

FRANCE

Travel • Food & Wine • Culture • Holidays

February 2021 • Issue 269

Breton The search for paradise begins on Brittany's beautiful island

Belle



WIN!

A HOLIDAY
for four on the
Île de Ré!

GREEN LIVING

The rise of vertical gardens in French cities

PEAK PYRENEES

Top resorts for skiers, families and spa lovers

MARTIAN MARVEL

Discover an otherworldly landscape in Occitanie

HOME COOKING

Master the art of French baking in an online class

£4.50



CHÂTEAU CHIC



PHOTOS: JEROME CORREIA/GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO/EXTRAVAGANTNI WIKIMEDIA; MAX LABELLE

CHÂTEAU LA CHENEVIÈRE

In the rolling Normandy countryside, between the medieval town of Bayeux and the D-Day landing beaches, Château La Chenevière is a peaceful haven far away from the stresses of day-to-day life.

Awarded 2020 Best Countryside Hotel in Europe by Small Luxury Hotels of the World, the 18th-century, five-star hotel offers 29 classic yet contemporary rooms. Surrounded by beautiful gardens, there's also a charming swimming pool set alongside the orangerie, which houses Le Petit Jardin

restaurant. We dined in its pretty garden during our stay in the summer (the fine dining restaurant Le Botaniste was temporarily closed due to the coronavirus epidemic), and sampled fresh seasonal dishes such as *oeuf parfait aux lardons*, *crème de blettes et écume d'ail*.

A sundowner on the terrace – the Zanzibar's special Gin Normand C'est Nous – was the perfect pre-dinner *apéro*. Guests ranged from Americans living in London enjoying a weekend getaway to French families celebrating a special occasion, along with Brits like us, delighted

to be spending time in France again. From strolling around the 12-hectare gardens and *potager*, from where the chef sources many seasonal products, to taking a dip in the pool, playing a game of tennis, or simply revelling in a great night's sleep in one of the plush bedrooms, this is a place you don't want to leave.

But if you do, with the Bayeux Tapestry and Omaha Beach close by, you certainly won't run out of things to do.

Rooms from €223
Menus from €57
(Le Botaniste) and
€19 (Le Petit Jardin)
lachenievriere.com

KAREN TAIT



Accommodation NEWS

AN ICE SURPRISE

Forget the North Pole this year – try an igloo village in Montchavin La Plagne in the Alps instead. Take a short snowshoe hike to your frozen abode where you'll enjoy a well-deserved *fondue Savoyarde* before bedding down for a night like no other. A night's stay costs from €139 including equipment rental, half board and a guide.
montchavin.evolution2.com/en/winter/igloo-quinzy

TRIBE VIBE

In Paris' 17th *arrondissement*, live like a local in the new Tribe Batignolles. The hotel is tailored for the affordable luxury trend, attracting young professionals and families with a range of amenities including a lively social hub and co-working space, leafy terrace and coffee shop/cocktail bar. Single rooms from €85.
all.accor.com/hotel/B6S4/index.en.shtml

TROPEZ TREASURE

After three years of renovations, the Château de la Messardière in Saint-Tropez is set to join the prestigious Airelles brand in January 2021. The renovations have seen the hotel's room count decrease to 75 spacious bedrooms, as well as the refurbishment of all public spaces including the swimming pool and restaurants. Airelles is also due to open Le Grand Contrôle, the new hotel at Versailles, which has had its launch put back until 2021. Rooms from €750 a night.
messardiere.com

