

TATLER



TRAVEL GUIDE 2025
THE 101 BEST HOTELS IN THE WORLD


VINE IS THE KINGDOM

◁ where there are plans for a new hotel that celebrates big skies, wild horse riding and the staggering setting at the foot of the Andes.

Our conversation jumps to The Shinmonzen, his recently opened ryokan in Kyoto, to the mystical gardens there, and to an enchanting vegan dinner prepared for him in a Buddhist monastery. (Regarding the food at La Coste: all chatter stops for Darroze's theatrical Cavallon melon topped with sliced langoustines, crowned with a generous helping of Caviar Kristal.) Then we move onto the late writer Edna O'Brien, who

spent time here finishing her last play, *Joyce's Women*, and how McKillen plans to honour her with a room containing her 'priceless' library.

Yes, this a connoisseur's retreat, however you look at it, and a testament to McKillen's knowledge of living well. Resting by a fountain, on a terrace wreathed in jasmine, I watch the condensation roll down my glass. The palest shade of Fragonard pink, the wine is elegant and subtle yet decisively multi-layered. Which is very much like the man who owns its terroir. □
chateau-la-coste.com



The Tasca d'Almerita family have lovingly tended to Tenuta Regaleali since 1830

WHERE TO WINE AWAY THE HOURS

TENUTA REGALEALI Sclafani, Sicily


'Wine is sunlight,' mused Galileo, 'held together by water.' A striking observation only perhaps surpassed by the Tasca d'Almerita family's belief that 'wine is life'. Which is something you may find yourself repeating at midday, when you sip a chilled glass of its Frappato; literally and figuratively imbibing the magic as you gaze on ancient almond orchards and olive groves that give way to row upon row of unfurling vines. Buried deep in the heart of Sicily, an island of glamour and romance, the 550-hectare Tenuta Regaleali estate in Sclafani county has been home to eight generations of this aristocratic dynasty, who have nurtured an incredibly romantic style of Sicilian viticulture, remaining faithful to the blessed hills' terroir, with purely sustainable practices.

Here, guests not only have a deeply immersive encounter with one of the world's best wineries but also of supreme home cooking. To eat pasta with wild fennel and broad beans, followed by veal rolls lightly pan-fried in breadcrumbs and thoughtfully paired with a rich 2018 Rosso del Conte, is pleasure incarnate; made immortal by almond parfait and the island's best cannoli teamed with a glass of syrupo Diamante d'Almerita Passito. Check into the crumbling 18th-century farmhouse, its

shutters painted a vivid shade of Tunisian Blue, and you'll enter Lampedusa's novel *The Leopard*, with a collection of low-slung buildings set around a shady courtyard where turtle doves coo in a giant waxy magnolia tree. And though the rooms are invitingly filled with antiques, crisp linens and gilt-edge mirrors, the pool will inevitably call. There'll always be a bicchiere di vino within reach, perhaps of Vigna San Francesco Chardonnay, a sublime partner to platters of tomato and almond bruschetta. (The tasting sessions of olive oil from the estate and other family properties across Sicily and the Aeolian Islands themselves make the trip worthwhile.)

But what delights more than the excellence of the food and wine is a lack of the pomposity that some seriously successful vineyards can exhibit. There's just pure, impassioned hospitality – as you'll discover on an enlightening and profound tour with Valerio. It all stems from estate manager Corrado Maurigi; if you are lucky to meet him during his visit, he'll bring out the poetry of such grapes as the Nero d'Avola, Nerello Mascalese and Muscat, as well as the land that grows them. And share with you his love of talking to the vines...

tascaalmerita.it



Babylonstoren's traditional-style Fynbos Cottages adjoin the vineyards and orchards

BABYLONSTOREN Klapmuts, South Africa

Living off the land comes easily in this field owned by telecoms king Koos Bekker and his wife Karen Roos. And visiting it is a rite of passage if you're taking South Africa's verdant Garden Route. Nestled among Paarl mountain's granite domes, its 720 hectares have developed organically over the past 10 years; and the original, charming Cape Dutch buildings have recently been joined by spacious Fynbos Cottages, where sun streams through glass walls, canopied beds are draped in diaphanous linen and pristine white bicycles are laid on for exploring the grounds and riding to restaurants. (Don't worry, there are also electric buggies.)

The whole repurposed farm is a love letter to the fertile, wine-making region of Franschoek, where clusters of grapes hang heavy on the twisting vines, ready to be transformed into the finest Chardonnay, Chenin Blanc and Shiraz. One 'must' is a trip to the tasting room, with its endless views across the bountiful country. But just

as fruitful is a tour of the grounds, fed by water from Table Mountain, where sun-ripened figs and prickly pears can be plucked from the branches. There are also some 8,000 olive trees in neat rows – the green oil is a fixture at every meal – and hives that hum with African honey bees, their golden nectar sweetening the home-made granola at breakfast. But this land of wheat and wine really sharpens the senses at dinner. Perhaps in the whitewashed Babel restaurant, a former cow shed where the dishes follow the seasons (think risotto with celeriac and burnt sage; beetroot pappardelle topped with dill cut from the herb garden; fragrant salads with fresh nasturtiums). Or in the bakery, where you can relish beef from home-raised Chianina cattle that has been smoked and simmered into spicy biltong; as well as some perfectly seared steaks and velvety ragu. It's a carnivore's dream tasting menu.

babylonstoren.com



Founded in 1692, Babylonstoren is one of the oldest working Cape Dutch farms in South Africa's Winelands

LOCATION

- Argentina**
47 Casa Lucia Buenos Aires
- Australia**
44 Park Hyatt Sydney Sydney
45 The Royce Melbourne
89 Southern Ocean Lodge Kangaroo Island
- Austria**
15 Lansehof Lans Tyrol
- Bali**
63 Buah, A Banyan Tree Escape Payangan
- Belgium**
68 Botanic Sanctuary Antwerp Antwerp
- Botswana**
15 San Camp Makgadikgadi Pans National Park
- Caribbean**
59 Cheval Blanc St-Barth Saint-Barthélemy
54 Cobblers Cove Barbados
37 Jumby Bay Island Antigua
56 Silversands Beach House Grenada
- Cyprus**
39 Parklane, A Luxury Collection Resort & Spa Limassol
- Egypt**
5 Hotel Al Moudira Luxor
- France**
22 Abbaye des Vaux de Cernay Cernay-la-Ville
27 Arev St Tropez St Tropez
65 Château Troplong Mondot Saint-Émilion
56 Four Seasons Hotel Megève Megève
75 Hôtel de Crillon, A Rosewood Hotel Paris
27 Hôtel de Toiras Île de Ré
46 Hôtel des Grands Voyageurs Paris
5 Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc Cap d'Antibes
21 Hôtel du Couvent Nice
31 Hôtel Plaza Athénée Paris
80 La Réserve Paris Paris
46 Le Grand Mazarin Paris
15 Lily of the Valley St Tropez
75 Shangri-La Paris Paris
8 Villa La Coste Provence
- French Polynesia**
25 The Brando Taitiara
- Germany**
38 Schloss Elmau Bavaria
48 Rosewood Munich Munich
- Greece**
63 Amanzoe Agios Panteleimonas
86 Aristide Hotel Syros
46 The Dollis Athens
67 Four Seasons Astir Palace Hotel Athens Athenian Riviera
58 Four Seasons Hydra Hydra
76 Gundari Folegandros
42 Hotel Grand Bretagne, A Luxury Collection Hotel Athens
32 Odera Tinos
53 One&Only Kéa Island Kéa Island
- Hong Kong**
30 Island Shangri-La, Hong Kong Admiralty
- India**
15 Shakti Himalaya Adventure Sikkim
- Italy**
23 Anantara Convento di Amalfi Grand Hotel Amalfi Coast
23 Borgo Santo Pietro Tuscany
66 Bulgari Hotel Roma Rome
48 Casa Monti Roma Rome
80 Castello di Vicarello Tuscany
65 Cipriani, A Belmond Hotel Venice
51 Grand Hotel Tremezzo Lake Como
30 The Gritti Palace, A Luxury Collection Hotel Venice
60 Hotel Excelsior Venice
31 Hotel Principe di Savoia Milan
55 Il San Corrado di Noto Sicily
78 Palazzo Margherita Basilicata
73 Palazzo Talia Rome
74 Passalacqua Lake Como
82 Tenuta Chiuddone Tuscany
77 Tenuta di Murlo Perugia
10 Tenuta Regaleali Sicily
29 Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, A Belmond Train
71 The Venice Venice Hotel Venice
58 Villa Sant'Andrea, A Belmond Hotel Taormina
- Kenya**
72 Hemingways Eden Resort Nairobi
77 Kinondo Kwetu Diani Beach
- Maldives**
26 Soneva Jani Manadhoo
62 Soneva Secret Makunudhoo Atoll
- Mauritius**
38 Constance Belle Mare Plage Poste de Flacq
59 LUX* Grand Baie Grande Baie
- Mexico**
26 Hotel Escondido Puerto Escondido
- Mongolia**
35 Genghis Khan Retreat Orkhon Valley
- Morocco**
42 Royal Mansour Marrakech
- Netherlands**
32 Conservatorium Amsterdam
45 De L'Europe Amsterdam
- Portugal**
79 São Lourenço do Barrocal Monsaraz
- South Africa**
10 Babyonstoren Klipmuts
- Spain**
22 Abadia Retuerta LeDomaine Valladolid
80 Can Albertí 1740 Menorca
77 Dunas de Formentera Balearic Islands
34 Finca La Donaira Andalucía
72 Grand Hotel Son Net Mallorca
26 Marbella Club Málaga
- Sri Lanka**
73 Amangalla Galle
35 Uga Ulagalla Anuradhapura
- Switzerland**
47 Baur au Lac Zurich
88 Grace La Margna St Moritz
16 Monte Verità Ascona
- Thailand**
16 Chiva-Som Hua Hin Hua Hin
50 Four Seasons Resort Koh Samui Koh Samui
16 RAKxa Bangkok
- Turkey**
39 Bijal Antalya
60 D Maris Bay Mugla
36 Maxx Royal Bodrum Resort Bodrum
- UK**
32 The Beaumont London
68 Beaverbrook Surrey
43 The Cavendish Hotel Derbyshire
37 Chewton Glen New Forest
67 Claridge's London
50 Cowley Manor Experimental Cotswolds
43 The Dorchester London
70 The Emory London
15 The Gainsborough Bath Spa Bath
36 Gleneagles Perthshire
66 The Goring London
67 Heckfield Place Hampshire
34 Lucknam Park Wiltshire
48 Mandarin Oriental Mayfair London
79 The Pig in the Cotswolds Gloucestershire
- USA**
51 The Beverly Hills Hotel California
42 The Carlyle, A Rosewood Hotel New York
47 Equinox Hotel New York New York
71 The Fifth Avenue Hotel New York
15 Golden Door California
55 Hotel Bel-Air California
45 Mandarin Oriental Boston Boston
31 The Mark New York
38 The Miami Beach Edition Florida
74 The Plaza New York
44 Warren Street Hotel New York
- Zimbabwe**
84 Zambezi Sands Lodge Victoria Falls

RIM OF BRIGHT WATER
All villas at One&Only Kéa Island in Greece have private infinity pools that merge with the blue hues of the Aegean Sea

ALPHABETICAL

- A**
- 22 **Abadia Retuerta LeDomaine** Spain
 22 **Abbaye des Vaux de Cernay** France
 73 **Amangalla** Sri Lanka
 63 **Amanzoe** Greece
 23 **Anantara Convento di Amalfi Grand Hotel** Italy
 27 **Aree St Tropez** France
 86 **Aristide Hotel** Greece
- B**
- 10 **Babylonstoren** South Africa
 47 **Baur au Lac** Switzerland
 32 **The Beaumont** UK
 88 **Beaverbrook** UK
 51 **The Beverly Hills Hotel** USA
 39 **Bijal** Turkey
 23 **Borgo Santo Pietro** Italy
 68 **Botanic Sanctuary Antwerp** Belgium
 25 **The Brando** French Polynesia
 63 **Buahan, A Banyan Tree Escape Bali**
 66 **Bvlgari Hotel** Roma Italy
- C**
- 80 **Can Alberti 1740** Spain
 42 **The Carlyle, A Rosewood Hotel** USA
 47 **Casa Lucia** Argentina
 48 **Casa Monti** Roma Italy
 80 **Castello di Vicarello** Italy
 43 **The Cavendish Hotel** UK
 65 **Château Troplong Mondot** France
 59 **Cheval Blanc St-Barth** Caribbean
 37 **Clewton Glen** UK
 16 **Chiva-Som Hua Hin** Thailand
 65 **Cipriani, A Belmond Hotel** Italy
 67 **Claridge's** UK
 54 **Cobblers Cove** Caribbean
 32 **Conservatorium** Netherlands
 38 **Constance Belle Mare Plage** Mauritius
 50 **Cowley Manor Experimental** UK
- D**
- 45 **De L'Europe** Netherlands
 60 **D Maris Bay** Turkey
 46 **The Doli** Greece
 43 **The Dorchester** UK
 77 **Dunas de Formentera** Spain
- E**
- 70 **The Emory** UK
 47 **Equinox Hotel** New York USA
- F**
- 71 **The Fifth Avenue Hotel** USA
 34 **Finca La Donaira** Spain
 67 **Four Seasons Astir Palace Hotel Athens** Greece
 56 **Four Seasons Hotel Megève** France
 58 **Four Seasons Hydra** Greece
 50 **Four Seasons Resort Koh Samui** Thailand
- G**
- 15 **The Gainsborough Bath Spa** UK
 35 **Genghis Khan Retreat** Mongolia
 66 **The Goring** UK
 88 **Grace la Margna** Switzerland
 72 **Grand Hotel Son Net** Spain
 30 **The Griffi Palace, A Luxury Collection Hotel** Italy
 36 **Gleneagles** UK
 15 **Golden Door** USA
 51 **Grand Hotel Tremezzo** Italy
 76 **Gundari** Greece
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- 67 **Heckfield Place** UK
 72 **Hemingways Eden Resort** Kenya
 5 **Hotel Al Moudira** Egypt
 55 **Hotel Bel-Air** USA
 75 **Hôtel de Crillon, a Rosewood Hotel** France
 27 **Hôtel de Toiras** France
 46 **Hôtel des Grands Voyageurs** France
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 30 **Island Shangri-La, Hong Kong** Hong Kong
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- 37 **Jumby Bay Island** Caribbean
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 80 **La Réserve Paris** France
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 15 **Lily of the Valley** France
 34 **Lucknam Park** UK
 59 **LUX* Grand Baie** Mauritius
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 48 **Mandarin Oriental Mayfair** UK
 26 **Marbella Club** Spain
 31 **The Mark** USA
 36 **Maxx Royal Bodrum Resort** Turkey
 38 **The Miami Beach Edition** USA
 16 **Monte Verità** Switzerland
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 53 **One&Only Kaa Island** Greece
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 73 **Palazzo Talia** Italy
 44 **Park Hyatt Sydney** Australia
 39 **Parklane, A Luxury Collection Resort & Spa** Cyprus
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 74 **The Plaza** USA
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- 82 **Tenuta Chiudendone** Italy
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 71 **The Venice Venice Hotel** Italy
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- 84 **Zambezi Sands Lodge** Zimbabwe