

The Escapist



THESE JUST IN! AUGUST'S HOTTEST NEW BEAUTY BUYS PAGE 15

THE long, lazy days of late summer are upon us, and with them the chance to discover a quieter side to the perennially popular Balearic Islands of Ibiza, Mallorca, Menorca and Formentera. Floating peacefully in the brilliant blue Mediterranean, these jewels are home to postcard-worthy beaches, bucolic landscapes and a selection of the continent's most restorative retreats.

Can Ferrereta Mallorca

The second Mallorca hotel from the Soldevila Ferrer family — who also own the urban oasis of Sant Francesc in Palma — Can Ferrereta is a 32-room hideaway set in a meticulously restored 17th-century mansion, with a sleek spa where the treatments use locally grown lavender and citrus fruits. Interiors are designed in a neutral colour palette with accents of untreated wood and local



stone, and bedheads woven from hemp rope by local artisans. Many of the suites have private terraces, some overlooking the 80-foot saltwater pool, shaded by olive and cypress trees. The all-day dining spot and bar, La Fresca, is a go-to spot for colourful salads and chilled rosé at lunchtime.

● Rooms from €315 a night; hotelcanferrereta.com

Santa Ponsa Fontenille Menorca

Relax and recharge at Santa Ponsa, another 17th-century palace-turned-luxury hotel, with slow living at its heart. All the rooms are different, but perhaps

the most striking is the Superior Deluxe with its arched windows, dark hues and antique mirrors to match the Moorish-style fruit and vegetable gardens outside. The impressive spa has three treatment rooms, a hammam, Nordic baths and an underground pool dramatically carved into a centuries-old cistern. In the restaurant, the Catalan chef Albert Riera mixes French and Spanish influences in a menu of delicious tagines, grills, and dishes such as steamed mussels with fennel, saffron and Fontenille white wine.

● Rooms from about £341 a night; lesdomainesdefontenille.com



Cas Gasi cool, Ibiza

Gecko Hotel & Beach Club Formentera

An hour from Ibiza by boat, Formentera is the rising star of the Balearics. Its laid-back, hippy vibe is best encapsulated at Gecko Hotel & Beach Club, a boutique property overlooking the glittering water of Platja de Migjorn, the island's longest beach. This celebrity favourite offers the utmost peace and privacy in its 30 guest rooms, nestled within tranquil palm-filled gardens. The main restaurant is the perfect place for a lunch of fresh seafood and local wine, served to you al fresco as you sink your toes into the powdery sand, before an afternoon siesta on one of the super-comfy loungers by the cobalt pool.

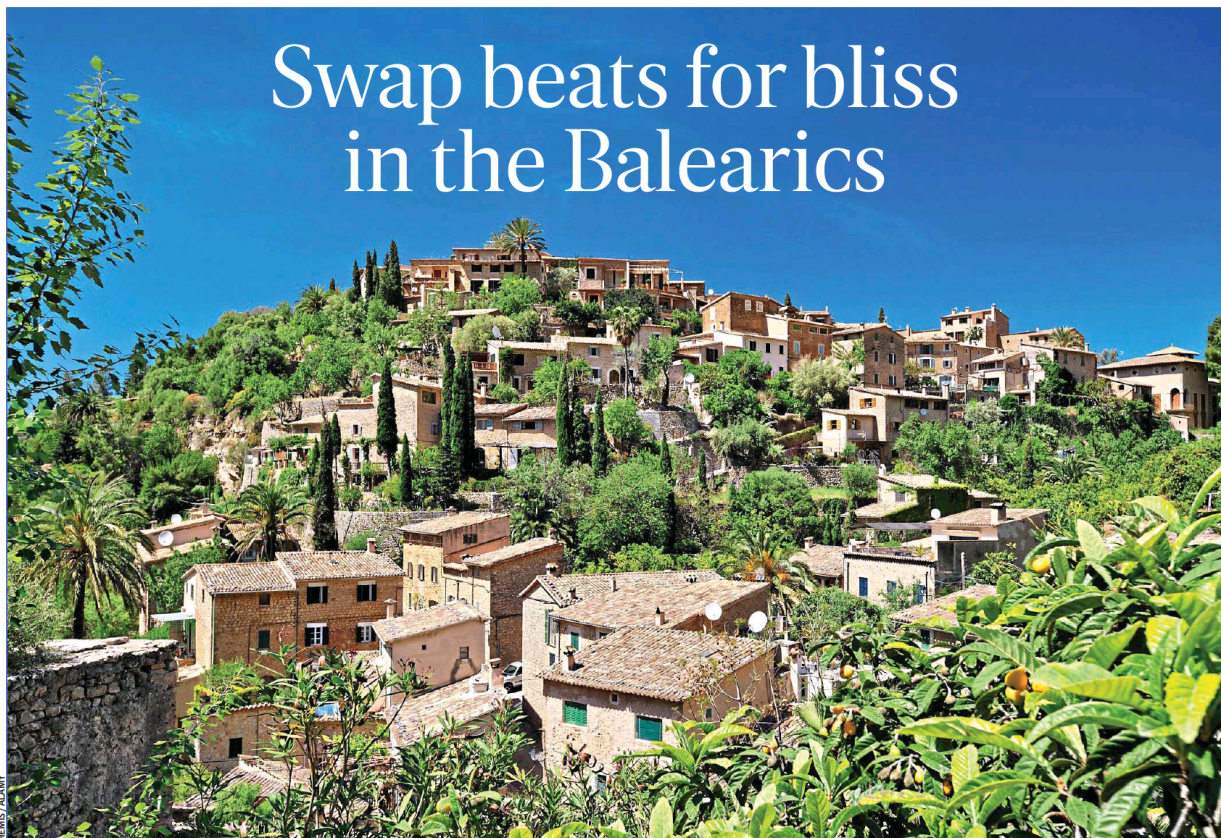
● Rooms from €350 a night; geckobeachclub.com

HOLIDAYS

Late-summer solitude required? *Lucy Halfhead* finds the Spanish party islands that also specialise in serenity

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Swap beats for bliss in the Balearics



Tranquility reigns supreme: the charming hillside village of Delà, in Mallorca's north-west, with its traditional fincas turned into boutique hideaways, remains a favourite with artists, musicians and the literati