



CHESHIRE

SEPTEMBER 2017 + ISSUE 045

MAGAZINE

BEST DAY EVER

From diamonds to decor, everything you need for an unforgettable party

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Be every bit as exotic as your travels

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Weekend away

...Terre Blanche Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort, Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur

WORDS: GEMMA KNIGHT

A stone's throw from the sophisticated glamour of Cannes, St Tropez and Monte Carlo, sprawling over 750 acres and hidden from prying eyes by lush greenery and well-versed discretion, is Terre Blanche: a Provençal paradise in the truest sense of the word.

As the only property of its kind in the region – and a member of the prestigious Leading Hotels of the World group – it's no surprise that the five-star resort remains a well-kept secret (a term often bandied about but, in this case, totally apt) amongst a clientele of affluent realists who value its authentic vibe and rustic opulence.

The feeling of space is overwhelming, with the bulk of the acreage covered by woodland dells, trickling streams and the resort's two 18-hole championship golf courses – as well as a smattering of bespoke villas (owned by the giants of Silicon Valley and their ilk) and even a castle once lived in by Sean Connery – who, in fact, owned the entire property until 1999.

At the centre of the resort is the hotel itself: a replica village of winding, undulating cobbled paths (just wide enough for an obliging golf cart) dotted with romantically picture-perfect foliage and 115 discreet terracotta villas and suites, each with its own terrace and a neatly unobtrusive touch of the high-tech.

Stroll up to the village's highest point from your villa and you'll come upon the colossal infinity pool with its cabanas, cocktail bar and

views across the estate to the mountains beyond – and then, a short walk further, the main building, home to three of Terre Blanche's four restaurants (including the Michelin-star Le Faventia), each overseen by executive chef Philippe Jourdin and trotting out a consistently delightful array of charmingly bucolic dishes.

And then there is the spa: a 3,200sqm destination all of its own, set over two floors and regarded – quite rightly – as one of the world's best, complete with 14 treatment rooms, fitness classes, a 20-metre indoor swimming pool and outdoor vitality pool, plus sauna, steam room, laconium, hammam and steam shower.

This village is the beating heart of Dietmar Hopp's vision – the German billionaire software entrepreneur who purchased the property from Mr Connery and set about transforming it into the lush haven it is today. His priorities were – and still are – that the resort should preserve the fragile balance of its natural surroundings, and that it should cater equally for all members of the family, the results of which are a comfortably robust ethos of ecological sustainability throughout, and a truly brilliant kids' club, with its own private pool and a list of activities – including rafting, tennis and water skiing – long and diverse enough to please even the most demanding of miniature guests. It's safe to say, after even the briefest of visits, that Mr Hopp has well and truly delivered. ■

(en.terre-blanche.com)





WEEKEND AWAY: TERRE BLANCHE, PROVENCE-ALPES-COTE D'AZUR

GEMMA KNIGHT
18 AUGUST 2017
TRAVEL

The sprawling, five-star hotel, spa and golf resort that gives new meaning to luxury on the French Riviera

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(en.terre-blanche.com)

TRAVEL



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Hero image: Terre Blanche



The official blog for Nora Roberts and J.D. Robb readers

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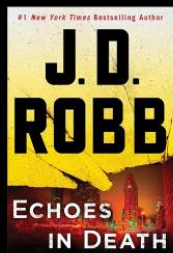
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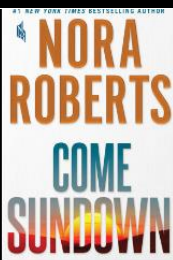
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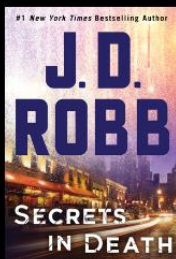
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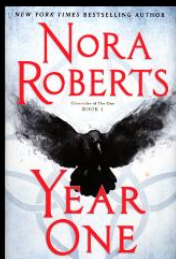
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SECRETS IN DEATH



On Sale Sept. 5/Pre-order now

YEAR ONE



EZE, FRANCE, PROVENCE, RANDOM KATNESS, TRAVELOGUES

EZE TO PROVENCE, FRANCE DAY 4

08/13/2017 LAURA 22 COMMENTS

Packing up, even though we didn't actually unpack for our short stay, still takes time. Where did I put this, what happened to that? Then making room for goodies bought. Jason and Kat head down for a last pain au chocolate before check out.

A last look at the sea, a last walk down, down, down through our little village. We couldn't have had a lovelier time in Eze.



One last look at the blue sea. Photo by j a-b

Now it's time for Kat and the bellmen to pack our many bags into the car. And for BW to maneuver us out. It takes awhile to circumvent the sharp, narrow angles, especially with oncoming vehicles trying to do the same, but we get there.



RECENT POSTS

- Provence, France Day 7
- Provence, France Day 6
- Provence, France Day 5
- Eze to Provence, France Day 4
- Eze, France Day 3

TOP POSTS & PAGES

- Provence, France Day 7
- In Death reading order
- Provence, France Day 6
- 2017 Release Schedule & Book Lists
- Provence, France Day 5
- Eze to Provence, France Day 4
- Eze, France Day 3
- Eze, France Day 2
- Eze, France Day 1
- Secrets in Death excerpt

We're taking the fast route—not really scenic though those hills are impressive as we whizz along the road. The drive's under two hours, with several tolls—escalating as we go. We have enough coins to make it, but wonder why they don't post the cost of the tolls before you creep your way through the jammed traffic—jammed we suspect because any who don't already know the cost are now digging for the correct amount.

And we exit and turn onto a lovely country road lined with forests, drive over little bridges. We come to an enormous and gorgeous lake with water of pale teal. I've never seen water that color, and it looks faerie-like to me. There's a sandy beach, a little water park, paddle boats—some with slides! Sail boats gliding, and venders selling ices.

The road winds and curves, and here is our place! BW and I were here 12 years ago, and when we turn in, I remember the look and feel. Flowers, flowers, flowers!

Inside the big, airy lobby to check in. Friendly, efficient staff, and before we know it, our luggage is unloaded, we're loaded into a golf cart and rolling our way to our villa.

It's wonderful! And really big. I pass right through the living area with its plentiful seating to the big outdoor space. I could live there. Padded sofas and chairs, lounging areas in sun or shade, a dining table—and we're all about eating right there tonight. Our own pretty pool and hot tub, and all of it surrounded by trees before the view opens to the hills with their gently rounded tops, the houses and towns stacked down the slopes.



Le spa. Photo by NR



La spa. Photo by BW



La vue. Photo by NR

BW and I take a room, little terrace off the bedroom, big dressing area, huge bath. Kat and Jason take one with a pretty sitting room, little terrace. There's a small library, yet another sitting room, a dining room and a kitchen. Glass doors everywhere opening to that wonderful outdoor living space.

We leave unpacking for later, walk back to the hotel—lavender thick on slopes—and eventually find the restaurant near the pool. I see a belini on the drink menu, and that's for me. A scan shows a make-your-own-salad option. So that's what we all do. Fresh, fresh, fresh. Field greens, romaine, Roma, cherry, big bright red, fascinating black tomatoes, peppers, tuna, anchovies, cheeses, herbs, olives, etc. etc. They offer huge bowls for a reason.

We very happily settle down to lunch—with fresh bread as well. And my belini all but brings a tear to my eye.

There's a separate area—for kids, the waitress explains, for kid type food. No wonder we see several very happy kids while we eat our enormous salads.

A happy walk back, and it's unpacking time. I'm so ready to put things away because suitcase living brought back the rigors of book tour. Now all our things are hung up or tucked in. Jason and Kat want a walk—and decide they'll walk to the market. It's like two miles, maybe three, but they've got it mapped out. Off they go—with an ETA back of three hours.

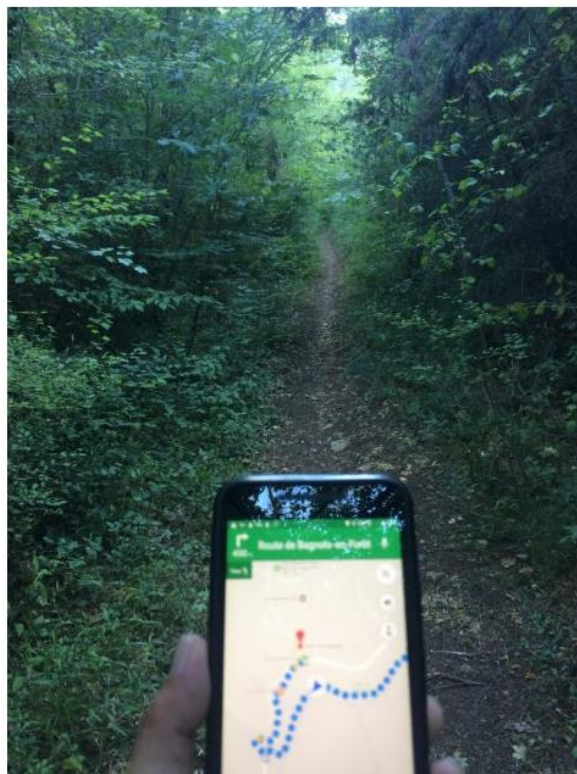
I sit, have a glass of champagne, then decide I want to try the pool. So does BW.

It's just right. Not chilly—I'm not a fan of cold swimming pools. Just cool enough to be refreshing. A nice swim, a dip in the hot tub. The day's travel, then unpacking all melt away.

I think I'll read for a bit on the terrace sofa. I do, then drift off. Sleep right there in the shade, in the quiet, for more than an hour.

I hear Jason's voice, and BW's.

The adventures of Kat and Jason took more than three hours. The walk to the market timed well, but they discovered much of it meant walking ON the road as there was no real shoulder. It's windy, curvy, and they both decided it just wasn't a good, safe idea. So Kat mapped out an alternate route on her phone for their return. This through the forest, initially on an actual track. But then the track dies off, and with the drought the river is a dry river bed. They're two Americans with backpacks filled with soda, milk, snacks—and of course Kat's survivalist tools—in the middle of a forest in Provence.



The forest path. Photo by kat.

Jason says he hears a bird call out, obvious distress, as they work their way through the woods with Kat's phone map, then come across a pile of feathers. And Jason wonders just what kind of wild-life may live that wild life in the forest here. It's still light, but there is some concern. I sleep through their adventure so Mom doesn't have any worry time when they're late getting back. BW had woken from his nap before me, so had a bit of concern before they came in.

But they made it through—and as Kat said, they could have spent the night in the forest with chips and sodas and milk—and limes—and her handy supply kit. LOL.

But now they're back after a very, very long walk, so it's time for dinner. They have sea bass, and I'm a fan. Pomme frites! Kat takes a well-deserved interlude in the hot tub after we order.

The waiter sets us up on the outdoor table. I bring out a travel candle so we have our first dinner here with the music of the cicadas and candlelight on the terrace.



Vue de la soiree. Photo by NR

And the sea bass is amazing.

A little lounging time in the living room, and I'm in bed by 10:30.

Another eight-straight night for me, and I write this while the rest sleep in our wonderfully quiet spot. I'm going to work out here on the terrace, ease into the day, and I think maybe I'll write a little out here where the trees are like home.

BW, driver extraordinaire, is getting a massage today. I expect Kat and Jason will take a more civilized walk on the many lovely paths of the resort. Then we'll see what else the day brings.

Nora

Today's #randomkatness:



Knock THIS way. Photo by kat.

Metro online – 31 July 2017

Terre Blanche – PCL Generated

METRO

Spa special: Put your mind to continental calm



 by Richard Mellor

Published July 30, 2017

Cote d'Azur

SOPHROLOGY, for the uninitiated, is a mixture of simple physical and mental exercises that promise optimum health. It could be just shaking your body to release tension or focusing on, say, your favourite calm place. You can give it a go during a two-hour session when Harmony Retreats takes over France's five-star Terre Blanche hotel, found in lovely, lavender-scented Provence. A tension-releasing hypnotherapy alternative is also available but whatever you go for, we highly recommend massage and gentle exercise over two days.



View to a thrill: Put your mind and body at ease in pretty Provence

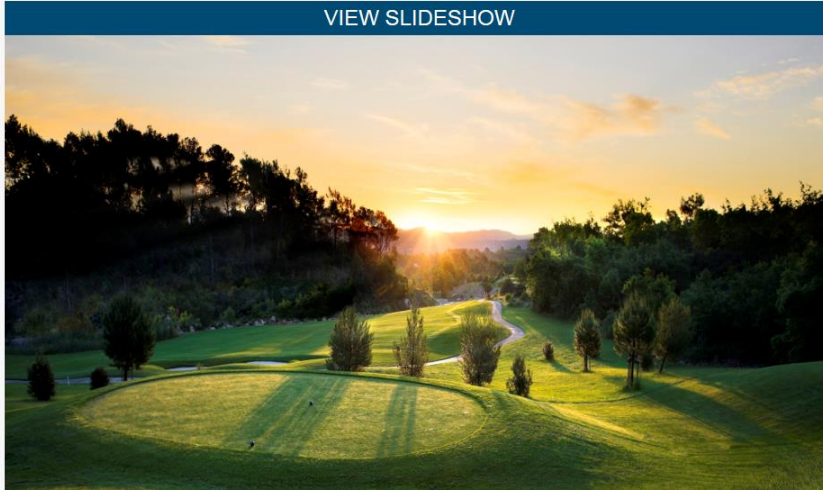
Access to the hotel's vitality and infinity pools, sauna and fitness centre is also provided. Designed like a fortified hillside village, Terre Blanche and its Michelin-starred restaurant boast fine vineyard views and is within day-trip distance of the sparkling Med. Harmony Retreats cost from £590 per person for two days; doubles from £320 per night, en.terre-blanche.com

TRAVEL / SPAS

The 10 Best Spas for Men Around the World

From facials for him to fitness retreats for serious athletes, these spa experiences have been designed with the not-so-fair sex in mind.

BY IRVINA LEW ON AUGUST 12, 2017



VIEW SLIDESHOW

Robb Report
Culinary Masters
OCTOBER 23 - 25

RESERVATIONS >

Traditional spas might focus largely on the fairer sex—but not every wellness experience is for the ladies. As more men join the spa-going crowd, an increasing number of treatments, therapies, and programs are targeting those with a Y chromosome. From facials for him to fitness retreats for serious athletes, the following spa experiences have been designed with the not-so-fair sex in mind.

SPONSORED CONTENT

A Relaxing Escape to Terranea Resort

BY ROBB REPORT STUDIO

Today's luxury travelers know there's nothing quite like the feeling of having a home away from home. A sense of privacy. Room to spread out. Days of leisure and places to explore. A quiet personal space, with the services and amenities of a...

BEST OF THE BEST

Welcome to the New Robb...

More of the Best of the Best 2017...

MOST POPULAR

#5 Terre Blanche Hotel Spa Golf Resort, Tourrettes, France



Any wellness retreat with the word "golf" in it has an innate appeal to the club-wielding male. But **Terre Blanche Hotel Spa Golf Resort** has plenty to offer from its two championship courses, too. Explore southern France via electric bike, helicopter, buggy, or boat, or head to the fitness center for state-of-the-art training on the resort's Huber 360 machine. In the spa, there's a laconium heat bath—where dry heat purifies and detoxifies—and a collection of treatments that focuses on muscular relaxation and recovery. Of course, Terre Blanche can also help you improve your game, thanks to its Albatros Golf Performance Center, Leadbetter Academy, and Biomecaswing center.

TERRE & MER 2/2 : TERRE BLANCHE

15 août 2017



C'était il y a déjà un moment et j'ai un peu honte de ne publier ces photos que maintenant... J'ai eu tellement de boulot entre le mois de mai et la mi-juillet, je n'ai pas du tout été à la hauteur. Et ensuite il y a eu ma fameuse « detox » d'internet dont je vous parlais hier.

Bref, ces photos ont quelques mois... Mais mon propos est toujours d'actualité !

Allez, on va dire que mon délai de publication de cet article est en fait complètement proportionnel à la satisfaction éprouvée lors de ce séjour : IMMENSE !

Pour rappel, nous sommes partis tous les 3, mon mari, mon fils et moi, passer quelques jours dans le sud fin-mai. D'abord 3 jours les pieds dans l'eau bleu azur de la Méditerranée (mon article est [ici](#) !) puis 3 jours dans l'arrière-pays, au coeur d'un merveilleux domaine qu'on aimerait ne jamais quitter. J'y avais d'ailleurs shooté [ce look](#), si vous vous souvenez.

Voilà donc enfin le 2ème chapitre de ces vacances entre TERRE & MER.

TERRE BLANCHE. Par où commencer ?

La situation du domaine, au coeur du pays de Fayence, dans un écrin de verdure luxuriante, à 35 minutes de Cannes et à 45 minutes de l'aéroport de Nice ?

L'immense et sublime piscine à débordement ? Le jacuzzi extérieur hyper relaxant ? La vaste pataugeoire pour enfants ?

Le spa, royal et somptueux ?

Le golf (élu meilleur golf d'Europe avec ses deux parcours 18 trous) ?

À PROPOS



Recherche

SUIVEZ-MOI



EN COUV' :)



ENVIES SHOPPING



1 OF 15

SHOP MY INSTAGRAM



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Le spa, royal et somptueux ?

Le golf (élu meilleur golf d'Europe avec ses deux parcours 18 trous) ?

La gastronomie (4 restaurants dont 1 étoilé) pour le plaisir des papilles ?

La qualité du service et la gentillesse du personnel toujours aux petits soins ?

Il y a tellement de choses à dire sur cet établissement exceptionnel que j'ai du mal à savoir par où commencer.

Notre séjour là-bas était PARFAIT. Notre suite était très vaste et agréable, avec une grande terrasse ensoleillée, nous nous sommes régales aux 3 restaurants que nous avons testés (nous avons même demandé au concierge de nous trouver une baby-sitter le dernier soir, pour la première fois en 18 mois, afin de nous accorder un dîner en amoureux au Gaudina !), nous avons bien profité des piscines et de la beauté du lieu, on s'y sent comme dans un joli petit village provençal, j'ai adoré les oeuvres d'art (de la collection personnelle du propriétaire), sculptures et tableaux, qu'on peut voir un peu partout dans le domaine, on a l'impression de se balader dans un musée à ciel ouvert, c'est très chouette. L'atmosphère y est apaisante, c'est très luxueux mais pas ostentatoire du tout (à l'exception peut-être des sublimes voitures de collection qu'on croise parfois sur le parking !!!). C'est immense, et tout est pensé intelligemment, jusqu'à la gestion des centaines d'hectares environnants qui s'inscrit dans une démarche écoresponsable où tout est fait pour préserver ce joyau vert.

À Terre Blanche, on se sent tellement bien, au calme.

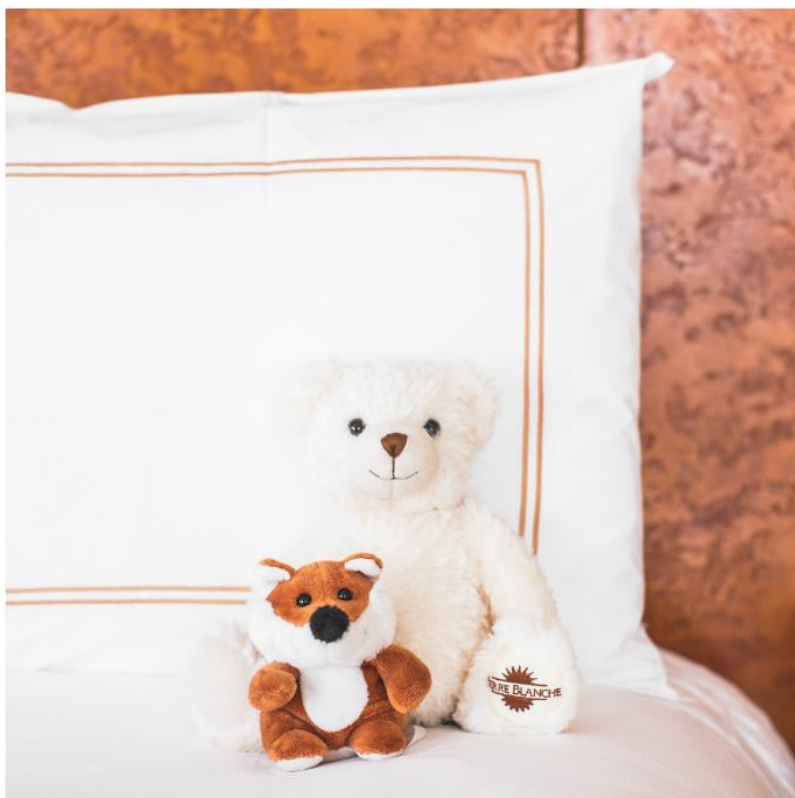
Des points négatifs ? Je n'en vois pas !

Si, un seul !... Notre séjour là-bas était trop court !!!

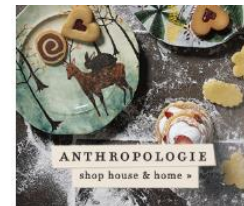
J'espère aussi y retourner quand mon loulou sera un peu plus grand, car les clubs pour enfants (qui permettent aux parents de se ressourcer un peu pendant leurs vacances et d'avoir un peu de temps pour eux : alleluia) ont l'air de proposer des activités géniales (initiation au Golf, au tennis, à l'apiculture, rencontre avec les ânes du domaine, olympiades de jeux de piscine, cinéma le soir, etc.)

Petite info pour celles qui seraient en vacances dans le coin (ou qui ont la chance d'habiter dans cette magnifique région) : Terre Blanche propose, sur réservation, une super offre pour passer une chouette journée détente à la piscine : Accès à la superbe piscine (avec transat, drap de bain et parasol) + formule plat et dessert à la carte au Tousco (le joli resto de la piscine - le burger berbère est trop trop bon !) pour 89 €/personne en ce moment et 59€ en septembre.

Je vous laisse avec mes photos, qui vous plairont j'espère et vous procureront un sentiment d'évasion et de sérénité, proche de celui qu'on ressent lorsqu'on a le bonheur de séjourner à Terre Blanche.

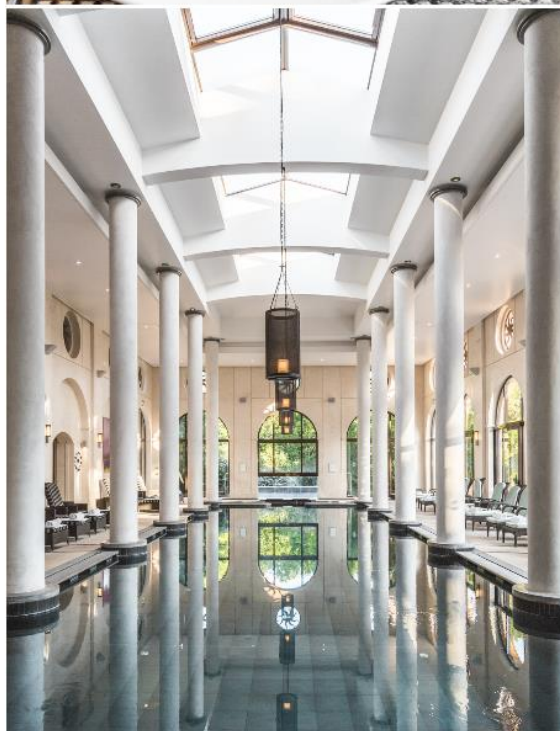


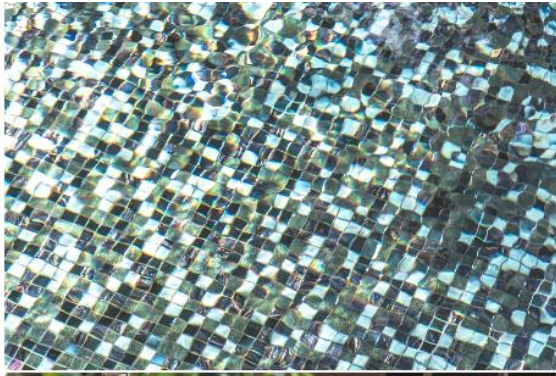
SHOPPING

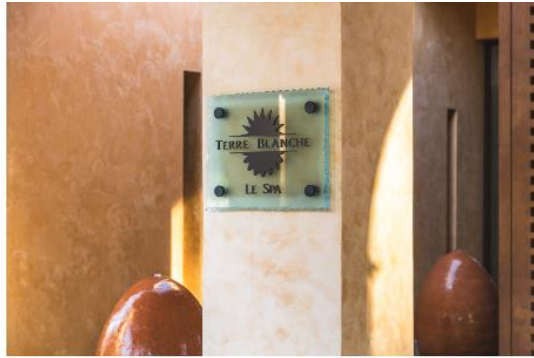






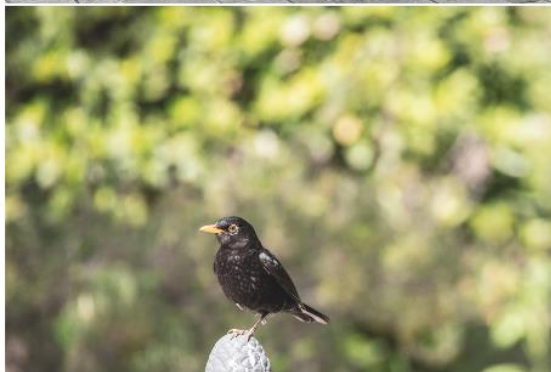














TERRE BLANCHE HOTEL SPA GOLF RESORT****
3100 Route de Bagnoles en Forêt
83440 Tourrettes

* Disclamer : J'ai été invitée par Terre Blanche à découvrir leur superbe établissement, en échange de publications sur mon blog et les réseaux sociaux. Merci à Laure pour l'organisation du séjour et à toute l'équipe de Terre Blanche (notamment Sarah) pour leur charmant accueil.

Credit Photo Pauline PRIVÉZ - photos non libres de droit - ne pas utiliser sans mon autorisation.



Terre Blanche Press Visit - Social Media Activity Report

Thursday 27th – Saturday 29th July 2017

Suzanne Duckett

Instagram: @thisistheantidote

1,523 followers

Twitter: @ThisIsAntidote

3,310 followers

Instagram Activity

Likes: 59



Likes: 21



Likes: 27
Comments: 1





Likes: 23

Comments: 1



Twitter Activity

Tweet 1:





Tweet 2:

 **Suzanne Duckett**
@ThisIsAntidote Follow

Another day, another pukka pool. #provence
#swimtime #sun #healthyholiday terreblanche
[instagram.com/p/BXFgq7ugFmV/](https://www.instagram.com/p/BXFgq7ugFmV/)

3:00 am - 28 Jul 2017

2 Retweets 1 Like 

  2  1 

Tweet 3:

 **Suzanne Duckett**
@ThisIsAntidote Follow

He's in the spa, I'm on the driving range.
Holiday roles reversed... #wellness
#familywellness...
[instagram.com/p/BXIJu6CgwmX/](https://www.instagram.com/p/BXIJu6CgwmX/)

3:37 am - 29 Jul 2017 From Tourrettes, France

6 Likes 

 1   6 


 **Trudi Collister** @fragrantfriend · Jul 29
Replying to @ThisIsAntidote
I love that hotel x

   2 




Tweet 4:





A screenshot of a tweet from Suzanne Duckett (@ThisIsAntidote). The tweet text reads: "The spectacular view from the 11th hole @terre_blanche #golfgoals #femalegolfer #green #nature... instagram.com/p/BXIKGMPgZsv/". The tweet is dated 3:40 am - 29 Jul 2017 and is from Tourrettes, France. It has 1 retweet and 1 like. The interaction bar shows icons for reply, retweet (1), like (1), and direct message.

 **Suzanne Duckett**
@ThisIsAntidote Follow

The spectacular view from the 11th hole
@terre_blanche #golfgoals #femalegolfer
#green #nature...
[instagram.com/p/BXIKGMPgZsv/](https://www.instagram.com/p/BXIKGMPgZsv/)

3:40 am - 29 Jul 2017 From Tourrettes, France

1 Retweet 1 Like 

  1  1 

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Поиск



ГЛАВНАЯ

НОВОСТИ

ЦЕННОСТИ

ТЕХНОПАРК

СТИЛЬ ЖИЗНИ

КУЛЬТУРА

ВЫСОКАЯ КУХНЯ

ВОЯЖ

ГИД

Горячее ► Фестиваль + Фестиваль (<http://www.titanium.lv/festival-festival/>)
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(<http://quintessence-parfums.eu/>)

Персональный гастрономический перформанс

Высокая кухня (<http://www.titanium.lv/tasty/>) July 27, 2017

В этом сезоне гостям прованского курорта **Terre Blanche Hotel Spa Golf Resort** выпала редкая удача: личная дегустация мишленовской кухни со звёздным шефом Филиппом Журденом. Сет из трех блюд готовится под открытым небом в уединённом саду на территории курорта самим мэтром Журденом. Пряный аромат нагретой солнцем земли, лаванды, розмарина и тимьяна идеально дополнит блюда прованской кухни, приготовленные при вас из свежих сезонных продуктов.

Филипп Журден награждён престижным титулом «Лучший Мастер Франции», который трудно заслужить, особенно в гастрономической сфере. Маэстро Журден возглавляет все четыре ресторана курорта, один из которых — Le Faventia — с возвращением шефа в Terre Blanche в 2016 году получил звезду Мишлен. Трудно спорить с универсальным знаком качества, присуждённым автору таких гастрономических жемчужин, как цветки цуккини, фаршированные соусом песто, и фуа-гра с мармеладом и миндальным печеньем – они, кстати, войдут в сет от Филиппа Журдена. Вдохновение мэтр Журден находит в классической прованской кухне, знаменитой калейдоскопом используемых трав, специй и соусов.

Кулинарный перформанс со знаком качества Мишлен в окружении живописной природы Прованса и личное внимание шеф-повара – такой шанс доступен немногим избранным, им стоит воспользоваться! Предложение «Table d'Notes» действует по запросу до октября, в зависимости от занятости мэтра Журдена.

Стоимость сета: 300 Евро с человека (без учёта алкоголя).



(<http://www.bilesuparadize.lv/events/custompage/9/>)




В глубине садов

ПОДРАЖАТЬ ПРОСТОМУ, СОХРАНЯЯ ВНУТРЕННЮЮ СЛОЖНОСТЬ, — ОСОБОЕ ИСКУССТВО, КОТОРЫМ ВЛАДЕЮТ ФРАНЦУЗСКИЕ ОТЕЛИ

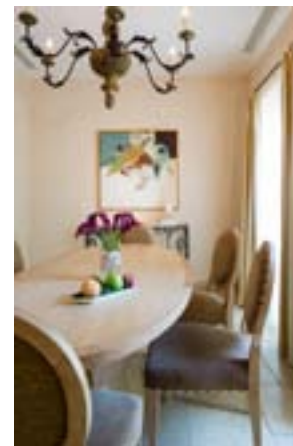
текст ДАНИЛА ГОРСКИЙ

«Дом стоял чуть выше узкой дороги, соединяющей два средневековых горных городка... К нему вела хорошо утоптанная дорожка, бегущая сквозь виноградник, а потом — под сводами старых вишен. Это был настоящий mas, жилище фермера, двести лет назад построенное из местного камня, который за прошедшие годы под влиянием солнца и ветра приобрел волшебный оттенок: средний между бледно-медовым и жемчужно-серым». Так писал про свой французский деревенский дом Питер Мейл в книге «Год в Провансе». Примерно такие же ощущения вызывает Terre Blanche Hôtel Spa Golf Resort. Отель состоит из основного здания и отдельных вилл, и все это весьма смахивает на традиционную прованскую деревню: охристые стены, серый камень, терракотовая плитка, много дерева. Здесь довольно далеко от моря... Хотя как далеко — до

Канн полчаса на машине, невеликий труд. При этом намного легче, чем от побережья, добираться до Вердонского ущелья — места столь же уникального, сколь труднодоступного для обитателей светской полосы морского берега. Но такие бонусы могут и не пригодиться тем, кто оказался в Terre Blanche. Ибо он взял лучшее не только от прованской деревни, но и от самых известных отелей Ривьеры, как бы противоречиво это ни звучало. Вообразите: два 18-луночных поля для гольфа в окружении прованской природы, спа-центр площадью в три с лишним квадратных километра с хаммамом, лакониумом и бассейном плюс четыре ресторана, в которых непросто было бы разобраться, если бы не гид «Мишлен». Начните с Le Faventia: здесь маринованный тунец с ванильным маслом, омар на гриле с тайскими специями и первая мишленовская звезда. 



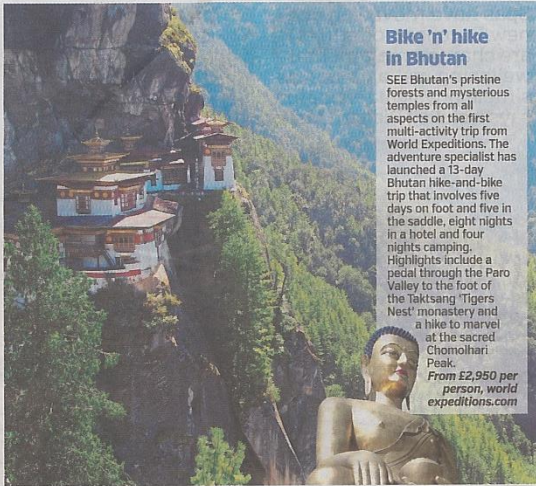
В Провансе неразумно сидеть на месте, поэтому Terre Blanche обеспечивает множество самой разной техники для осмотра местности: электрический велосипед, багги, вертолет и даже планер с инструктором и всем снаряжением.



METRO

Monday, July 31, 2017 METRO 21

Travel | Culture | Adventure **Escape**



Bike 'n' hike in Bhutan

SEE Bhutan's pristine forests and mysterious temples from all aspects on the first multi-activity trip from World Expeditions. The adventure specialist has launched a 13-day Bhutan hike-and-bike trip that involves five days on foot and five in the saddle, eight nights in a hotel and four nights camping. Highlights include a pedal through the Paro Valley to the foot of the Taktsang 'Tigers Nest' monastery and a hike to marvel at the sacred Chomolhari Peak. **From £2,950 per person, worldexpeditions.com**



Hop off on a frog nature trail in the Andes

ECUADOR'S revered Mashpi Lodge, a bastion of steel and glass filled with Philippe Starck bathtubs, has opened a laboratory next door to the 24-room hotel to continue its pioneering research into the local ecosystems. The lab's research

director will also lead guests on nocturnal explorations into the Ciocho cloud forest to hunt for the stunning cock-of-the-rock bird and semi-transparent glass frogs. **From £821 per person per night, including meals, guiding and transfers, mashpilodge.com**

The HOT List

Temples, Northern Lights and Ecuador's fascinating fauna

compiled by LISA SCOTT

Trip Canada's light fantastic

THE clue is in the name at Canada's new Skywatch Lodge & Spa, a remote 36-suite spot that will offer the only five-star Aurora-watching experience in Canada when it opens next month. The hotel, which is now taking bookings through Magnetic North Travel, sits on the edge of the wild Yellowknife Park in the Northwest Territories and boasts a cosy deck with fire pits and offers expeditions on dog sleds and cross-country skis.

From £2,795 per person, based on two sharing (excl flights), magneticnorthtravel.com



Former strip club hotel takes a Broadview

A 126-YEAR-OLD building that used to house a strip club called Jilly's has been transformed into Toronto's newest boutique spot. The Broadview Hotel, which opened last week in the city's blossoming east end, has been given new life by award-winning studio The Design Agency. Each

of the 58 bedrooms has turritables and records curated by local shop The Tiny Record, while bathrooms are filled with plant-based skincare products and crowning the lot is a 360-degree roof terrace.

From £151 per night, thebroadviewhotel.ca

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Spas have moved on and new European offerings are championing mental wellbeing just as much as simple physical relaxation, says a chilled **Richard Mellor**



Sugar the pillar: The grand pool at the Terre Blanche hotel

Cote d'Azur

SOPHROLOGY, for the uninitiated, is a mixture of simple physical and mental exercises that promise optimum health. It could be just shaking your body to release tension or focusing on, say, your favourite calm place. You can give it a go during a two-hour session when Harmony Retreats takes over France's five-star Terre Blanche hotel, found in lovely, lavender-scented Provence. A tension-releasing hypnotherapy alternative is also available but whatever you go for, we highly recommend massage and gentle exercise over two days. Access to the hotel's vitality and infinity pools, sauna and fitness centre is also provided. Designed like a fortified hillside village, Terre Blanche and its Michelin-starred restaurant boast fine vineyard views and is within day-trip distance of the sparkling Med.

Harmony Retreats cost from £590 per person for two days; doubles from £320 per night, en.terre-blanche.com



SPA
SPECIAL

View to a thrill: Put your mind and body at ease in pretty Provence

Put your mind to continental calm

CARA

5 GORGEOUS GOLF ESCAPES

Looking to combine an elegant holiday with some top-quality golf? **Fionn Davenport** shares five dream spots where the quality of the golf matches the luxury of the hotels.



PROVENCE, FRANCE

TERRE BLANCHE

Abundant jasmine and lavender bushes make this not just one of the most beautiful spots in Europe to tee up but likely the most fragrant, too. Sean Connery bought this one-time Provençal family estate in Bagnols-en-Forêt in 1979 with the dream of converting it into a top-class golf resort, a dream realised by subsequent owner Dietmar Hopp. Its 115 five-star suites

and villas are gathered in clusters over 300 hectares of hillside, where the two championship courses designed by The Belfry's Dave Thomas will challenge golfers of all levels. The restaurants include the Michelin-spangled **Le Faventia**, where you might even run into James Bond himself. Suites from €330; green fees from €144. terre-blanche.com



Aer Lingus flies from Dublin to **Marseille** up to four times per week.