

That thatched suite **on stilts over a tropical turquoise lagoon**... That gleaming **white sugar-cube with blue shutters** on a tiny Greek island... Whatever the fantasy stay you've got in your head, we know how to **make it real**. Over the next 15 pages, you'll find all the **inside tips** and addresses you need — it's time to wake up to your...

dream hotels





The looked-fab-on-screen movie-star hotel

Where would *Pretty Woman* be without the Beverly Wilshire? Or *Lost in Translation* without the Park Hyatt Tokyo? And why wouldn't you want to stay where the on-screen action happened? Fold up your 3D glasses because you can — these one-off wonders are real.

Make the dream come true

● Dodge movie-themed packages. Hotels will always capitalise on their silver-screen status with marked-up prices. Take the 'Be the Bond' package at the **Taj Lake Palace** in Udaipur, for example (aka *Octopussy's* badass lakeside retreat). It includes two nights, Martinis on arrival, a cruise of Lake Pichola and a black-tie dinner for £1,302pp. Fun, but pricey. Put the experience together yourself and save a bundle (00 91 294 242 8800, tajhotels.com; doubles from £181, room only).

● Ask the right people and you can get the movie-star hotel *and* the movie-star room. Room 414 at **Hotel Degli Orafi** in Florence delivers the actual view from *A Room with a View* (00 39 055 26622, hoteldeglorafai.it; doubles from £111, B&B). Or room 623 at the

InterContinental Carlton Cannes was Grace Kelly's suite in *To Catch a Thief* (00 33 4 9306 4006, intercontinental-carlton-cannes.com; from £1,105, room only; pictured top right). Real places, real wow factor. Ask front-desk staff for the right room when you book.

● Sniff out the less obvious film sets and you can bag a bargain. Contemporary, little-known **Juvel Landscape Hotel** in the wilds of Norway doubled as the hip, glassy compound in sci-fi flick *Ex Machina* — #architectureporn — and has doubles from just £257, B&B (00 47 950 32010, juvel.com; bottom left).

● Follow the gossip sites and stay ahead of the crowd; we like tmz.com, popbitch.com and perezhilton.com for celebrity hotel spots. Our spies tell us the Jolie-Pitt clan have recently vacated **Phum Baitang**, a ravishing new eco-lodge near Siem Reap, following the wrap of Angie's Netflix saga *First They Killed My Father*. Bona-fide Hollywood gold (00 855 6396 1111, phumbaitang.com; doubles from £250, room only). You heard it here first... *Leo Bear*

The dazzling-white Greek island sugar cube

White walls basking in that clear, classical light against an immaculate blue sea and sky... In the Greek islands, stress melts away as you kick off your shoes, pull on your cozzie, and slip into the infinity pool with those caldera views (yes, the ones you've seen in all the photos). If days here are lovely, the evenings are divine: sink into a cushy terrace sofa, ouzo in hand, and watch the sun go down in a crimson prelude to the starry, starry night.

Make the dream come true

● Accept no substitutes — aim for the Cyclades, birthplace of the sugar-cube style. Mykonos has the covetable direct flights and literally hundreds of designer Cycladic hotels — but rarely for less than £150 a night. Instead, take a domestic flight or ferry from Athens to Milos, and you can have similar style (and reams more tranquillity) for much less: cubist **Perla Rooms** on the beach outside the fishing village

of Pollonia does the trick and comes with air-conditioning and wi-fi (00 30 22870 41432, perlaramos.gr; doubles from £40, room only).

● Avoid July and August — an easy way to save money. Go in April, May, September or October, when prices plummet by 50 per cent — nearly all hotels are small, and don't want empty rooms (it's worth ringing up to ask for their 'best price'). At the swanky five-star **Aegialis** on Amorgos, off-season specials include free use of the thalassotherapy spa (00 30 22850 73393, amorgos-aegialis.com; doubles from £84, B&B).

● Too expensive with kids? Don't pay for kids' clubs: in child-friendly Greece, proximity to a gently shelving sandy beach is all they need. Naxos has some great ones, and the **Naxos Kavos**, immersed in Mediterranean gardens, is only a 10-minute walk from one of the best

(00 30 22850 23355, kavos-naxos.com; doubles from £70, room only; apartments sleeping four from £110).

● Since sunset here is almost the whole point, make sure your balcony faces west. Cliffside **Anemomilos** on Folegandros, a short hop from Santorini, has spine-tingling sunsets and free goodies, including complimentary flip-flops (00 30 22860 41309, anemomilosapartments.com; doubles from £118, B&B; pictured).

● Put in the legwork. If you're willing to put up with, say, 100 extra steps to get to your room, you can have Santorini's swoon-inducing caldera views without blowing the kids' inheritance: **Scirocco's** spacious studios have it all, and a pool, at a quarter the price of its neighbours (00 30 22860 22855, scirocco-santorini.com; doubles from £60, B&B). *Dana Facaros* >



The lovers' Indian Ocean over-water lagoon villa

Scorching rays, sleek sunbeds, and a ladder from your back door into an ocean dotted with starfish and reef-tip sharks... Pack your snorkel — a lagoon villa in the Maldives is as close as it gets to paradise.

Make the dream come true

● There's no getting around the price tag — even the cheapest start at about £450 per night. But you can mix bling with budget digs. The **Charming Holiday Lodge** has doubles from £40 a night, B&B (00 960 965 8363, charmingholidaylodge.com) and is within spitting distance of the Shangri-La Villingili (pictured) — so you can scrimp one week and splurge on the other.

● If you're not willing to rough it, avoid high season (our winter, Nov–April). It's hot all-year-round anyway and there's no guarantee of dry weather because it's the Tropics.

● Don't assume a quick jaunt is cheapest — many resorts throw in extra nights if you stay longer (at sleek Huvafen Fushi, get seven for the price of five; 00 960 664 4222, peraquum.com/huvafenfushi). Resorts that are owned and run by Maldivians tend to be better value, too; try Sun Siyam resorts, for instance. They might not have Kelly Hoppen furnishings, but ultimately the islands are all the same. **Sun Aqua Vilu Reef** has water villas from £420, B&B (00 960 676 0011, sunaqua.com/vilureef).

● Go all-inclusive. Food and drink costs a bomb out there because everything is flown in. **Constance Moofushi** has chic water villas from £490 all-in — not bad when you consider its sister resort, **Constance Halaveli**, costs £540, B&B (020 3328 7830, constancehotels.com). Book through a tour operator and rates drop even more. Kuoni (01306 856754, kuoni.co.uk) has seven nights all-in at Constance Moofushi from £2,401pp, with flights.

● Be ready for the reality — over-water villas can be more cramped than you might have dreamt. Consider a beach villa if you don't want to greet your neighbours every time you go out. **Leo Bear** ■