



## Golf **Terre Blanche** **fait** **l'événement**

Le somptueux resort varois de Terre Blanche, récemment certifié GEO (Golf Environnement Organisation), Terre Blanche Hôtel organise une nouvelle fois en partenariat avec la Fédération Française de Golf le «Terre Blanche Ladies Open», première épreuve du Ladies European Tour Access Series réunissant 108 joueuses professionnelles de plus de 20 pays différents. Ainsi, du vendredi 31 mars au dimanche 2 avril 2017, ce tournoi unique dans le sud de la France, se tiendra sur le parcours 18 trous le Riou, l'un des plus cotés d'Europe. Inédit cette année, un Pro-Am d'ouverture permettra aux joueuses amateurs de se confronter à l'élite féminine la veille du Pro-Am Officiel prévu le 30 mars ! Idéal pour relever les défis du tracé créé par Dave Thomas tout en profitant du cadre enchanteur de cet écrin de verdure.

**Date limite d'inscription : dimanche 19 mars prochain.**

IT'S 111 days to Christmas Day and one local hotel has already announced a special festive package. From December 14-20, Santa, Mrs Claus and the elves will be in residence at The Slieve Donard Resort and Spa in Newcastle offering

Christmas workshops and activities in a stunning winter wonderland. Enjoy some tasty light refreshments including mulled wine for adults in the sunlounger surrounds of the Percy French Station before heading on board the Polar Express train.

Guests are led on an enchanted journey through the magnificent Slieve Donard grounds to enjoy a world of festive treats and fun. Stop to enjoy sleighing with Mrs Claus and Christmas films, see where the magic happens with festive treats including

letter writing with Santa's elves and of course the chance to meet Santa and tell him your Christmas wishes! The Polar Express experience is £15 per child and £15 per adult including a gift and photos with Santa. Go to [www.slieve-donardresort.com](http://www.slieve-donardresort.com) or

call 028 43721066. **Hotels** [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com) offers family member rates at The Slieve Donard Resort & Spa from £150 per night in December including breakfast for 2 adults and 2 children sharing.

# TERRE-FIC TRIP TO THE COTE D'AZUR



KNOWLEDGE: Nice chateau

**By Paul Martin**  
**I**n the aftermath of the Nice terror attack the beautiful French Riviera has been making the headlines for all the wrong reasons. But this beautiful gem of a getaway should still be top of the list for Northern Ireland travellers who, thanks to the advent of low cost airlines, have enjoyed a 15-year love affair with the destination. Eleven years ago I honeymooned in the sun-drenched haven, a jewel of the Cote d'Azur,

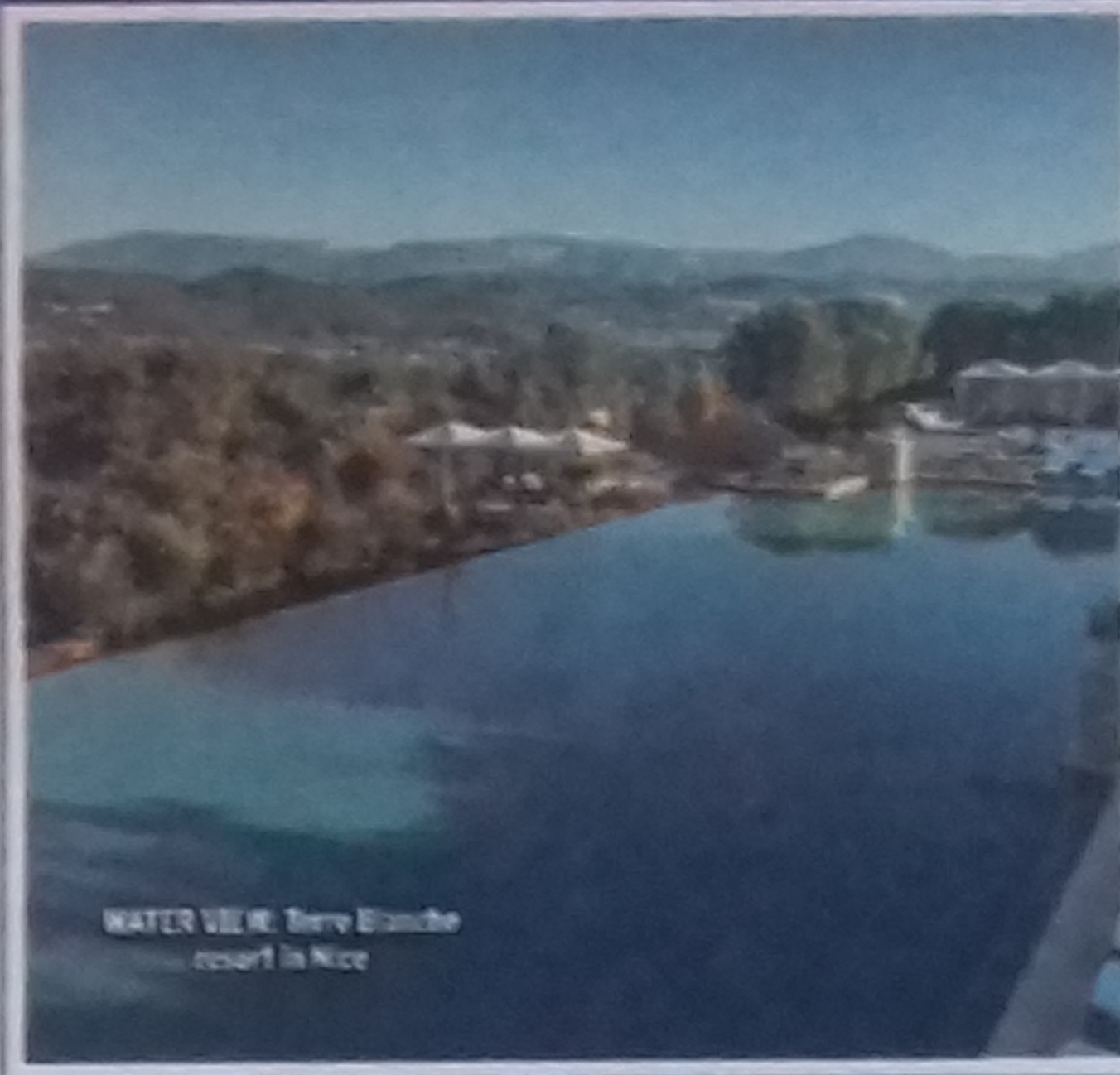
### I found a Nice and easy way to enjoy a mini break in the sun drenched south of France



CLASSIC: Terre Blanche resort in Nice

Puppy dog eyes pruned, I suggested to Mrs Martin that she might allow me to jet off with my brother-in-law Mark for a three-day relaxation and golf jamboree at the stunning Terre Blanche resort. I was met by a stony silence, the kind which only a husband with children when he announces he's fleeing the nest for a few days will understand. These things in husband-land are called 'A Piss'. And they are often harder to attain than a knighthood. Remarkably, after begging, pleading and making a series of lavish promises, I was on the plane, kids free, and ready to hit the uber-glamorous destination, golf clubs and bro-in-law in tow. The setting for this epic adventure would be the jaw droppingly beautiful surrounds of the Terre Blanche – formerly a Four Seasons hotel. Set in 300 hectares of the spectacular Var countryside in the South of France, the resort is just a 40-minute drive from Nice airport. Situated amid fragrant lavender paths and olive vines, Terre Blanche boasts two majestic championship golf courses and a Ledbetter Golf Academy so slick it looks like something you'd find at Augusta. But these impressive golfing jewels are just the tip of the iceberg. Which is a good job since both Mark's and my own golfing ability are more Happy Gilmore than US Masters. Effortless luxury and pampering are what this retreat are all about. And from the award

winning spa to the immaculate swimming pools Terre Blanche has mastered the art of total indulgence – whether you're a lone golfer, a honeymoon couple or a family away for a long weekend with the kids. Surrounded by rolling valleys and mountains, this beautiful resort – a member of The Leading Hotels of the World – perfectly captures the spirit of this beautiful region of Provence. Our generously sized villa was the perfect setting to unwind after a day of double-bogey and lost balls. With a separate living room, bedroom and terrace with tranquil views there surely can't be a more indulgent setting to enjoy your time in the Riviera. A large private balcony area overlooks rolling hills of lavender. We enjoyed sleepy afternoons by the immaculate pool which is a real signature feature of the complex – sprawling more than 30 metres and with attentive staff on hand to deliver anything in an instant from refreshing cooling this spray to afternoon cocktails and fruit platters. A quick phone call from the pool bar and our own personal driver zoomed up on a golf cart to drive us back to the villa for a quick power nap and change of clothes. Then it was off to dinner which proved an equally indulgent experience with dancing cocktails and gourmet food in the resort's top-rated Ferventia. There's no shortage of choice at Terre Blanche and there are four restaurants in total. The Tomaco offers a casual atmosphere near the infinity pool. The Ferventia stands out with refined gourmet cuisine, and the Gasolina with a jerry atmosphere while the Carobiers restaurant is a relaxing place overlooking the golf if you can't tear yourself away from the perfectly manicured greens. Breakfast, overlooking the



WATER VIEW: Terre Blanche resort in Nice

pool, was once a daily highlight with local specialities on offer along with more unexpected (but extremely tasty) treats like paella stacks and a mountainous cooked breakfast. We scurried away our over-indulgence at the dinner table with a visit to the on-site spa. Nestled in the heart of a typical Provencal garden, the spa is an oasis of relaxation and tranquillity. A vitality pool, specialist massages, two private suites and a beauty area boasting the latest aesthetic technologies, all go to make this the perfect hideaway during your trip. If you can't secure a pass from the mixers then this is the place to be with your other half and children. The resort boasts an ultra-equipped kids' club, restaurant designed to stimulate and fascinate during those months and evening movie nights that will keep them entertained while you get back and enjoy the beautiful offerings nearby. The kids' club offers several outdoor and indoor areas as well as a heated pool. The children have a choice of many creative activities: botanical exploration, shows, games and entertainment. The club is free for children staying at the resort. Terre Blanche is definitely on my hit list for a return next year. And with my 'pisses' used up, I'll be introducing the whole family to the delights of this magnificent complex on my next visit. **FACTFILE:** EasyJet run flights to Nice direct from Belfast International Airport. Check out [www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com). To book a stay at the Terre Blanche resort email [reservations.terre@terre-blanche.com](mailto:reservations.terre@terre-blanche.com) or visit [www.terre-blanche.com](http://www.terre-blanche.com)



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## 8 unmissable holidays in Europe for May half-term 2017

By Family Traveller on 07 March 2017

### 4/8 Plan ahead for half-term in Provence and kids stay free



The end of May is an ideal time to spend a few days in Provence. The weather is idyllic, fields are fresh, green and glowing, the summer tourists are still a few weeks away and peaceful mountain roads and uncrowded beaches are reminders of why the South of France is so eternally irresistible.

Terre Blanche Spa & Golf Resort in ethereal Pays de Fayence is one of the loveliest resorts in the region. The setting is idyllic: between sea and mountains, not far from the dramatic Verdon Gorges and overlooking nine delectably pretty ancient Provencal villages. The resort has two 18-hole championship golf courses with wonderfully distracting views. A kid's club with heaps of activities and the added bonus of donkeys, ducks and swans ticks the playtime box for two to 12 year olds. And teenagers have the run of the fascinating estate on very cool electric bikes and buggies.

Book a family suite or villa 30 days in advance and two kids under 12 stay free at Terre Blanche this half-term.

#### Where

Terre Blanche, Pays de Fayence, Provence

#### Price

Deluxe family suite from £524 per night for two adults and two children

[Find out more about half term at five star Terre Blanche Spa & Golf Resort](#)



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## Journées spéciales pour les parents à Terre Blanche (France)

Catégorie : [Europe](#) - [France](#) - [Communication / Marketing](#)  
Communiqué de presse publié le 16-03-2017  
Publié par la société Comme LM

*Terre Blanche Hôtel Spa Golf Resort\*\*\*\*\* imagine deux instants en duo parent-enfant à l'occasion de la fête des mères et des pères.*



Les 28 mai et 18 juin prochains les parents seront à l'honneur. A cette occasion, le resort Varois a sorti le grand jeu en proposant deux offres au choix à saisir soit le jour J ou à offrir en bon cadeau : les journées **mère-fille et père-fils**.

Moments de détente et de complicité au Spa pour mesdames, journée sportive et relaxante pour messieurs, tout est mis en œuvre pour célébrer ces fêtes comme il se doit. En complément, un brunch spécial pour les mamans sera servi le dimanche 28 mai, de quoi régaler les épicuriennes.

### Une journée complicité mère-fille

La fête des mères annonce l'arrivée des beaux jours, l'envie d'évasion et de bien-être. Au sein du somptueux Spa de 3200m2 baigné de lumière, mères et filles apprécieront l'élégance du lieu : piscine intérieure chauffée, piscine vitalité extérieure à 35°C avec lits de bulle et jets revigorants, sauna, hammam, laconium, fontaine de glace, douche tropicale, et salles de relaxation. Pour que leur journée soit unique elles pourront profiter de massages relaxants ou tonifiants et d'une manucure express avec pose de vernis. Jolies jusqu'au bout des ongles ! En complément, dimanche 28 mai sera proposé un brunch spécial au Gaudina,

dans une ambiance conviviale et feutrée autour d'une coupe de champagne.

### Un moment de divertissement père-fils

Parce que les pères aussi ont bien mérité que l'on s'occupe d'eux, Terre Blanche a concocté une journée à la fois relaxante et sportive. Père et fils se verront offrir un coaching sportif au choix : stretching, « resort run » idéal pour découvrir le domaine de 300 hectares lors d'un footing, ou encore circuit training. Place ensuite à la détente avec un massage de 45 minutes prodigué par des experts thérapeutes et un accès libre aux installations du Spa toute la journée. De quoi retrouver vitalité et équilibre !

Terre Blanche Hôtel Spa Golf Resort\*\*\*\*\* offre un cadre authentique et exceptionnel, propice aux moments de détente et de bien-être, des moments inoubliables à partager en famille.

**Terre Blanche Hôtel Spa Golf Resort \*\*\*\*\*** 3100 Route de Bagnols-en-Forêts – 83440 Tourrettes 04 94 39 90 00 –

**Fête des Mères – Journée mère-fille à 295 euros pour 2 personnes** - Massage relaxant ou tonifiant de 45 minutes en duo  
- Manucure express et pose de vernis en duo  
- Accès aux installations du Spa - Un jus de fruits ou une infusion par personne  
**Valable le dimanche 28 mai ou Bon cadeau à offrir (valable 1 an) Brunch spécial Fête des Mères le dimanche 28 mai au Gaudina avec coupe de champagne à 89 euros par personne.**



**Fête des Pères – Journée père-fils à 295 euros pour 2 personnes** - Massage de 45 minutes en duo - Coaching sportif au choix : stretching, resort run ou circuit training

- Accès aux installations du Spa - Un jus de fruits ou une infusion par personne

**Valable le dimanche 18 juin ou Bon cadeau à offrir (valable 1 an)**

Facebook : terreblancheresort Instagram : @Terre\_Blanche Twitter :

@Terre\_Blanche

**A propos de Terre Blanche Hôtel Spa Golf Resort \*\*\*\*\*** Bénéficiant d'une situation exceptionnelle, Terre Blanche est à seulement 35 minutes de Cannes et 45 minutes de Nice. Ce luxueux Resort de 300 ha est la destination idéale pour partir à la découverte de la Provence, ses loisirs (villages perchés, randonnées, festivals, musées...), sa gastronomie ainsi que du littoral animé de la Côte d'Azur.

## Une cure bien-être dans un cadre de rêve



21 mars 2017

**Avec l'arrivée des beaux jours, le Spa de Terre Blanche Hotel Spa Golf Resort, doublement distingué aux World Luxury Spa Award 2016, vous invite à vous ressourcer avec sa nouvelle cure bien-être de 3 jours.**

Baptisée Body Detox, elle permet de rétablir votre équilibre intérieur en alliant les bienfaits du sport à des soins drainants et relaxants. Au cœur de sa majestueuse bastide de 3 200 m2, débutez l'expérience par un réveil sportif avec un coach privé puis abandonnez-vous aux mains expertes des thérapeutes lors d'enveloppements corporels, de gommages et d'un massage aux pierres chaudes afin de libérer toutes vos tensions.

Le soin oxygénant Pure Detox d'Ivo Pitanguy, quant à lui, redonnera à votre visage tout son éclat ! De quoi aborder l'été en toute quiétude.

Cure Body Detox de 3 jours, 950€/personne.

**Terre Blanche Hotel Spa Golf Resort**

3100, route de Bagnols en Forêt, 83440 Tourrettes, 04 94 39 38 70  
[terre-blanche.com](http://terre-blanche.com)



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**L** Le lundi 20 mars à partir de 10h30 aura lieu au Sea Club de l'Hôtel "Le Méridien Beach Plaza Monte-Carlo" une dégustation atablée de vins Géorgiens réservée aux professionnels, proposée par MM. Ilia Kakholdze et Gérard Germain, en présence de Giorgi Samanishvili, président de l'Agence Nationale du vin de Georgie, Anna Godabrelidze, directeur de l'Académie de la vigne et du vin, Université d'agriculture de Georgie, et Patrice Frank, chef sommelier de l'Hôtel de Paris à Monaco et président des sommeliers de Monaco. Cette dégustation sera suivie d'un déjeuner offert par le Pont Caucasiens, au restaurant "l'Intempo" de l'Hôtel "Le Meridien Beach Plaza Monte Carlo". Il est impératif de réserver et de vous inscrire par courriel uniquement : [contact@ga-vins.com](mailto:contact@ga-vins.com). #

**L** Le Cap Estel et son restaurant "La Table de Patrick Raingard" ouvre ses portes le 9 mars ! À cette occasion, grâce à Duclot La Vinicole Paris, durant tous le mois de mars, vous pouvez déguster un des 15 grands vins de Bordeaux à prix caviste ! Parmi les vins servis au verre pendant Carte sur Table jusqu'au 31 mars, on notera un Château Pape Clément 2013, un Château Haut-Bailly, un Château Palmer 2007, un Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste 2005 et un Château Guiraud 1997. L'occasion de découvrir aussi le menu en "Toute Simplicité" (en semaine au déjeuner, hors jours fériés) \*Les 2 saveurs : entrée, plat ou plat, dessert 49€ \*Les 3 saveurs : entrée, plat et dessert 59€ mais aussi les menus Découverte de Patrick Raingard à 120€ et 150€. #  
\*Cap Estel\* 1312, av. Raymond Poincaré • Bord de mer • 06360 Eze  
Ouvert du mercredi au dimanche. Tél. : +33(0)4 93 76 29 29 • [www.capestel.com](http://www.capestel.com)

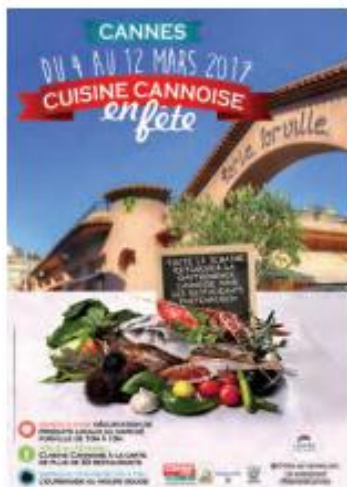


**L** Le Comité d'Administration de l'Union de la Sommellerie Française s'est tenu les 26 et 27 février dernier à Monaco, au Meridien Beach Plaza Monte-Carlo. C'est la deuxième fois de son histoire que l'Association Monégasque des sommeliers sous l'impulsion de son dynamique président Patrice Frank, organise cet événement incontournable dans le calendrier de l'Association Nationale Française des sommeliers, avec la présence du nouveau président des sommeliers de France, Philippe Faure-Brac, Meilleur sommelier du Monde 1992. Au programme des discussions : le Mondial des sommeliers de 2019 en Belgique, ou encore la présentation d'un candidat Français à l'élection du Président de la sommellerie Internationale en juin 2017 pendant l'Assemblée Générale de l'ASL à Bordeaux, dans le cadre de Vinexpo, pour la Présidence 2017/2020... #



L'Association des sommeliers de Monaco à l'Hôtel Meridien Beach Plaza Monte-Carlo lors du XXIII<sup>e</sup> gala des Sommeliers de Monaco.

**L** Cannes célèbre sa gastronomie de terroir : pour la deuxième fois, tous les jours durant toute une semaine, du 4 au 12 mars, plus de 50 restaurateurs et professionnels des métiers de bouche, producteurs, agriculteurs et artisans du Bassin Cannois, se fédèrent autour de l'identité gourmande territoriale, en présentant une cuisine authentiquement cannoise, faite maison, avec les saveurs du bassin cannois. Chaque restaurateur participant a composé un plat, une formule ou un menu 3 plats, dont les ingrédients sont exclusivement issus du terroir cannois (terre-mer). Tous les "plats cannois" ont une appellation spécifiquement cannoise, avec un nom faisant référence à la ville, ou au territoire cannois. #  
[www.cuisine-cannoise.com](http://www.cuisine-cannoise.com).



**L** Les vacances de Pâques arrivent à grands pas et s'installent avec elles les beaux jours du printemps. Au Domaine de Terre Blanche dans le Var, vous profiterez de ces moments ensoleillés en famille, au cœur d'une nature grandiose qui réserve bien des surprises... Les petits découvriront le cycle de vie des abeilles auprès d'un apiculteur et s'amuseront à chercher les œufs disséminés par "Swingy" à coups de fer 7 tandis que les plus grands s'accorderont un instant de détente au Spa ou sur les parcours de golf. A partir de 450 € en Suite Deluxe, par Suite et par nuit, petit-déjeuner inclus. #  
(Rés. au +33 (0)4 94 39 90 00).



**L** Les Ateliers de cuisine se poursuivent au Meridien Beach Plaza de Monaco où le chef Laurent Colin vous attend le 23 mars à 19h pour apprendre à cuisiner les nouilles asiatiques. Côté vins, le chef sommelier Dominique Milardi parlera le 26 mars des stades d'évolution du vin, quand le garder et quand le consommer. #  
Rens. @ rés. : 93 15 78 88 • [www.lemeridienmontecarlo.com](http://www.lemeridienmontecarlo.com)

**A** A Monaco, le Monte Carlo Beach ouvre ses portes le 17 mars. Voilà l'occasion d'aller (re)découvrir la belle cuisine du chef Paolo Sari, seul étoilé Michelin pour sa carte bio. Vous pourrez également profiter d'un instant privilégié à deux, sous le signe du bien-être et de la détente avec un séjour comprenant: l'hébergement pour 1 nuit en chambre double, le petit déjeuner buffet et un soin de 30 minutes par personne au spa du Monte-Carlo Beach. #  
Rés. : 98 06 41 51



**EUROPE**

# Terre Blanche: A golf retreat and much more

By Mike Dunphy / March 23, 2017

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Terre Blanche, home to two Dave Thomas-designed courses, was chosen top European golf resort last year by Golf World magazine. Photo Credit: Mike Dunphy



The first thing you should do in Terre Blanche is inhale deeply — not to find your yogic center but to discover quite possibly the best-smelling resort in the world.

Across this hilly, 750-acre swath of Provençal countryside, lavender, thyme, rosemary, jasmine and myrtle burst forth the sweetest scents nature has to offer, perfuming all five stars of this resort in France's Var hinterland.

The beauty of the landscape and its attributes wasn't lost on Sean Connery, either: He purchased the estate in 1979 from the mayor of nearby Tourettes. The actor envisioned a grand golf club and set about clearing the land for fairways. Ultimately, the project proved too much for 007 but not for German software billionaire Dietmar Hopp, who picked up the gauntlet in 1999 and opened Terre Blanche five years later.

Golf is the name of the game at Terre Blanche, with two Dave Thomas-designed 18-hole courses that continue to rack up recognition, including a No. 1 ranking last year by Golf World magazine for European golf resorts. The on-site Albatros Golf Performance Center includes a driving range, the Leadbetter Academy and even motion capture technology to analyze and optimize your swing.

But nongolfers like me don't feel left out, as the pleasures of Terre Blanche run deep, and positively subdermal at the spa — at least if you book a treatment or shimmy up against the jets of the "vitality pool." The centerpiece, however, is the 20-meter, colonnaded pool lined with rows of chaise lounges.

By the afternoon, the squeals of children pierce the chamber regularly, revealing the attraction of the resort for young families, predominantly European, who populate most public areas apart from the golf courses. So if absolute tranquility is the goal of a spa visit, aim for early morning or slip into the attached sauna and steam room for a sweaty escape. It's much the same at the nearly 6,500-square-foot, outdoor infinity pool behind the main building, but there's far more space to spread out.

Terre Blanche's four restaurants, including the Michelin-starred La Faventia, also powerfully poke the pleasure centers. Most guests take dinner in Le Gaudina, which if not boasting the pedigree of Faventia serves just as much Provencal cuisine to be proud of, particularly when pairing the ox cheek braised and glazed with lemongrass and ginger with puff pastry with praline cream and a lavender-infused martini.

The only place Terre Blanche slumps somewhat on dazzle is in the semidetached villas and suites forming the bud of the property. It's not the comfort, space or materiel that is in question but a design that, although perfectly adequate, doesn't channel as much of the spirit of Provence as perhaps it could, with simple terracotta-colored floors, pale yellow walls and beige curtains (although the outdoor terrace is a keeper).

The contrast may represent the northern European sensibilities of the owner, and, indeed, most common areas keep to grays, blacks and whites, with any flares of color kept firmly with delineated lines of upholstery, throws and artwork. It probably appeals to the wealthy, reserved clientele, who may shy away from more significant flights of fancy.

But you can always return to the breath, too, and that note alone ensures Terre Blanche stays in the memory for a lifetime, to be resuscitated each time a fragrance of supreme quality passes under your nose.

Visit [en.terre-blanche.com](http://en.terre-blanche.com).



**Arnie Weissmann**

The backstory of Celebrity Edge includes overcoming stubborn stereotypes about cruising. [12](#)



**Mike Nelson**

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**Danny King**

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MARCH 20, 2017

# TRAVEL WEEKLY

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[TRUMP'S FIRST 100 DAYS]

## Overtaken ban, budget proposal roiling industry

By Jeri Clausing

President Donald Trump last week lost another round in his high-profile fight to ban travelers from certain Muslim countries, but the fallout from tweets, executive orders and budget proposals he has issued in his first two months in office could spell long-term uncertainty for the industry.

Just hours after courts in Hawaii and Maryland last week lifted his revised ban on travelers from six countries shortly before

**'These programs have a lot of congressional champions. A lot is going to fall by the wayside.'**

— Eben Peck, ASTA

they were to go into effect, Trump released a budget blueprint that proposes terminating a long-standing federal program for encouraging air service to rural communities.

The proposal would also end support for long-distance Amtrak service.

Additionally, less than a year after the TSA added security agents and bomb-sniffing dogs to reduce more than hourlong security line waits at U.S. airports last summer, Trump has proposed fee hikes and funding cuts for the agency.

The combination adds up to continued uncertainty and, potentially, negative fallout for the industry as a result of both the proposals themselves and the very public and

See [TRUMP](#) on Page 52



## Downhill diggerati

A new generation of ski apps augment the scenery with utility, social features and competitive game opportunities.

BY DANNY KING PAGE 16

## Explaining 'basic economy' to consumers

By Robert Silk

As they sell the basic economy fares they brought to market in late February, United and American have taken proactive steps on their websites to avoid confusing consumers. But in other digital channels,

displays of the new fare class tickets are less consistent.

Both airlines went live with basic economy fares on Feb. 21. United is thus far offering the fares only on flights between Minneapolis and its seven hub cities, such as Chicago, Denver and Newark. American is selling basic economy seats on a total of 10 routes, each involving its hub airports in Dallas, Charlotte, Philadelphia or Miami.

In the case of both airlines, passengers who purchase basic economy tickets are limited to a single carry-on bag, which must fit under the seat. In addition, they are seated at the back of the plane and board in the last group. Their tickets are nonrefundable and nonchangeable, and they are not eligible for seat assignments prior to check-in.

Flight searches on United and American make these limitations abundantly clear. For

See [BASIC](#) on Page 50

### IN THE HOT SEAT

Intrepid Group's new CEO, James Thornton, on how he will pursue sustainable travel. [4](#)

### IN OTHER NEWS

U.S. airlines pulling back from commitments to Cuba routes as market potential slows. [6](#)

Experts say agents need to focus on one or two social media platforms for marketing. [8](#)

### MARK PESTRONK

Holding a contest? Follow the rules or you could end up running an illegal lottery. [26](#)

# Grandeur in the English countryside at Cliveden House



Cliveden House was once the home of the Second Duke of Buckingham and later the Astor family.

By Travis Levius

Though I've never watched an episode of "Downton Abbey," I felt like a privileged period character approaching Cliveden House's dramatic, graveled driveway, though it was hard to imagine myself in a horse and buggy while riding in a chauffeured Mercedes-Benz.

One can't help but be enthralled at the sight of the sprawled, neoclassical mansion estate in the Berkshire countryside, with 376 acres of gardens and woodlands to explore and with a legacy that predates the birth of our own nation. Once the home of the Second Duke of Buckingham and his mistress and later the uber-wealthy Astor family, Cliveden House has hosted royalty, presidents and other famous figures for many a party (and occasional scandal) over the last 350 years, and its reincarnation as a hotel transports

guests into the lavish lives of yesteryear.

Cliveden House is but a 40-minute train ride from London, making it a very convenient stopover to and from the British capital. The mansion, now owned by billionaire developers Ian and Richard Livingstone, houses 47 classic, individually designed rooms and suites. While Cliveden has preserved its Old World allure with its recent refurbishment, the rooms offer 21st century comforts such as Sony tablets and handy USB outlets to forgo any fumbling with adapters. The

bathrooms are wrapped waist-high in white-gray Carrara marble, and many of the rooms feature original, often one-of-a-kind portraits and tapestries. You won't feel as if you're a guest in a hotel but rather a guest of some esteemed 19th century aristocrat with exquisite tastes.

I felt as though I'd won the jackpot staying in the Westminster, one of the Deluxe Suites in the main house, with its front-and-center view of the terrace and the Parterre in the mansion's rear. The word "enchanting" best befits the 4-acre, Versailles-like splendor of the house, with two large sets of interwoven garden beds and pyramid-cut elm trees set atop a cliff, all cradled underneath by the winding River Thames.

Cliveden's dining program is led by executive head chef Andre Garrett, who oversees the main dining room in the mansion and the informal Astor Grill.

The latter, having opened in spring 2016, is housed in a former horse stable and cleverly infuses the equestrian theme in its contemporary decor. The grand Andre Garrett dining room — replete with chandeliers, sea green velvet seats and walls with stately portraits — will make you want to don your dandiest even for breakfast. Save the sense of occasion for dinner, though, when Garrett offers seasonal, modern British a la carte and eight-course tasting menus: think foie gras with pistachio and plum and turbot fillet with seaweed and borage veloute.

By summer 2017, the property will have completed the five-year restoration of its terrace and reopened its new and improved spa, which includes the infamous outdoor pool that played host to the Profumo affair, the scandal between an esteemed, married politician and a young model that rocked the British parliament in 1961. It was this salacious event that gave the Cliveden House its fame, but the masterful, ongoing transformation of the mansion under the Livingstone brothers' tutelage is what's worthy of major headlines.

Go to [www.clivedenhouse.co.uk](http://www.clivedenhouse.co.uk).



The great room at Cliveden House. The converted 19th century mansion is now a hotel with 47 rooms and suites.

## Terre Blanche: A golf retreat and much more

By Mike Dunphy

The first thing you should do in Terre Blanche is inhale deeply — not to find your yogic center but to discover quite possibly the best-smelling resort in the world.

Across this hilly, 750-acre swath of Provencal countryside, lavender, thyme, rosemary, jasmine and myrtle burst forth the sweetest scents nature has to offer, perfuming all five stars of this resort in France's Var hinterland.

The beauty of the landscape and its attributes wasn't lost on Sean Connery, either: He purchased the estate in 1979 from the mayor of nearby Tourettes. The actor envisioned a grand golf club and set about clearing the land for fairways. Ultimately, the project proved too much for 007 but not for German software billionaire Dietmar Hopp, who picked up the gauntlet in 1999 and opened Terre Blanche five years later.

Golf is the name of the game at Terre Blanche, with two Dave Thomas-designed



Terre Blanche, home to two Dave Thomas-designed courses, was chosen top European golf resort last year by Golf World magazine.

18-hole courses that continue to rack up recognition, including a No. 1 ranking last year by Golf World magazine for European golf resorts. The on-site Albatros Golf Performance Center includes a driving range, the Leadbetter Academy and even motion capture technology to analyze and optimize your swing.

But nongolfers like me don't feel left out, as the pleasures of Terre Blanche run deep,

and positively subdermal at the spa — at least if you book a treatment or shimmy up against the jets of the "vitality pool." The centerpiece, however, is the 20-meter, colonnaded pool lined with rows of chaise lounges.

By the afternoon, the squeals of children pierce the chamber regularly, revealing the attraction of the resort for young families, predominantly European, who populate most public areas apart from the golf courses. So if absolute tranquility is the goal of a spa visit, aim for early morning or slip into the attached sauna and steam room for a sweaty escape. It's much the same at the nearly 6,500-square-foot, outdoor infinity pool behind the main building, but there's far more space to spread out.

Terre Blanche's four restaurants, including the Michelin-starred La Faventia, also powerfully poke the pleasure centers. Most guests take dinner in Le Gaudina, which if not boasting the pedigree of Faventia serves just as much Provencal cuisine to be proud

of, particularly when pairing the ox cheek braised and glazed with lemongrass and ginger with puff pastry with praline cream and a lavender-infused martini.

The only place Terre Blanche slumps somewhat on dazzle is in the semidetached villas and suites forming the bud of the property. It's not the comfort, space or materiel that is in question but a design that, although perfectly adequate, doesn't channel as much of the spirit of Provence as perhaps it could, with simple terracotta-colored floors, pale yellow walls and beige curtains (although the outdoor terrace is a keeper).

The contrast may represent the northern European sensibilities of the owner, and, indeed, most common areas keep to grays, blacks and whites, with any flares of color kept firmly with delineated lines of upholstery, throws and artwork. It probably appeals to the wealthy, reserved clientele, who may shy away from more significant flights of fancy.

But you can always return to the breath, too, and that note alone ensures Terre Blanche stays in the memory for a lifetime, to be resuscitated each time a fragrance of supreme quality passes under your nose.

Visit [en.terre-blanche.com](http://en.terre-blanche.com).