# SOVEREIGN The fine art of holiday making

For an introduction to your personal Trusted Adviser call 01293 831179\*

### or visit sovereign.com

We are open seven days a week including evenings - see sovereign.com for details.

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### The magazine from SOVEREIGN

Introducing the Seychelles • Our pick of the best hotel spas • Extended family holidays

# Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of Arrival. The New Year is always a busy time for us here at Sovereign, as the cold weather, post-Christmas slump and back-to-work blues get everyone thinking about escaping to the sunshine.

Luckily, we've got some fantastic features to help inspire your next getaway. Migrate south to the beautiful beaches of the Seychelles (p.28) or perhaps stay closer to home with a short break in magical Morocco (p.15).

Can't quite decide where you fancy heading? Flip to page 24 and read up on our new cruise and stay holidays – you could be touring the Greek islands, sailing around the Bay of Naples or gliding along Croatia's Dalmatian coast in no time.

When something catches your eye, give one of our Trusted Advisers a call to start planning.

Enjoy!

E Lar

Helen Adamson Managing Director



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# What's hot for **2018**

Want to know what's looking hot in travel for the year ahead? Here's the inside track...

# Hot off the press

Move aside Dubai, there is a new Middle Eastern destination on everyone's lips. New to the Sovereign programme is Oman, an Arabian beauty with an extraordinary landscape of sandy dunes, soaring mountains, vast canyons and oasis-like wadis. Head out into the rugged mountains of Jabal Akhdar, or make for the capital, Muscat, where one of the world's most beautiful mosques stands.



### Croatia calling

Croatia has soared in the popularity stakes over the past couple of years and it's not hard to see why. Holidaymakers are being lured by the country's historic towns and cities, UNESCO-awarded sites, breathtaking beaches and spectacular national parks.

The short flight time (UK flights touch down in under three hours) is also a bonus, plus Croatia's not part of the euro zone, making those afternoon cocktails and seafront suppers even more appealing.

### Take the family

Family holidays are going big in 2018, with parents, kids, grandparents and even aunts and uncles joining the gang. Hotels are making it easy for bigger groups to all stay under one roof comfortably, too, with luxe villas set within the hotel grounds.

Families can enjoy the facilities of a hotel with all the added space and home comforts of a villa. Granny and grandad could be in the private pool with the kids while mum heads to the spa, the whole family can sit down to a laid-back meal on the terrace (or wander down to the hotel's restaurant if no-one fancies cooking), and adults can uncork a bottle of wine in the lounge after the kids have gone to bed for the night.

Turn to page 9 for more on holidaying with extended family.



#### All aboard

Freedom, adventure and a whole lot of style crewed yacht charters are new for us for 2018, and we think they're going to prove to be a big hit. The yachts themselves provide a serious taste of luxury, with en-suite cabins, al fresco dining decks and gourmet meals cooked to order by your private chef (expect to have the most Instagrammable of holiday snaps).

As for the experience of taking to the water, one moment you could be mooring up in the Bay of Naples, the next you could be sitting on deck watching the sun set with a glass of your favourite wine. Not a bad way to spend a week...

### Greece is the word

Greece has always been a firm favourite, but each year we tend to see a new island or strip of coast that people have got the hots for. For 2018, it's the islands of Santorini, Kefalonia and Zakynthos that have got people talking.

With a gorgeous colour scheme of blue and white, and views so unbelievable photos don't do them justice. Santorini is the perfect hotspot for a romantic break. Then there's Kefalonia. Often overlooked in favour of its northern neighbour, Corfu, Kefalonia's unspoilt landscape is attracting lovers of the outdoors, while its upmarket yet low-key towns are stealing the attention away from traditional glitz-and-glamour spots like St-Tropez.

Head south of Kefalonia and you have Zakynthos, an island that's shaken off its party reputation with the help of an influx of luxury hotels (and one of the most photogenic beaches in Greece).

### Vintage stays

Some things are better a little vintage and that is definitely the case with Paradores - unique, historic hotels scattered across Spain. Stays at these characterful properties (we're talking the likes of medieval castles and Renaissance palaces) come as part of our exciting new itineraries, one taking you to the cultural cities of Andalucia, and the other to the rugged landscapes of northern Spain.

The Andalucia itinerary is an eight-day loop, taking in the Moorish palaces of Granada, Seville and Cordoba. You'll also stay in Parador de Ronda, which balances on the edge of a 300-foot gorge.

Head for the north and you'll be journeying through Rioja country, with stops at Olite, Argomaniz and Hondarribia.



#### Daios Cove Luxury Resort & Villas, Crete

With the hotel's new Premium All-Inclusive offer, enjoy a dedicated concierge service, complimentary meals, premium branded drinks, signature cocktails, plus a whole host of other benefits.

7 nights All Inclusive in a Junior Suite with Private Pool from £1,799 per person. Departing May 2018. Includes: 30% Early booking discount & free Premium All Inclusive upgrade. Exclusive: Sovereign discount & welcome gift. Save up to £1,350 per couple\*

Calls from UK landlines cost the standard rate, but calls from mobiles may be higher. Check with your network provider. \*Price based on the Junior Suite with Private Pool and specific departure date. Subject to availability.

#### More than just a pretty face

Looking for more than just a pretty coastline? You're not alone - destinations which team beach days with a slice of adventure are skyrocketing for 2018. Sri Lanka is our pick, with lush jungle to explore, wildlife to spot and ancient temples to tour.

We can arrange private guided tours to take you to some of the island's highlights. Four-day tours focus on the south, while our eight-day itinerary also includes visits to Sri Lanka's medieval capital city and the lofty fortress of Sigiriya. They pair perfectly with a week at a beach resort – ask our Trusted Advisers for more information.



# Luxury for two

#### Visit sovereign.com or call our Trusted Advisers on 01293 831179

## Family fun



#### MarBella Corfu Hotel, Corfu

A stay at this hotel means fun for all the family, with activities to keep even the most energetic guests entertained.

> 7 nights Half Board from £2,599 per family of 3. Departing May 2018.

Includes: 20% Early booking discount & Child stays free. Exclusive: One free 5 course dinner (per person per stay).

Save up to £374 per family of 3\*

Visit sovereign.com or call our Trusted Advisers on 01293 831179

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# Generation game

In recent years, family holidays have been getting bigger and bigger. It's not just parents and kids; these days, grandparents, aunties, uncles, in-laws the lot - are checking in too. There's no better time to enjoy a bit of quality time together as a family than away from the day-to-day routines back home. Just ask the Sovereign team... »





### Lanzarote

Princesa Yaiza Suite Hotel Resort

#### Paul Maslin, Head of Finance Reporting, travelled to Princesa Yaiza Suite Hotel Resort in Lanzarote with his wife, 20-month-old daughter and parents.

My parents love to spend time with my daughter, Izzy, so this holiday was a fantastic way of us all being able to spend some real quality time together. My wife and I flew out for 10 days with Izzy, with my parents joining us after a few days.

The hotel was brilliant right from the start - even check-in was a relaxed experience! We stayed in a Royal Kiko Suite, which was incredibly spacious. Having two bedrooms was ideal, as my wife and I could relax with a drink once Izzy was asleep, with no worries about noise or lights waking her. Having two bathrooms was a bonus, too, as one of us could get ready while the other was bathing Izzy.

Most days were spent together as a family, either by the pool or on the beach. Having my parents there was a huge help in terms of sharing the workload of looking after a little one.

We all got to play in the pool with Izzy, and there were times when my parents would watch her for half an hour while my wife and I went for a quick walk along the beach, or babysat while we enjoyed a meal at one of the à la carte restaurants. It allowed us to have that little bit of time to ourselves to really relax and enjoy some time together as a couple.

On our last night, we arranged a babysitter through the hotel and went for a meal with my parents at Isla De Lobos, the hotel's fine dining restaurant. The food was really impressive and it was a great chance for us all to celebrate the end of a fantastic holiday. We're already thinking about going back next year!



#### Reshmi Burgess, Trusted Adviser, travelled to Heritage Awali Golf and Spa Resort in Mauritius with her two children, her parents, and her sister-in-law and her parents.

The most important thing for me is spending time with my family - it means the world to me. My children love spending quality time with their grandparents and, of course, vice versa. What I love the most about it, though, is that I get to spend that time with my parents. I feel so proud giving them the opportunity to watch me teach my kids the way they taught me.

We have been on many family holidays, including to Turkey and Italy, but this one to Mauritius has to be the most memorable. We were lucky enough to see the New Year in at the Heritage Awali Golf and Spa Resort. The evening of New Year's Eve, the whole gang sat down for a lovely meal on the beach. The hotel was fantastic catering for my little ones, while

we adults tucked into a six-course meal. We all laughed, shared stories and talked plans for the upcoming year.

It was then time for the kids to go to bed so we could have some adult time. The hotel has a fantastic babysitting service, so we had no worries at all. The evening went from apple juice to champagne as we spent more quality time together and then saw the New Year in with fireworks.

The memories we made on this holiday will last a lifetime. Now I'm asking my parents: "Where next?"



# A family favourite



#### Cyprus Family Villa

#### Isobel Hollands, Marketing Manager, travelled to Cyprus and stayed in a villa with her husband, sisters, niece, nephew and parents.

We wanted to give my dad a memorable 60th birthday, so we thought the best way to celebrate was enjoying a holiday all together. Myself, my husband, my two sisters and their partners, my niece and nephew, and my parents opted for a villa in Cyprus.

A big highlight for all of us was having a kitchenette in our large villa, giving us the option to cook and dine in together.

The best part for me, however, was the time I got to enjoy with my niece and nephew. As an auntie, I wouldn't normally get to do the things like bath time, putting them to bed or reading stories to them, so to have that opportunity was amazing.

Our villa allowed us adults to put the kids to bed, before carrying on the evening with a glass of wine on the balcony, in close proximity to the children. My sister definitely felt relaxed!

My dad had a great time, and enjoyed having his whole family around him. One evening he even babysat, allowing me and my sisters to spend some time all together. On the day of his actual birthday, we decorated the villa and the hotel helped arrange a cake.

#### Tips from our Trusted Advisers



would definitely recommend asking us to book restaurant and babysitting reservations in

advance of your holiday for you. It takes that extra pressure off your holiday having everything arranged ahead of time."

Helen Lippe, Trusted Adviser



are interested in hiring a car, hire two. Everyone then has the flexibility to get out and about."

Karen Knight, Trusted Adviser

"It's not very often you get everyone together, so my advice would be to take as many photos of the family as you

can. Some hotels even organise photo shoots on location – look out for it or ask us for advice."

Samantha Grist, Trusted Adviser



#### Princesa Yaiza Suite Hotel Resort, Lanzarote

Perfect for a family holiday, the hotel has a children's leisure paradise, Kikoland, stretching over 10,000 square metres, plus a Créche Baby Kikoland.

> 7 nights Bed & Breakfast from £3399 per family of 3. Departing July 2018.

Includes: 10% Early booking discount & one free spa circuit. Exclusive: Welcome gift. Save up to £257 per family of 3\*

Calls from UK landlines cost the standard rate, but calls from mobiles may be higher. Check with your network provider. \* Price based on specific departure date. Subject to availability.

#### Visit sovereign.com or call our Trusted Advisers on 01293 831179

# A family affair



#### Hotel Bahia del Duque, Tenerife

Part of 'The Leading Hotels of the World' group, this stunning hotel has something for every member of the family.

> 7 nights Bed & Breakfast from £3,499 per family of 3\*. Departing February 2018.

Includes: 10% Early booking discount & child stays free. Exclusive: One free spa entrance (per adult per stay) & one free lunch at the beach club (per person per stay).

Save up to £357 per family of 3\*



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From Marrakech's oasis-like riads and rose-red palaces, to the spice-filled souks and sandy beaches of Essaouira, Morocco is perfect for an escape with a touch of the exotic (plus, it's only a three-hour plane ride away). But which destination's for you? Maybe city, maybe beach − or maybe both. ≫



# Two faces of Morocco



#### Cultural and colourful Marrakech

Why: Marrakech is steeped in history and culture, showcased throughout its vibrant bazaars, captivating monuments and terracotta-hued streets. There's a generous dose of new world in and around these fascinating areas, too. It doesn't have to be an all-or-nothing place – the chaotic hustle and bustle of the medina isn't far from the most peaceful of hotels, spas and gardens.

Not to be missed: We recommend heading for the hills one day. Towering over this gorgeous city are the snow-tipped Atlas Mountains, where you'll find grand valleys, quaint villages and to-die-for views. Stop for a spot of lunch with a view at Toubkal du Kasbah, where dining skips the traditional table-and-chair set up in favour of sofas, low tables and plenty of cushions.

**Eat your heart out:** La Maison Arabe. Try the lamb tagine with oranges, seasoned with saffron pistils. For real foodies, why not try your hand at one of the cooking workshops. The hotel's fully kitted out restaurant is the perfect stage for all cooking levels.

Where to get your hammam: Les Bains Spa in the Kasbah area. Relax around the pool, surrounded by high walls for privacy, before heading for a couples' massage.

**Shopping:** The medina is the shopping experience of a lifetime. The souks spill out north from Djemaa el-Fna square and sell everything from nourishing Argan oil and spices, to silver tea sets, rugs and lanterns. Don't be afraid to have some fun with it – the locals don't mind a bit of bartering.



#### Where to stay Fairmont Royal Palm

Expect dreamy rooms, a peaceful feel and exquisite cuisine at the Fairmont Royal Palm. A 2,000-square-metre swimming pool is perfect for soaking up some winter sun, and there's a Clarins spa for relaxation after an afternoon in the medina.

#### Riad Kniza

Riad Kniza is Moroccan beauty at its best – beautiful, luxurious and tranquil. What puts this property on the map, however, is the owner. Haj Mohamed Bouskri is one of the most renowned antique dealers in Marrakech and one of the best professional guides, too (he's shown the city's sights to former US Presidents and A-list celebrities). We'd like to get him sitting around the dinner table one night!

#### Les Jardins de la Medina

The Les Jardins de la Medina is a traditional riad with a courtyard at its heart and a quiet pool surrounded by lush greenery. Late afternoons can be spent on the rooftop terrace, where you can enjoy views of the sunset and the Atlas Mountains.

**Afternoon break:** Nomad rooftop bar, located in the heart of the souks. Sip on a Moroccan mint tea and enjoy the views of terracotta roofs and colourful carpets hanging from the sides of buildings.

**Top recommendation:** If you're looking to get your teeth into local culture, stop for a bite to eat in the centre of the medina. If you can embrace the fight for your attention from each stall's owner, pull up a bench, join the locals and feast on succulent lamb kebabs and herby couscous.

#### Beachy and breezy Essaouira

Why: Seaside Essaouira, known as the windy city, attracts beach lovers and windsurfers from all over the globe. Essaouira takes on a pretty laidback attitude to day to day life – quite a contrast to bustling Marrakech. Its old town is guarded by ancient walls; outside, you'll find a fishing harbour and sandy beach.

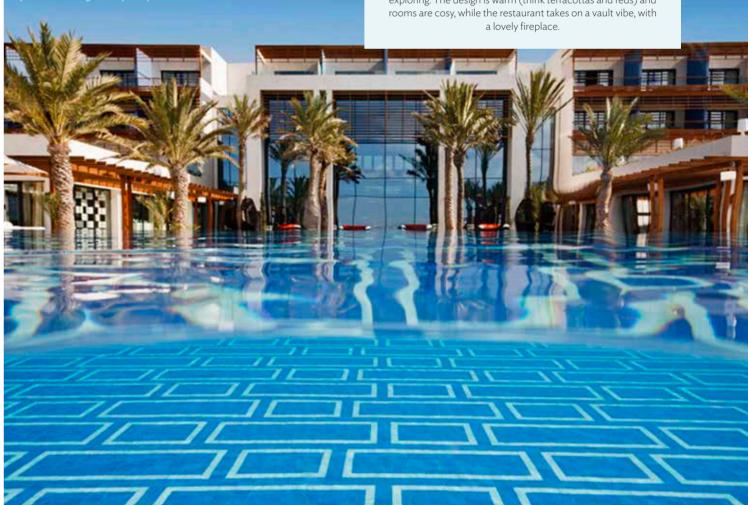
**Not to be missed:** At the heart of Essaouira is its lively, working harbour. Watch as fishermen sort their catch of the day for nearby restaurants and locals pick their favourite at the fish market.

**Eat your heart out:** La Table by Madada, located in the medina. This restaurant and lounge bar offers up live music, an impressive wine selection and some of the best seafood in Essaouira.

Where to get your hammam: Heure Bleue Palais – the spa's black marble walls and dim lighting provide the ideal environment for a relaxing hammam.

Afternoon break: Head to the Mega Loft, in the medina. Its chilled-out ambience and live music makes for the perfect laid-back afternoon.





**Shopping:** Essaouira's medina is bustling, but takes a more relaxed vibe. It's not restricted to the city's main square – stalls spill into the surrounding medieval streets. Here, you can haggle for spices, oranges, colourful dinner plates, and hand-woven rugs.

**Top recommendation:** The Argan tree is native to Morocco and its oil is used in hair and beauty treatments across the world. In Essaouira, there are lots of places where you can see how it's made (and pick up a bottle to take home).

#### Where to stay

#### Sofitel Essaouira Mogador Golf and Spa

The family-friendly Sofitel Essaouira Mogador has got laid-back break written all over it. Pick between one of the two pools to cool down, then pull up a pew at L'Atlantique restaurant with its ocean views and menu of local seafood.

#### Riad dar L'Oussia

This riad's location, just inside the town walls, makes it ideal for those looking for a traditional oasis that's still convenient for exploring. The design is warm (think terracottas and reds) and rooms are cosy, while the restaurant takes on a vault vibe, with a lovely fireplace.

# Understated luxury retreat



#### Jumeirah Port Soller Hotel & Spa, Majorca

Featuring the award-winning Talise Spa with its state-of-the-art gym, plus stunning pools and spacious suites, this hotel is the ideal choice for an ultimate Mediterranean escape.

7 nights Bed & Breakfast from £1,279 per person\*. Departing April 2018. Includes: 15% Early booking discount. Exclusive: Welcome gift. Save up to £349 per couple\*

Visit sovereign.com or call our Trusted Advisers on 01293 831179

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# A sense of wellbeing

From the best yoga retreats to the massage beds with the finest views, we asked our team to recommend their favourite hotel spas from around the world. »

#### Best for views: Son Brull Hotel & Spa, Majorca

Recommended by Leanne Hall, Trusted Adviser

The Son Brull Hotel & Spa is nestled in the quiet countryside of Pollensa in northern Majorca, so it comes with wraparound views of wooded hills and tree-dotted fields. Opt to have your massage al fresco (there's a duo of outdoor massage pavilions) and you'll be able to take in the vistas while you relax.

The spa's ethos is all about keeping things natural, so the product range steers clear of artificial preservatives, synthetic perfumes and parabens, instead looking to native Majorcan ingredients.

#### Also try...

Jumeirah Port Soller's spa is a favourite among the team for its beautiful views over Majorca's Sierra de Tramuntana, while Alila Jabal Akhdar in Oman was picked out for the mountainside massage arbour. And Casale Panayiotis in Cyprus gets Trusted Adviser Helen's vote, thanks to its fabulous massagejet pool overlooking the Troodos Mountains.

#### Best for treatments:

Waldorf Astoria Dubai Palm Jumeirah, Dubai Recommended by Lewis Parker. Trusted Adviser

Lewis picked out the Waldorf Astoria Dubai Palm Jumeirah for its 3,200-square-metre spa, named Best Luxury Destination Spa in the UAE at the 2017 World Luxury Spa Awards.

It offers treatments from all over the world – think Hungarian mud facials, Brazilian rosewood body polishes and Japanese Shiatsu massages – but Lewis' recommendation is the decadent 'Shimmering Dubai Nights' ritual, which includes a body scrub with flakes of real gold.

#### Also try...

Another of Lewis' recommendations is Jumeirah Zabeel Saray (also in Dubai), where staff tailor-make treatments for each client, while Trusted Adviser Karen loves the traditional Maldivian treatments on offer at Kurumba, which draw on 'dhivehi-beys' – traditional herbal medicine.

#### Best for yoga:

Four Seasons Sayan, Bali Recommended by Helen Howard, Product Manager

Whether you're a beginner or you've been practising yoga for years, you'll find something to suit here. The yoga bale is cocooned among jungle greenery, with soul-soothing views over the Ayung River valley.

Complimentary classes include beginner stretches, sunrise sessions and laughter yoga. For a little extra, you could try AntiGravity<sup>®</sup>, hot stone and yin yoga. And if you happen to be staying during a full moon, you can carry out 'moon salutations' under the stars on the riverside terrace.

#### Also try...

Trusted Adviser Louise singled out Gran Hotel Atlantis Bahia Real in Fuerteventura for its scenic classes on the overwater sun deck. If you fancy doing your sun salutations in seclusion, try Baros Maldives, where you can opt for a sunrise session on a deserted sandbank.





#### Best for spending the day:

Hotel Bahia del Duque, Tenerife Recommended by Samantha Grist, Trusted Adviser

The wellness retreat here is the kind of place you could easily spend the whole day in. Sam loves the outdoor thalassotherapy circuit in particular, with its bubble beds, hydro-massage jets and two-metre waterfall. There's a sun terrace out here, too, so you can flit between your lounger and the pool as often as you fancy.

We think it's such a highlight of the hotel, so we provide each of our adult customers with a day's complimentary access.

#### Also try...

Porto Elounda in Crete was picked out by Trusted Advisers Helen and Natasha for its lovely relaxation areas and indooroutdoor infinity pool, while PA Debby raved about the Hard Rock Punta Cana's amazing spa circuit. La Gomera's Hotel Jardin Tecina was recommended for its brand-new outdoor spa area.

#### Best for something a little different:

Lopesan Costa Meloneras, Gran Canaria Recommended by Lindsay Barnes, Trusted Adviser

The huge spa here takes its cue from Gran Canaria's volcanic nature, featuring a lava cave (with floatation pool) and a relaxation area with

a lava column as a striking centrepiece.

Follow the spa circuit and you'll experience a cold-water reflexology pool, tropical rain showers, a 35°C lagoon, an ice cave, a 'cosy' wall (great for backache) and much more. Not sure where to start? Lindsay recommends the Himalayan salt cave.

#### Also try...

Sugar Beach, A Viceroy Resort in St Lucia is a favourite of James, our Head of Sales and Customer Experience – treatment rooms are housed in huts suspended in the treetops. Keemala in Phuket is another good pick, with its philosophy of traditional Thai healing rituals and holistic therapies, and use of cruelty-free products.



# 6 reasons why foodies will love the Ikos Dassia

The brand-new Ikos Dassia in Corfu rolls out the red carpet for guests in May 2018. Wide sea views, a 600-metre wheat-gold sandy beach and two Anne Semonin Spas are all on the cards – but what we're most looking forward to is the hotel's Infinite Lifestyle<sup>™</sup> concept that takes all-inclusive dining to its luxury limits. Here's what to expect...

#### 1. Luxury all-inclusive dining

The Ikos Dassia doesn't do all-inclusive dining by halves. Breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks are all included. Your in-room mini bar is topped up every day. Don't want to leave your room? We don't blame you – especially if you pick a suite with views right over the coastline. If you fancy making the most of that backdrop, you could wine and dine on your private balcony.

#### 2. Menus by a Michelin-starred chef

Athens-born Chef Lefteris Lazarou crafted the menus at the Ouzo à la carte restaurant. He's a bit of a local celebrity, having headed up the first ever Greek restaurant to win a Michelin star. Plus, you'll find him popping up on the panel of MasterChef Greece. Seafood is his speciality, so dishes like sea bass with fennel and shrimps cooked in Limnio wine star

#### *3.* Greek food boutique

The Ergon Deli lines its walls with bottles of Greek olive oil, wine, preserves and herbs. It isn't just a place to buy foodie souvenirs, though - you can also see how these ingredients are used in Greek cuisine at its restaurant.

#### 4. Local tavernas

Who says all-inclusive dining ties you to the hotel? The folks at the Ikos Dassia want vou to get a taste of real Corfu, so they're created a Dine Out concept that pulls cherry-picked local tavernas into your all-inclusive dining package.

#### 5. Beachfront restaurants

When it comes to vistas, the Ikos Dassia doesn't mess around. The Kerkyra and Ouzo restaurants stretch out on the sandy beach, so you get wideangle views of the Ionian Sea.

#### 6. Well-stocked wine cellar

An Ikos sommelier has stocked the wine cellar with over 300 local and international bottles. It's a great chance to taste some top Greek wines; they tend to be on the dry side, so expect crisp apple and pear notes. Children can choose a mini mocktail instead. Even we'd be tempted by the sparkling Shirley Temple with a swirl of grenadine syrup.



Discover Ikos Dassia next summer from £1095 per person. Includes 15% Early booking discount Departing May 2018.

Visit sovereign.com or call our Trusted Advisers on 01293 831179 to find out more about the Ikos Dassia in Corfu. 🔳

#### If you like this, you'll like these...

Ikos Olivia, Halkidiki - A beachfront hotel surrounded by olive trees. The lagoon-style swimming pools sweeten the deal.

Ikos Oceania, Halkidiki - Understated elegance and a beachfront location are finished off with family-friendly extras like West End-style shows.

# Our favourite beauty travel essentials

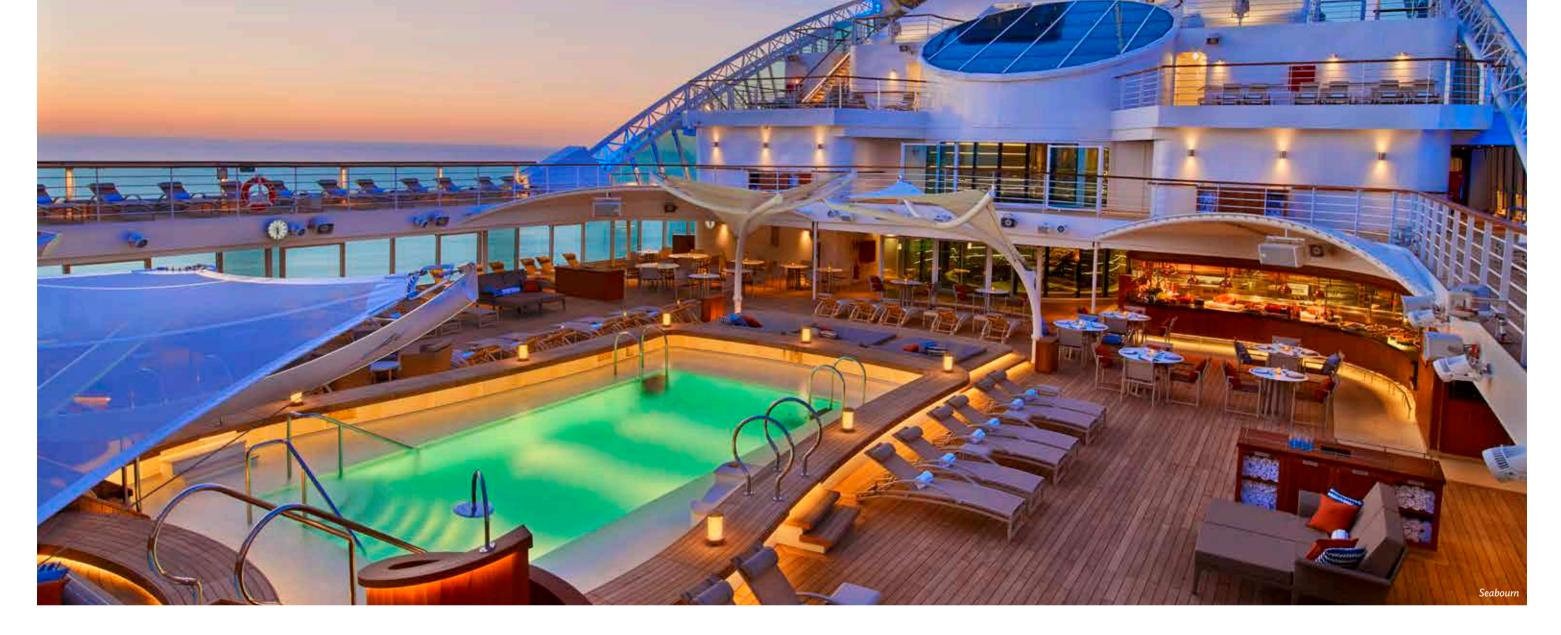


Whether you're heading off on an exotic escape

restorative sleep, whilst the refreshing, crisp, green herbal blend of the Focus

especially while enjoying the sunshine for hours on end. With a blend of soft Jojoba beads and bamboo stem, the scrub delicately smooths away dryness

soothing serum enriched with aloe vera, cucumber and edelweiss. With four masks per pack, this is the perfect addition to your holiday skin care routine.



# SAIL AWAY

Imagine waking up in a different destination each day, touring historic cities, colourful seaside towns and picture-perfect islands all in one holiday. Or sipping a glass of wine on your private balcony, with uninterrupted sea views in front of you and a gourmet dinner on its way.

Our cruise and stay holidays give you the chance to sail on some of the finest cruise lines in the world, in addition to staying in some of our favourite hotels. Each itinerary starts with two or three nights in Venice, Rome or Sorrento, where we'll also include an experience, before you board your ship and set off on your cruise.

Sound like your kind of holiday? Read on to find out more...

#### For butler-serviced suites: Silversea

Silversea is all about subtle, understated luxury. Every cabin is a suite and is decorated in muted colours, with high-end touches like Italian marble bathrooms, pillow menus and minibars stocked with your favourite wines and spirits. Service is almost on a one-to-one ratio, with every suite having a dedicated butler. On-board cuisine is also outstanding, thanks to a partnership with the prestigious Grand Chefs Relais & Châteaux.

Our cruise and stay itinerary starts off with three nights in Rome, with plenty of time to tour the Colosseum, toss coins in the Trevi Fountain and stroll around St. Peter's Basilica. You'll then board Silver Muse for a week-long cruise that takes you around the 'boot' of Italy, calling in at Sicily, Dubrovnik and Split (among others) along the way.

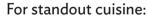
#### For complimentary excursions:

Regent Seven Seas

You'll have plenty of space on-board a Regent Seven Seas ship – every cabin is a suite, with 98 percent of them boasting private teak balconies so you can enjoy those ocean vistas. Room service is complimentary, including dinners served to your suite course by course. Elsewhere, on-board activities like wine and artisan cheese tasting keep you busy at sea, while a range of complimentary shore excursions help you make the most of your ports of call.

The itinerary we've chosen starts off in Venice. You'll have three days to explore the city before you board the ship, so there'll be plenty of time for gondola rides and canal-side dinners. Once on board, you'll travel down the Adriatic, stopping off at the historic cities of Split, Dubrovnik and Durres, before you make your way to Rome via Corfu, Sicily and Sorrento.





#### Seabourn

With a maximum of 300 suites, Seabourn's intimate ships let you get right into the heart of the action, docking at ports and harbours the bigger ships can't reach. As a member of the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs gastronomic society, cuisine is incredibly important – expect gourmet dishes created by award-winning chefs and paired with fine wines. Each ship also offers a spa and wellness centre, with a fantastic menu of treatments, complimentary yoga classes, and personal trainers available.

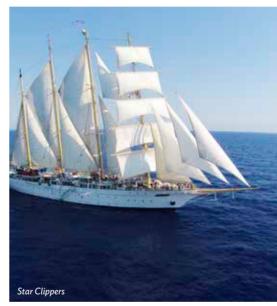
Our chosen itinerary is a fantastic one if you're celebrating a special occasion (or just want to treat yourself). You'll begin by travelling to Venice on board one of the world's most iconic (and luxurious) trains, the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express. You'll then have a couple of nights in Venice before you set sail - your cruise will take you to Croatia, Montenegro and Greece.

#### For stylish sailing: Star Clippers

If you're after a touch of old-fashioned elegance, take a look at Star Clippers' tall sailing ships. These grand vessels feature four or five masts, which look spectacular when the sails are billowing and you're cruising along at full speed. Carrying a maximum of 227 guests, these ships are perfect for getting a feel of traditional sailing and you can choose how hands on or not - you get.

We've wrapped a two-night stay in Rome into our Star Clippers holiday, so you can start your trip exploring the city's ancient ruins and sipping espressos in its sunny piazzas. You'll then set sail for Greece - the small size of the ship means you'll call in at lesser-visited locations on the way, like Palmarola, Lipari and Syracuse.







#### For stacks of on-board facilities:

Celebrity Cruises

Celebrity Cruises is ideal if you like to keep busy - you could catch a blockbuster in the cinema, try your luck in the casino, stop by the spa or browse the on-board art gallery. If you're bringing the family, there are great kids' and teens' clubs, too. Cabins are smart and stylish, and range from thoughtfully designed interior staterooms to spacious suites.

We've put together a trio of itineraries with Celebrity Cruises. Start with a few days in Rome or Sorrento, before cruising to Sicily, Malta and the Greek Islands, or enjoy a stay in Venice, followed by a cruise that takes in Croatia, Corfu, Santorini, Mykonos and Naples.

#### For traditional style: Holland America Line

The styling of Holland America Line's ships harks back to traditional cruising - think rich woods, beautiful floral arrangements and teak-lined balconies. In each port, you'll have an expertly curated list of shore excursions to choose from; if you're staying on the ship, make the most of the activities programme.

Our itinerary starts off with two nights in Rome, before you board your ship for a 10-night loop around the eastern Med. Discover the beautiful Dalmatian coast and Dubrovnik, admire the soaring peaks of Montenegro's Bay of Kotor, and explore picturesque seaside villages in the Greek Islands, before arriving back in Rome.

Give our Trusted Advisers a call to find out more about cruise and stay holidays. They'll help you pick the itinerary and ship that'll suit you best, and organise every aspect of the holiday, from booking flights and private transfers, to arranging your hotel stay.

#### Find out more at sovereign.com.

# Spotlight on the Seychelles

The islands of the Indian Ocean lay claim to some of the most beautiful settings in the world, with lush forests, vanilla beaches and waters as clear as they come.

For 2018, we're excited to be welcoming another four islands to our programme – all part of the beautiful Seychelles. Scattered off the coast of East Africa, the islands of the Seychelles are the real deal when it comes to idyllic, get-away-from-it-all retreats. The beaches here come untouched, hosting Robinson Crusoe-style coves and stretches of talc-white sand. Inland, bottle-green jungles and forests are home to exotic fruits, wildlife, tea plantations and a whole lot of adventure.

#### **Direct British Airways flights**

With direct British Airways flights from London, you'll be on your island paradise practically before you can say 'I saw sea shells on the sea shore'.

# Islands in the spotlight

#### Tortoise territory: Mahé

Mahé is the hub of the Seychelles, housing most of the country's population. It's certainly the liveliest, however still manages to hold on to that laid-back Seychellois way of life. Honestly, nothing or no-one is in a rush in this part of the world.

You have Victoria, the capital of Seychelles, where locals and holidaymakers rub shoulders around the vibrant harbour. Away from the cultural capital, things are pretty green – be sure to pay a visit to the Seychelles National Botanical Gardens to see the resident Aldabra giant tortoises. Reaching a grand old age of 150 years, a visit to Mahé wouldn't be complete without experiencing feeding time with these gentle giants.

#### Where to stay: Banyan Tree Seychelles

We aren't sure if it's the ultimate privacy of the villas, the postcard-perfect infinity pools or the creamy curve of beach that has us wishing we were at the Banyan Tree Seychelles right now. Of course, it could also be the breakfast spot at Au Jardin d'Epices, where you can feast on fresh tropical fruit just steps from the sugary sands of Intendance Bay.



#### Wild at heart: Félicité Island

Once a coconut plantation, Félicité Island is now home to some of the best beaches in the Seychelles, especially in the north of the island. Away from the coast, things get fruity - the forests are ripe (quite literally) with tropical treats like bananas, coconuts and mangoes.

In the south of the island is Ramos National Park. If you can tear yourself away from the beach, head for the hills and the maze of footpaths and biking trails. The effort is well worth it for the stunning views across the inner islands.

#### Where to stay: Six Senses Zil Pasyon

Six Senses Zil Pasyon is the hotel of R&R dreams. Sitting pretty by itself at the top of the island, the hotel is made up of 30 villas and 17 private residences (plus world-class restaurants, chic bars and a wine vault). Our favourite part? The infinity pool with views overlooking the Cocos Islands. The Instagram moments are endless...







#### Coastline of dreams: Praslin

Praslin comes with a large side order of beaches, arguably some of the best in the Seychelles - the ocean is impossibly blue, and the sands flour-white. Praslin isn't just a pretty face, however. Its centre is covered by the Praslin National Park, home to the black parrot, groves of coco de mer palm trees, tropical plants and footpaths. The Valle de Mai part of the park is on UNESCO's books - the best way to ensure you see its highlights is with a local guide.

#### Where to stay: Constance Lemuria

Constance Lemuria is poised perfectly in the north of the island, with a trio of beaches on the doorstep. Guests can enjoy everything from turtle spotting on the beach to romantic dinners for two on The Nest's secluded 'on the rocks' terrace. The U by Constance Spa is pretty special too, offering a range of personalised reatments and rituals.

#### In deep water: Silhouette Island

The waters off of Silhouette Island are well-stocked with marine life. There is a PADI dive centre available for those that are serious about scuba, although the snorkelling is fantastic too. It's not just the waters that are full of life, though - look up every now and then and you might spot the abundance of fruit bats that guard the island.

#### Where to stay: Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort and Spa

Nothing says special like a stay in the only hotel on an island. The Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort and Spa is an all-villa hotel with the ocean on one side and tropical forest on the other. There aren't many places in the world that come more secluded than this, while still offering up gourmet dining, a hillside spa and a palmringed pool.



#### Heritage Awali Golf and Spa Resort, Mauritius

Situated on a beautiful white sand beach overlooking the Indian Ocean, the hotel boasts three swimming pools, a tranquil spa and offers a wealth of land and water sports.

> 7 nights All-Inclusive from £1,485 per person. Departing September 2018. Includes: 30% Early booking discount. Save up to £636 per couple\*

Calls from UK landlines cost the standard rate, but calls from mobiles may be higher. Check with your network provider. \* Price based on specific departure date. Subject to availability.

## Tropical escape

#### Visit sovereign.com or call our Trusted Advisers on 01293 831179

## Picture perfect



#### Blue Palace, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, Crete

Relax in one of 142 private infinity pools that appear to merge seamlessly with the sea and enjoy breathtaking views.

> 7 nights Bed & Breakfast from £1,399 per person\*. Departing September 2018. Includes: 20% early booking discount. Save up to £390 per couple\*

Visit sovereign.com or call our Trusted Advisers on 01293 831179

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# Suite escapes

Hotels are upping the ante when it comes to suites - and we're loving it. With private Jacuzzi<sup>®</sup> baths, beachside locations and décor that'll have you wanting to renovate your house in no time, these are the kinds of places that are perfect for special occasions. We've picked out four of our favourites to tempt you...

. . . . . . . . .



The Lighthouse Suite, Jumeirah Port Soller. Majorca

The Lighthouse Suite is something of a showstopper! Split over two levels, there's a huge, open-plan kitchen and living area, a bedroom with vaulted ceiling, a private Jacuzzi<sup>®</sup> (the perfect place to clink glasses of champagne) and wraparound windows with views of the bay and mountains that'll have your Instagram followers jealous for days. Our favourite thing, though? The telescope provided for an evening of stargazing.

#### Private Pool Suite, Blue Palace, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, Crete

There aren't many places where you get to enjoy your own private infinity pool – but these suites offer just that. While away hours cooling off and enjoying the views across the bay to the island of Spinalonga. At the end of the day, retreat for a soak in your oversized bathtub, before slipping on the fluffy bathrobes and slippers, and heading out to watch the sunset over the island.

#### **Premium Suite, Daios** Cove Luxury Resort and Villas, Crete

#### Luxury Suite, Blue Waters and Cove Suites, Antigua

When it comes to beachfront settings, you won't get much better than these - they sit directly above a pristine white-sand cove. Set yourself up with a coffee from your espresso machine before heading for a day at the beach; alternatively, enjoy the views from the loungers on your huge balcony.

## The perfect choice



#### Thanos Hotels & Resort, Cyprus

From outstanding cuisine to rejuvenating spa treatments, enjoy the quality and luxury of the Thanos group of hotels.

#### Annabelle Hotel

7 nights Half Board from £769 per person. Departing March 2018. **Includes:** 20% early booking discount & free half board upgrade. Save up to £523 per couple\*

#### Anassa

7 nights Half Board from £759 per person. Departing September 2018. Includes: 15% early booking discount. Save up to £360 per couple\*

#### Hotel Almyra

7 nights Half Board from £2,299 per family of 3. Departing April 2018. Includes: 20% early booking discount & free half board upgrade. Save up to £656 per family of 3\*

#### Visit sovereign.com or call our Trusted Advisers on 01293 831179

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\* Price based on specific departure date. Subject to availability.



# On location

The books, films and TV shows that'll inspire your next getaway...

#### Croatia

If you're a Game of Thrones fan, you'll recognise Dubrovnik's World Heritage old town - the medieval streets, chunky town walls and baroque palaces play the part of King's Landing. Filming locations to add to your itinerary include Minčeta Tower, Pile and Ploče Gates, and St. Dominic Street. Wondering where the palace garden scenes are set? Peaceful Trsteno Arboretum, a 20-minute drive from the city.

Head north up the coast and you'll come to the historic city of Split. The Roman palace here is another Games of Thrones location, but the city is also a jumping-off point to reach Vis Island, setting for next year's Mamma Mia sequel.

We reckon the best way to see Vis (and the other stunning islands along the Dalmatian coast) is on board a crewed yacht charter - we can't promise you'll see Meryl, Colin and co., but we can promise secluded beaches, clear waters and spectacular sunsets.

## Entertainment for all

#### Domes of Elounda, Autograph Collection, Crete

Younger guests will love the kids' and teenager clubs, while adults can sit back, relax, and enjoy a refreshing cocktail.

Includes: 20% Early booking discount, free half board upgrade & child stays free. Exclusive: Sovereign discount, Sovereign experiences - traditional boat trip, Cretan cooking class & Raki, one Greek seafood à la carte dinner and Greek farewell gift

#### Visit sovereign.com or call our Trusted Advisers on 01293 831179

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# vlajorca

Last year, Majorca had a supporting role in the slick TV adaptation of John Le Carré's The Night Manager - and the island's soaring mountains and lavish villas certainly looked the part.

Palma and Port Sóller both featured, but the real star of the show was Ca' Patro March, a rustic-chic seafood restaurant built onto the side of the cliffs overlooking Cala Deia beach. It's always been a popular spot (and even more so now), so make sure you book ahead for a dinner of some of the freshest fish you'll ever taste.





#### Crete

Heading for Crete next summer? Put The Two Faces of January on your must-watch list - this beautifully shot thriller is set in Greece and Turkey, with a large chunk taking place in Crete. Look out for scenes in Chania's backstreets and on its harbour front, fantastic scenery shots as the characters travel across the island, and close-ups of the Minoan Palace at Knossos.

Port Soller, Major

If you're more of a book person, pick up a copy of Victoria Hislop's *The Island* at the airport. It tells the story of a family's connection to the tiny island of Spinalonga, a former leper colony opposite the resort of Plaka (stay there and you'll likely have views of Spinalonga as you read by the pool).

#### Venice Simplon-Orient-Express

Murder, intrigue and an incredibly well-kept moustache - yes, we're talking about the recent remake of Murder on the Orient Express.

Although the snowy mountain scenery was beautiful (as were Michelle and Dame Judi's vintage dresses), it was the Art Deco train that really stole the spotlight.

Experience it for yourself with a two-day journey from London to Venice. Outside, rolling countryside and snow-capped mountains will glide past, while inside, you'll get to dress in your finest and enjoy a gourmet dinner and cocktails.



7 nights Half Board from £4,799 per family of 4\*. Departing August 2018.

Save up to £1,841 per family of 4\*

### Exclusively for adults



#### Constantinou Bros Asimina Suites Hotel, Cyprus

Contemporary in design, this stunning all-suite hotel boasts two freshwater swimming pools, a choice of four restaurants and three bars, plus a tranguil Elixir Spa.

> 7 nights Half Board from £615 per person\*. Departing April 2018. Includes: Free half board upgrade and free room upgrade **Exclusive:** Welcome gift Save up to £628 per couple\*

Visit sovereign.com or call our Trusted Advisers on 01293 831179

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# Sovereign grants its first wish



"I wish to go on a sunny holiday and build sandcastles"

Here at Sovereign, we are proud to work in partnership with Make-A-Wish® UK, the charity that grants magical wishes to enrich the lives of children and young people in the UK fighting lifethreatening conditions.

Back in July, we were delighted to be able to help grant a wish to a Make-A-Wish child. Eight-yearold Lily, who is living with cerebral palsy, wished to have a sunny holiday where she could build sandcastles, so we arranged for Lily and her parents to travel to Lanzarote, where they spent a week at the Princesa Yaiza Suite Resort Hotel.

It all started for Lily on the plane, where she got to meet the crew and captain. On arrival at the hotel, they were welcomed by the hotel's mascot, Kiko. There was also a toy Kiko waiting for Lily in

Proudly supporting



her room (which she still loves to play with back in England), as well as a bucket and spade for those all-important sandcastles.

The family enjoyed playing together in the swimming pool, as well as putting that bucket and spade to good use on the beach. One day the hotel surprised them with a trip to Rancho Texas, a nearby zoo, and arranged for Lily to swim with a sea lion. They got the real VIP treatment, skipping queues, the lot!

The staff couldn't do enough to help the family and they really took the time to get to know Lily (in fact, one of Lily's favourite moments from the trip was being allowed to try on the headset of one of the guest relations staff!).

Sally, Lily's mum, said: "The hotel was incredible. It really was five-star - when you pulled up to it, it really took your breath away. Everything about it was amazing and we all had such a brilliant time. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

We hope to grant more wishes to children like Lily in the future. In addition, we are encouraging our customers to donate £1 to this fantastic charity when they book their holiday with us.







# The fine art of holiday making

Luxury means many things to many people and here at Sovereign we pride ourselves on 'the fine art of holiday making'. It is no longer about simply creating a holiday that is different every time, it is about providing a service that goes above and beyond to create a holiday that stands apart from the rest.

40

#### We're passionate about your holiday

With years of experience, our Trusted Advisers have the knowledge and passion to explore your needs to craft the perfect bespoke luxury holiday tailored to suit you.

#### We know our destinations

We are picky and we are proud of it – each hotel is visited first-hand and vetted to make sure they not only live up to, but exceed your expectations.

#### Service that is second to none

We turn service into an art form, going above and beyond to create a totally personal holiday experience. Our Trusted Advisers are there for you from start to finish, and no request is too much.

#### Value added at every opportunity

Because we understand the importance of making your holiday as special as possible, we always include complimentary access to airport lounges and private resort transfers with every holiday.

#### We're fully bonded

The security of your money is as important to us as it is to you. We are ATOL protected to give you that extra peace of mind once your holiday is booked.

lotel, Morocco

# New year new Sani





2018 is set to be an exciting year for Sani Resort – this collection of luxury hotels will raise the bar once more by adding new rooms, new wine experiences, and professional sports academies.

#### Roomy rooms

The Sani Club has a box-fresh line-up of rooms for 2018. Space is the theme here - think open-plan designs with extra-large bathrooms and private gardens. The in-room Nespresso machines are the cherry on top.

#### Chelsea moves in

Got an Eden Hazard in the making? Sani Resort will soon host their first professionally run football academy - and it will be run by current Premier League champions Chelsea FC. Expect expert coaches from the club's Foundation and a UEFA-approved pitch.

#### Sundowner shows

Sani Resort's entertainment director is firing on all cylinders for 2018. Brand-new shows are in the works, complete with West End-style costumes and immersive sets. DJs are moving in, too, making sure you'll have a first-class soundtrack for your holiday.

#### Wellness programmes

At Sani Dunes this year, you can sign up for a nutrition and wellness programme that's tailor-made for you. Spa treatments, personal training and healthy meal plans are all part of the package.

#### Biking and boarding

A KTM motorbike club is opening its doors in 2018. All you have to do is grab your bike, don a GoPro and hit the trails. The watersports selection is getting a refresh, too. Sani Resort is pairing up with the British Water Ski and Wakeboard Federation to make sure you get top-notch instructors.

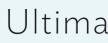
#### VIP sunbeds

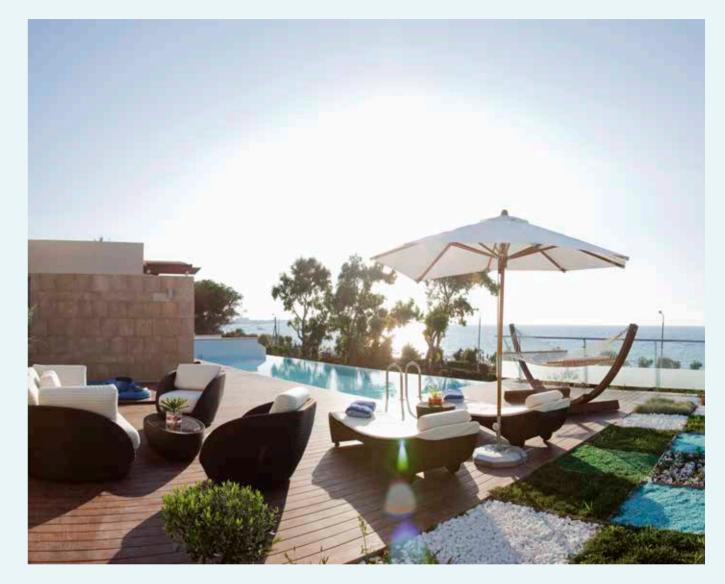
Fed up of getting up early to throw your towel on a sunlounger? Book a luxury two-bedroom family suite at the Sani Beach hotel, and staff will reserve two sunbeds for your whole stay, plus you'll get an exclusive Sani Beach Bag.

#### Sani sommeliers

Don't worry if you don't know your fruits from your florals - new sommeliers are on hand to help you match the perfect wine to your meal. They can even arrange private wine tastings.

Fancy checking out Sani Resort's new offerings for 2018? Call our Trusted Advisers on 01293 831179.





#### Amathus Elite Suites, Rhodes

From the exclusive swimming pool to the executive lounge and à la carte restaurant, this hotel offers the ultimate luxury experience.

7 nights Half Board from £1,399 per person. Departing July 2018. Includes: 15% early booking discount & free half board upgrade. Exclusive: Welcome gift. Save up to £833 per couple\*

#### Visit sovereign.com or call our Trusted Advisers on 01293 831179

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### Ultimate luxury