



Above: special Lisbon itineraries have been a recent highlight at bespoke travel consultancy Pomalo. Below: the sumptuous Mandrake hotel is setting up shop in London's Fitzrovia

– that your own knowledge supersedes that of your members-only luxury travel club?

If you're Mona Khalil and Rana Dababneh, you start your own consultancy: **Pomalo**

(pomalotravel.com; *bespoke itineraries price on request*), a Dubai and Amman-based, small-scale, all-bespoke luxury travel design company (though they accept clients from all over the world). Their mantra: no single trip is ever identical to another – and the more off-piste the itinerary, the better. Recent highlights include a yoga retreat in Iceland incorporating volcano climbs and long gallops on Reynisfjara's black-sand beach; and private after-hours visits to the Jerónimos Monastery in Lisbon.

➔ There are still almost three months left to get to **VENICE** to peruse the Biennale (labiennale.org; *until November 26*). New for this season are the simple-but-chic apartments at **Palazzo Morosini degli Spezieri** (morosinideglispezieri.com; *from €250*), which has a prime canalside position in San Polo – a mere five-minute stroll from a plate of the delectable soft-shelled crabs at Antiche Carampane – and a history dating back to the 13th century. The nine apartments, ranging from one to three bedrooms, favour neutral shades and sleek contemporary furnishings, the better to offset those splendid architectural bones. Best of all: overseeing your stay is Pietro Rusconi, formerly of the Bauers hotels and son of Venetian éminence grise Natale Rusconi, who ran the Cipriani for more than three decades.

➔ Few situations in the world of luxury hotels prompt as much anticipation as the relaunch of a venerated grande dame. Nowhere is this more true, arguably, than in

PARIS – where a few weeks ago Rosewood unveiled the new **Hôtel de Crillon** (rosewoodhotels.com; *from €1,100*), shuttered since 2013. The hotel's absolute mint location – in its Ange-Jacques Gabriel-designed palace facing the Place de la Concorde, just behind the glittering Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré and a block from the Tuileries Gardens – has always been one of its USPs, as have its beautiful winter-garden tearoom and three classified-landmark salons, with their 6m ceilings. Rosewood's careful ministrations to the 124 rooms and suites marry modern technology with some genuinely impressive design details. ♦



€194), the latest resort to debut from the 1,000-acre Sani development in Halkidiki, northern **GREECE**. Its rooms and suites are spread throughout a series of two-storey buildings surrounding a blade of perfect white-sand beach; there are no under-12s allowed; and the vibe is decidedly grown-up and low-key, from the white-canvas-and-driftwood aesthetic to the two-dozen restaurants across the Sani complex, to which Dunes guests have access.

➔ What to do when you're so well-travelled – and well-connected



Above: the simple-but-chic apartments at Venice's Palazzo Morosini degli Spezieri have a prime canalside position in San Polo

ALLISON ZURFLUK SIMON BROWN