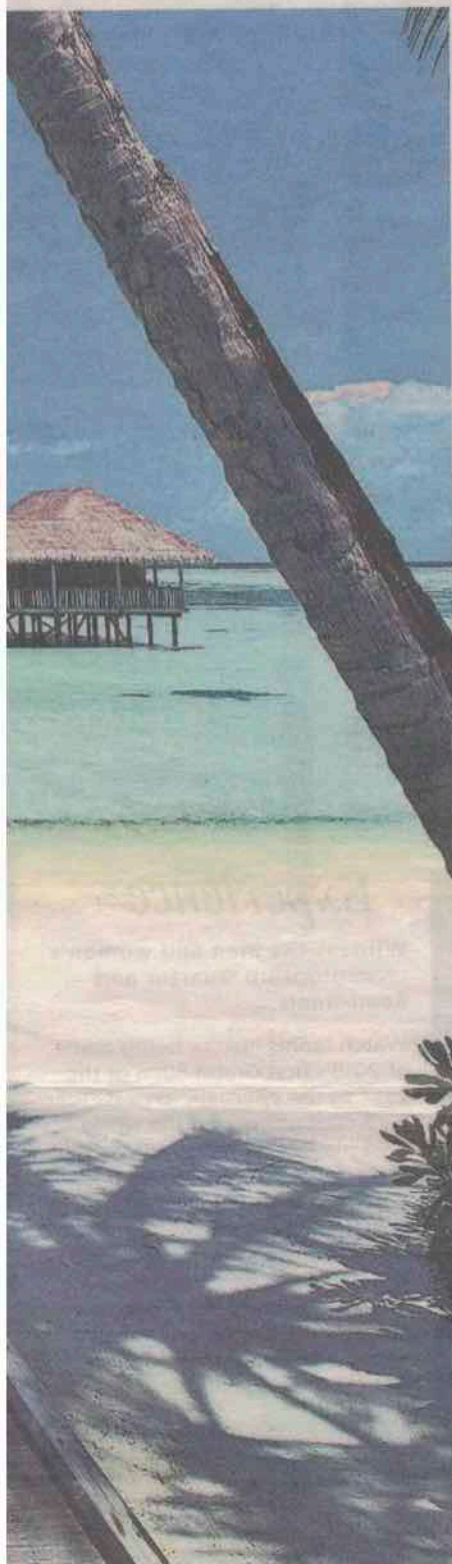


Travel experts pay to stay



The NoMad in New York, chosen by Nick Jones



Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons in Oxfordshire, chosen by Michael Caines

breakfast in the Hôtel du Palais feels like being safely on the bridge of the *Titanic* with the waves of the Atlantic breaking over the cliff-top and the lighthouse bravely flashing in the distance."

Details One night's B&B at the East End Arms costs from £110 (01590 626223, eastendarms.co.uk). One night room-only at the Hôtel du Palais costs from about £310 (00 33 5 59 41 64 00, hotel-du-palais.com)

Joel Cadbury owner, Bel & The Dragon country inns

UK Blakes, Chelsea, London "It is very difficult to be objective about a UK hotel at the moment because we have just opened our own in Surrey. If I had to pick another on English soil, I think that it would have to be Blakes. My wife and I spent our wedding night there and, even after all these years, the creative genius of Anouska Hempel remains without equal."

Abroad The Cuq en Terrasses, southwest France "A stunning little countryside hotel between Toulouse and Carcassonne in France, the Cuq en Terrasses is open for six months of the year. It has a handful of bedrooms and a superb restaurant in what I believe to be the most beautiful countryside in Europe."

Details One night's B&B at Blakes costs from £340 (blakeshotels.com). One night room only at the Cuq en Terrasses costs from €85 (00 33 5 63 82 54 00, sawdays.co.uk)

Michael Caines chef and hotelier

UK Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, Oxfordshire "This is my all-time favourite for its blend of luxury, picturesque setting, hospitality and wonderful food and service. It offers a fantastic guest experience all round; Raymond Blanc is a true pioneer of country house hotels."

Abroad The Royal Palm in Mauritius "There's an idyllic beach and excellent dining. It's a slice of paradise with outstanding service — and is very family-friendly too."

Details One night room-only at Le Manoir costs from £545 (01844 278881, manoir.com). One night room-only at the Royal Palm costs from £676 (00 230 209 8300, royalpalm-hotels.com)

Laila Ram co-founder, i-escape

UK The Pig in Brockenhurst, Hampshire "It has delicious fresh food, all home-grown, foraged or sourced locally. There are cosy lounges with crackling

feel like private guests. Taking us on a scenic drive through the villages, ending in sundowners by the lake, the highlight of our trip to India." One night's B&B at the Four



history — and it's right in the heart of one of my favourite cities. The staff are so gracious and welcoming."

Details One night's B&B at Lympstone Manor costs from £305 (01395