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PORTER

TRAVEL

HOW TO PLAN A MAGICAL MALLORCA VACATION, ACCORDING TO THE INSIDERS

LIFESTYLE
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La Residencia, a Belmond hotel, in Deià

The biggest of the Balearic Islands, Mallorca has long wooed visitors and locals alike with its golden sands, gleaming azure coves, rugged mountains and buzzing cityscape. KATIE BERRINGTON asks insiders from three of the island's most magnificent hotels to share their secrets for a Mallorcan itinerary like no other

"Once you've been to Deià, it's always going to be a place to return to" – Cecilie Sheridan, resident curator at La Residencia, a Belmond Hotel, in Deià

My favorite spot is...

"Up in the hills. I like climbing up there to get a little distance from the village and to see it 'fresh'. It's impossible to get tired of Deià. Once you've been to Deià, it's always going to be a place to return to."

La Residencia offers luxurious rooms with traditional Balearic décor, as well as breathtaking views of the surrounding scenery

GANNI
Future embroidered striped ribbed-knit halterneck top

ULTRAVIOLETHAT
Crocheted cotton and raffia-blend bucket hat

ULLA JOHNSON
Camryn pleated cotton-poplin shorts

ASICS
GEL-KAYANO 14 rubber-trimmed canvas and leather sneakers

The island has some fantastic places to eat ...

"[In Deià] we have more restaurants than anything else. Try El Olivo at La Residencia: chef Guillermo Méndez is just wonderful and it's always a delight. There's a very popular bar called Xelini, which is known as the tapas restaurant – it's very informal, with a lovely garden space. Restaurante Sebastian is beautiful, with a brilliant chef. And there's a place that we think of as a pizzeria, Trattoria Italiana, that the locals love."

El Olivo restaurant at La Residencia is a gastronomical icon on the island of Mallorca

Deià is known for its artistic spirit...

"And we like to do temporary seasonal exhibitions at La Residencia's art gallery, Sa Tafona, which translates as 'olive press'. Like so many of the houses on the island, the olive press is the largest room at the hotel, making it a very sought-after space – and perfect as a gallery. Be sure to also take a walk through the village: I have local artist friends who open the doors to their studios so you can see them at work."

Something only the locals know is...

"If you want to see the beach cove at its best, go any time from mid-September. It has wonderful walk-through olive groves and the path keeps dividing. People always say to me, 'Point me in the direction of the beach' – and I say, 'Just go downhill!' It's a very special little cove, but it gets so overrun in mid-summer that it's difficult to enjoy it – and the heat is something else, too."

JEAN PAUL GAULTIER
Printed swimsuit

ALAÏA
Pleated wool maxi skirt

GIANVITO ROSSI
Yasmine embellished raffia-trimmed suede sandals

LIÉ STUDIO
The Emma gold-plated cuff

Deià's cove, and its crystal-clear waters, is just a short (downhill) walk from the village center

To observe the best view...

"There are beautiful walks along the coast (best enjoyed out of season) that climb up into the hills. However, while the mountains may look innocuous, they can be quite dangerous, so you need a guide. Within Deià itself, the walk to the church is magnificent: you can see so far in so many directions from the top of the hill, down on to the little village and out to sea at the same time. Because Deià is on many levels, just turning a corner can open up a whole new view – even though I've lived here for so long, I'm still constantly surprised."

Cala s'Almunia melds fishing-village vibes with a glittering seascape

"The views are hard to forget" – Pilar Garcia-Nieto, interior design director at Finca Serena, Montuïri, and The Lodge, *close to the Formentor coast*

For a once-in-a-lifetime experience, you need to...

"Let yourself go, explore the walks along the inland dry-stone paths, enjoy the gastronomy and the weather. And if you do it by bike, it's even better."

The best place to shop is...

"Palma. It has an enormous offering of shops, from those that are present in any high-class city, to small boutiques with a lot of charm. I recommend Gordiola, a company that has been making family-blown glass since 1719. Its cruet sets and glassware [collections] are marvelous – I would take them all."

WARDROBE.NYC
Cropped ribbed stretch-cotton tank

LOEWE
+ Paula's Ibiza Puzzle Fold medium leather-trimmed raffia tote

GIVENCHY
Striped cotton and linen-blend pants

ANCIENT GREEK SANDALS
Ikesia suede slingback sandals

The local delicacies to try are...

"Undoubtedly the handmade *ensaimada* [a traditional sweet pastry] – and the best place to buy and taste it is at Can Salem, very close to Finca Serena. You can enjoy it every morning at our hotel breakfast, too, as Can Salem supplies it daily. I also recommend Ca's Patró March – the best spot near the sea. It's very traditional, authentic and chic."

Set on a sprawling 40-hectare estate in the heart of the island, Finca Serena is an exclusive hotel with all the five-star trimmings. Expect sun-drenched daybeds for post-pool lounging, farm-to-fork dining and stylishly pared-back interiors

To observe the best view...

"[Head to] Cabo Formentor for vistas that are hard to forget: the sea and Serra de Tramuntana [mountains] together – what else can you ask for? The elevated views over Pla de Mallorca from Finca Serena are also stunning."

Something only the locals know is...

"[Where] the difficult-to-access coves and beaches with crystal-clear turquoise waters are... Mallorcans keep [them] secret so they can continue to enjoy the sound of the sea."

CELINE EYEWEAR
Triomphe oversized square-frame tortoiseshell acetate sunglasses

HUNZA G
Gina seersucker bikini

JOHANNA ORTIZ
Kenè printed cotton-voile pareo

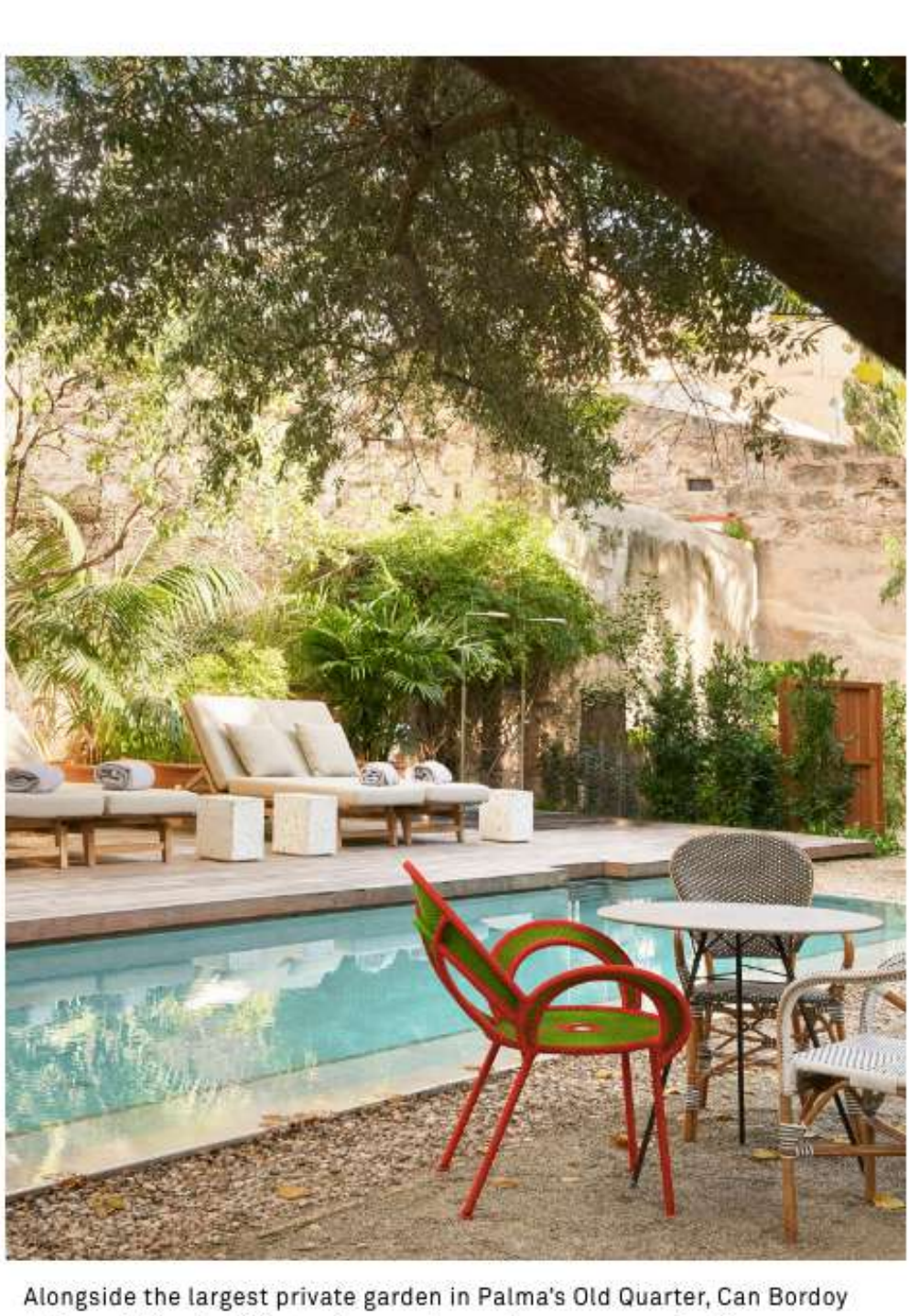
BY PARIAH
+ NET SUSTAIN The Albert, Essential Stacking and Triple Eternity set of three gold, 14-karat recycled gold, agate and laboratory-grown diamond rings

Explore the picturesque fishing port of Cala Figuera and board a boat for the day

"The higher you go, the more spectacular the view" – Mikael Hall, owner of Can Bordoy, Palma

My favorite spot is...

"There are many, but if I have to choose one, it's a seat on one of the benches along Borne, especially in the cooler season. You are in the heart of this wonderful medieval town, but it is alive – and there you are in the middle of this greenery, just relaxing and enjoying the scenery. Also, the garden of Can Bordoy, because it is in the center of old town Palma de Mallorca, but it feels like you are in the countryside, with birds singing and bees buzzing."


Alongside the largest private garden in Palma's Old Quarter, Can Bordoy delivers intimate dining options and a contemporary aesthetic

The local delicacies to try are...

"*Pa amb oli* [bread with olive oil] with a local wine – go to either Mercat de l'Olivar or Mercat de Santa Catalina. Saturdays are lovely to visit the latter to enjoy some fresh fried fish and a glass of white Verdejo."

FARM RIO
Night Jungle printed satin maxi dress

VALENTINO GARAVANI
VLOGO gold-tone, enamel and crystal earrings

LOEFFLER RANDALL
Willajo woven suede sandals

STAUD
Mini Moon leather-embellished raffia shoulder bag

For a once-in-a-lifetime experience, you need to...

"Put on your hiking shoes and walk one of many trails in the fantastic Tramuntana mountains – a UNESCO World Heritage site."

Don't miss golden hour at Cap de Formentor for an unforgettable sunset

To observe the best view...

"Go to the Tramuntana mountains; the higher you go, the more spectacular the view."

Something only the locals know is...

"That the best time [to be] in Mallorca is during low season, from mid-October to March."

Beat the midday blaze with a dip in one of the island's gin-clear bays

"Hidden coves are the beauty of the island" – Miguel Garcia Feliz, managing director of Can Ferrereta, Santanyi

My favorite spot is...

"The south-east region of the island, mainly because of the incredible light there. One of my favorite spots is Cala s'Almunia – an amazing cove ideal for bathing, with turquoise waters and surrounding cliffs. It's the perfect place for the first swim of the day – go very early in the morning if you like being alone; it's the best feeling ever."

For a once-in-a-lifetime experience, you need to...

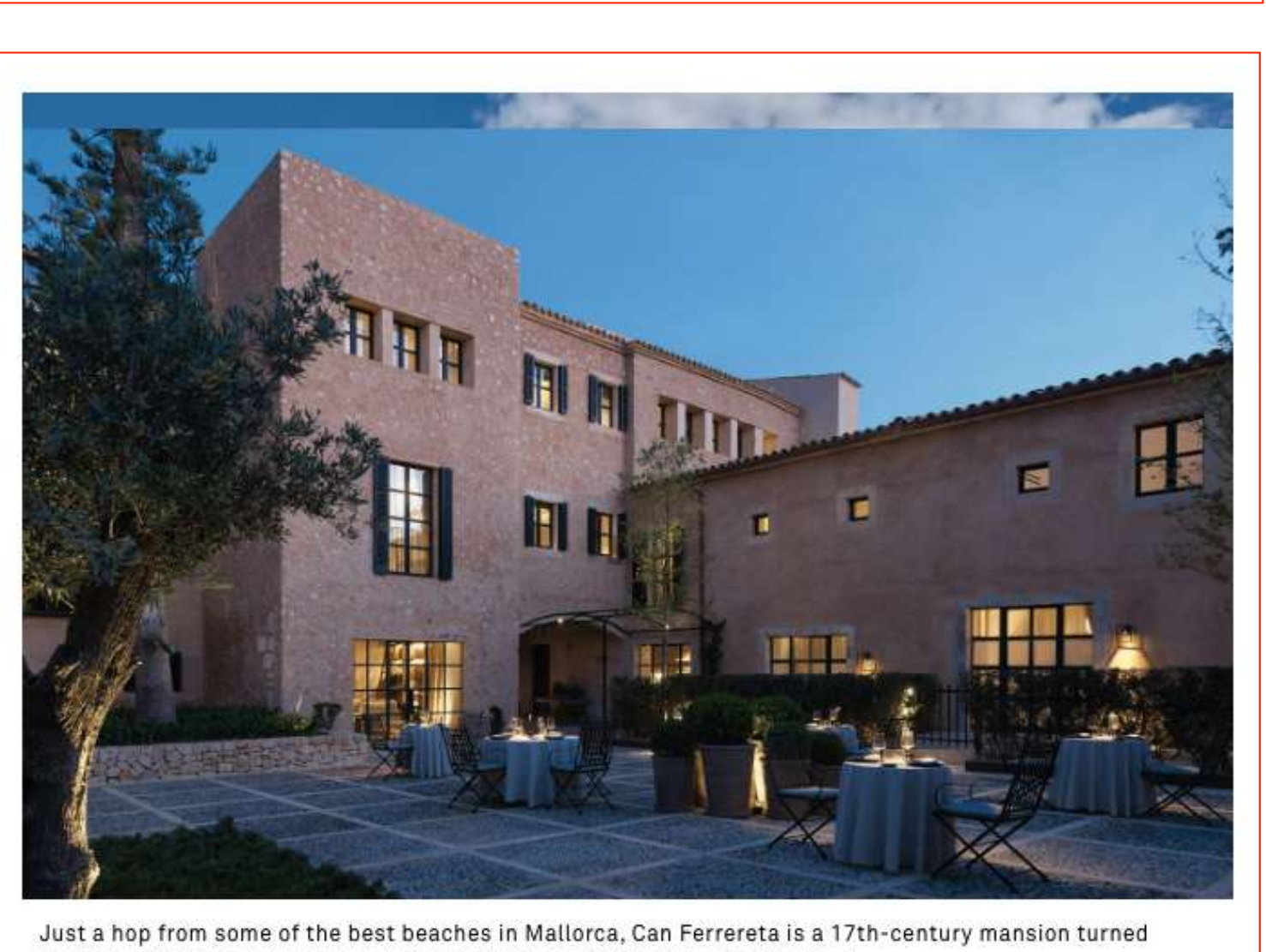
"Get out of your comfort zone and discover the countless villages on the island – the ones on the coast, but also inland. And don't plan your vacation purely based on what a guide dictates!"

To observe the best view...

"See a sunset from Cap de Formentor."

The local delicacies to try are...

"Grilled-squid rice, with fennel and aioli – our Can Ferrereta chef, Carlos García, cooks a wonderful version in the house restaurant, Ocre. Also, *ensaimada* [a local pastry], together with *sobrasada* [a spicy cured sausage] – this is a delicious mix of sweet and salty. It doesn't get more Mallorcan than that."


Just a hop from some of the best beaches in Mallorca, Can Ferrereta is a 17th-century mansion turned modern hotel that serves up memorable alfresco dining and a pristine pool

Something only the locals know is...

"The location of hidden coves... that's the beauty of the island. Be adventurous, walk, and forget about following your phone. Some things are too good to be shared."

BRUNELLO CUCINELLI EYEWEAR
D-frame acetate sunglasses

KHAITE
Selee ribbed-knit tank

ALIX OF BOHEMIA
Lyra floral-print crinkled-silk maxi skirt

MARNI
Basket small cotton-blend trimmed raffia tote

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