lixouri is known as "Little Paris", thanks to a party-loving population who congregate on long summer evenings in the waterfront bars and tavernas. Stafilia House is a hillside villa just outside the town and 10 minutes' walk from a pair of quiet beaches. It's cool and breezy, with two bedrooms and a private pool. A week's stay from August 13 costs £1,097pp, based on four sharing and including flights and car hire (020 8232 9780, www.gcthevillaacollection.com).

BORDEAUX BOOZE CRUISE

There's a huge £1,400 off this top-end voyage, departing on September 4 to explore the Dordogne, Garonne and Gironde rivers. The eight-day trip costs £1,535pp, all-inclusive, in a river-view stateroom (0808 281 1125, uniworld.com). Fly to Bordeaux with Ryanair.

ALPINE CYCLING

This break on two wheels in the French Alps avoids the steep climbs and allows gentle exploration of Lakes Geneva, Annecy and Bourget, and of the surrounding mountains. The six-day trip includes ferry crossings, five nights' B&B and GPS. Take your own wheels and prices start at £517pp, bike rental is available from £85 (0844 576 0170, peakretreats.co.uk).

TUSCAN VILLA

Villa Querci is a two-bedroom apartment in the village of Campagnatico, with a shared pool and 11 acres of grounds. A week between August 20 and August 30 costs £263pp, based on four sharing (020 8666 0407, italianbreaks.com). Fly to Pisa with easyJet.

AMALFI PALAZZO

Nerano lies at the western end of the Sorrentine peninsula. Less crowded than honeypots such as Positano, the village is home to Casale Villarena, an 18th-century villa that's been converted into five luxury apartments. It has a pool, a garden full of lemon trees and an owner who is keen to rope you into activities such as fishing and pizza-making. A week's self-catering from August 23

or August 27 costs £790pp, based on two sharing and including flights (020 7520 3100, expertoitaly.com).

SARDINIAN SPORTS

Tanka Village is on the Bay of Simius, on the southeastern tip of Sardinia, and it's a big, bustling family resort, popular with Italians. It has 903 rooms, a huge pool, three restaurants, tennis courts, football pitches, an 18-hole golf course and acres of groomed sand. A week, arriving on September 3, costs £811pp, half-board, including flights (01202 484858, justsardinia.co.uk).

SARDINIAN VILLA

Just outside Alghero, Casa Marianina is going begging. We've no idea why it isn't fully booked, because it's a

stylish three-bedroom villa with a private pool, sea views and a secret bathing spot 400yd down the hill. A week's self-catering, arriving on August 20, costs £835pp, including flights and car hire (01489 866959, sardinianplaces.co.uk).

MURCIA FINCA

North of Cartagena and 10 miles from the Costa Calida, you'll find the Spanish bargain of the summer: a 19th-century palace called Finca Moreno. Inside, it has five sumptuous bedrooms, a billiards room, a theatre and a chapel. Outside, a huge pool and terrace are surrounded by a citrus plantation. It's yours for just £695 a week, arriving on August 29 (020 3384 7066, spain-holiday.com). Fly to Murcia with Ryanair.

MARBELLA LUXURY

For a classic luxury holiday on the Costa del Sol, you can't go wrong with the Elba Estepona Gran Hotel & Thalasso Spa. It has four restaurants, a piano bar, indoor and outdoor pools, superb service and, as the name suggests, a huge spa. A week, arriving on August 9, costs £5,081, half-board, for a family of four (0800 294 9323, classic-collection.co.uk). Fly to Gibraltar with easyJet.

PELION PENSION

There's loads of availability in Greece this summer – even at the heavenly Pounda Paou, an 11-room, adults-only pension on the Pelion peninsula, overlooking the Pagasitic Gulf. Holidays here are about eating, swimming and sleeping, and you get a motorboat to go taverna crawling. A week's B&B, arriving on August 12, costs £742pp, including flights and boat/car hire (020 8459 0777, ionianislandholidays.com).

PELOPONNESE HAMLET

In the remote southwestern Peloponnese, where family businesses have kept the multinationals at bay, Greek holidays are like they used to be. Take Charani, a seaside hamlet with two shops, two cafes, a beach bar and six tavernas. It's all you need. Stay at the Iaira apartments, where a week's self-catering, arriving on August 14, costs £683pp, based on four sharing and including flights (020 8758 4758, sunvil.co.uk).

CYPRUS STYLE

Paphos is the prettiest port in Cyprus, and the Almyra is its most stylish hotel: seven restaurants and bars, a spa and exquisite gardens leading to Alykes beach. A week, arriving on September 1, starts at £935pp, half-board, including flights (01204 824619, destinology.co.uk).

ACTIVE CROATIA

Cruise the Adriatic on a traditional wooden boat, disembarking to kayak the coastline of Vis island, take windsurfing lessons in Korcula and explore Hvar by bike. There's plenty of time for loafing on the beach, too. The eight-day group trip begins on August 13; prices start at £1,149pp, or £1,027 for kids, including flights, B&B on the boat, activities and some other meals (01252 884723, explore.co.uk).

LAZY CROATIA

The Park Plaza Arena Pula is a laid-back luxury hotel set amid the pines on a quiet cove on the Verudela peninsula. It has 175 rooms, a restaurant serving local Istrian cuisine, a spa and fabulous sea views from almost every angle. If you must play tennis, go cycling and so on, you can use the facilities at its sister hotel, but that's not the point. A week, arriving on August 13, costs £865pp, half-board, including flights (020 3451 2688, thomson.co.uk).



Buckets of fun
Left, practise for a future career in structural engineering at the Berny-Rivière campsite, Picardy; or hike the rugged Sardinian coast