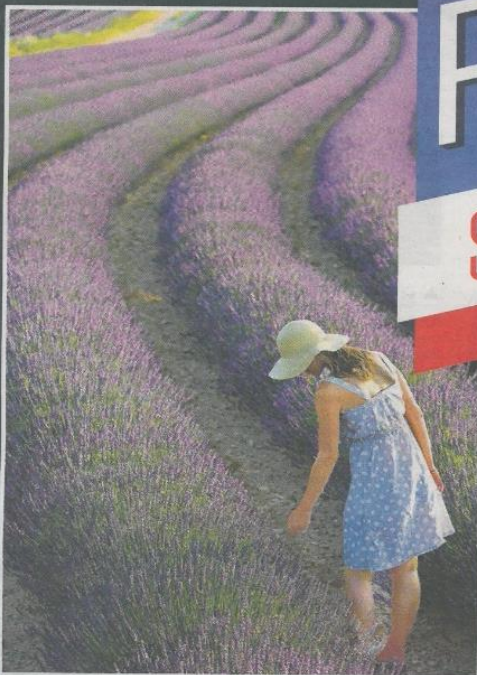
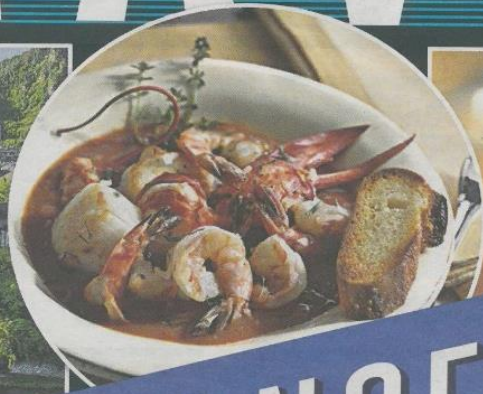
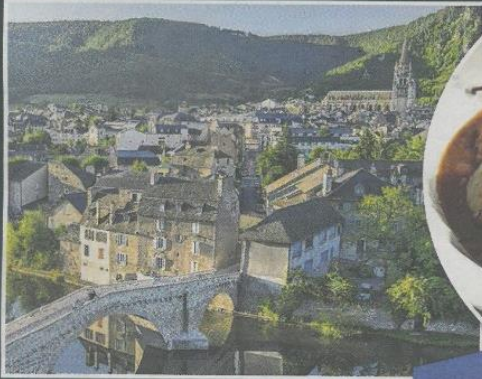
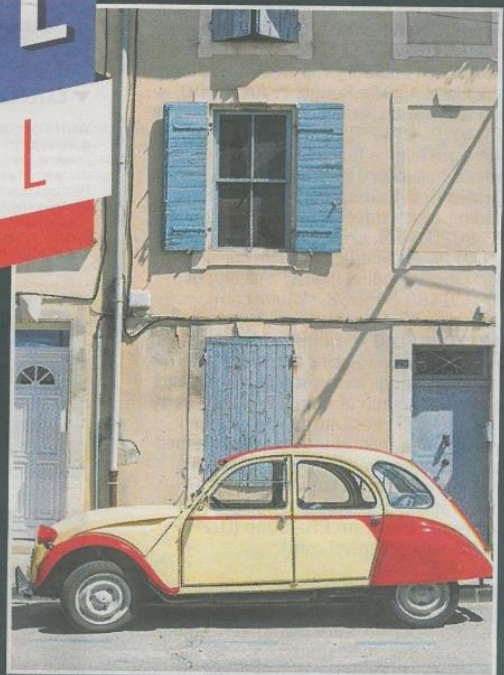


TRAVEL



FRANCE SPECIAL



Where to get
a real taste
of the world's
favourite
destination
11-page guide

**SORRY, I DON'T
SPEAK 'GOOGLESE**

Mangled words and funny looks with
the newest translation app | p4

**WE'RE HERE
TO HELP**

Introducing Mark Frary, our new
holiday agony uncle | p6

**SLEEP YOUR WAY
INTO THE CLUB**

The exclusive London bars with cool
bedrooms upstairs | p10

FRANCE
SPECIAL

HOTELS

1 FOR FAMILIES
HOTEL DE LA VINOTIERE, BRITTANY

"Are we nearly there yet?" It should be a bearable inquiry if you're only driving as far as the pretty fishing village of Le Conquet, west of Brest. This 16th-century merchant's house was renovated with an eye to the family market, so the decor is comfy and cheerful: exposed sandstone walls and shutters that gain character from regular bashing. After a tough sandcastle-building session, the hotel has the best teasop in town. Cakes all round, then.

Family suites for four from £114, B&B; 00 33 2 98 89 17 79, lavinotiere.com

2 FOR ROMANTICS
LE ROYAL MONCEAU, PARIS

Even if you're wearing Louboutins, the Arc de Triomphe is an easy stroll away, but who wants to venture out when there's a discreetly lit corner of the superstylish Bar Long with your name on it? Philippe Starck's design is typically whimsical — check out the oversized teapot in the terrace garden and the wooden elk grazing on the landing. The Michelin-starred French and Italian food is delicious, and all the more memorable when eaten alfresco on balmy nights. There's an excellent spa with a 75ft pool and a private cinema for snuggling up in front of classic movies. Some of the rooms have TVs concealed behind sliding mirrors, and guitars with which to serenade your beloved.

Doubles from £476, B&B; 00 33 1 42 99 88 00, leroyalmonceau.com

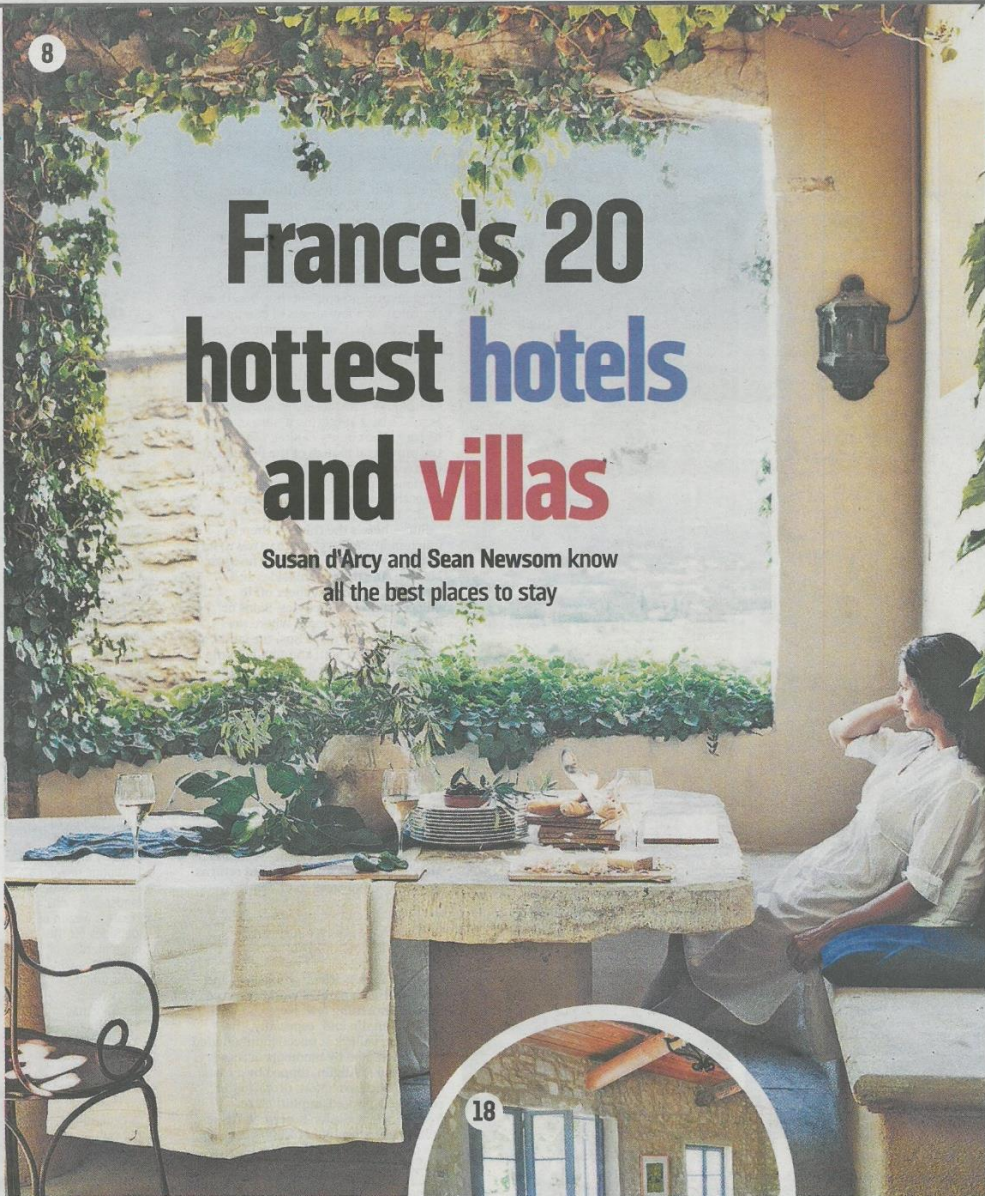
3 FOR FASHIONISTAS
HOTEL DU PETIT MOULIN, PARIS

The designer Christian Lacroix has treated this 17-room boutique in the Marais like a personal doll's house. It's no-holds-barred flamboyant, with individually styled rooms: choose from mock-Tudor mood-board, toile de Jouy, 1960s-inspired boudoir or sci-fi den. The hotel is in the shell of a 17th-century *boulangerie*, which is as close as its fashion-forward guests want to get to food, so don't expect anything as practical as a restaurant.

Doubles from £190, B&B; 00 33 1 42 74 10 10, hotelpetitmoulinparis.com

4 FOR THE DESIGN-CONSCIOUS
CHATEAU DE LA RESLE, BURGUNDY

This place outside Chablis is to B&Bs what Lionel Messi is to strikers. The *café au lait* exterior of the 17th-century manor house looks cosily conservative — think *oeil-de-boeuf* windows and white shutters — so the interiors come as a seismic shock. They have been given a dazzling 21st-century makeover, with imaginative furniture and contemporary art worthy of the



France's 20 hottest hotels and villas

Susan d'Arcy and Sean Newsom know all the best places to stay

18

smartest Shoreditch loft. In fact, the look is so desirable that the chateau has created its own design label. Doubles from £155, B&B; 00 33 6 86 11 29 22, chateaudelaresle.com

5 FOR SPA LOVERS
LES SOURCES DE CAUDALIE, AQUITAINE

Thalassotherapy is the traditional way to spa in these parts, but those

hydrotherapy jets can feel like a date with a water cannon. Set within the Château Smith Haut Lafitte vineyard, Les Sources de Caudalie favours *vinotherapie*, with antioxidant-rich grapes the main ingredient for skin-softening baths in wine barrels and anti-ageing facials. Meals are taken in a former orangery, overlooking the lake and the vine-striped slopes.

Doubles from £230, B&B; 00 33 5 57 83 83 83, www.sources-caudalie.com. Original Travel has two nights from £795pp, B&B, including flights and car hire (020 3582 4990, originaltravel.co.uk)

6 FOR BUDGET
MAMA SHELTER, LYONS

The Mama Shelter microchain has proved that high concept and low