

TATTLER



Edited by ISSY VON SIMSON and MELINDA STEVENS

PRIVATE ESCAPES

Wouldn't it be completely awesome if somebody just whipped together a list of the prettiest, loveliest, smartest, coolest houses to rent, all over the world? From the ones you need at your fingertips right now (the British weekend cottages and the villas in the Med) to the ones you don't even know you want yet, but you will (a little Goan colonial number or a Canadian heli-skiing whopper). So here it is. Ta-dah! The most unbelievably helpful feature you will read this month – in fact, probably this year. These are the crash pads that will actually make your holiday feel like a holiday. Please cut it out and keep it, every page. Pin it to the fridge. Staple it to your son's forehead. Tattoo it up your arm. Hiring a house can be a gamble, so we've taken away the risk and tried the very best, you lucky, lucky people...

SULUWILO HOUSE, VAMU, MOZAMBIQUE

Who to go to...

FOR A CRACKING HOUSE-ALL-TO-YOURSELF HOLIDAY

Are you going all-guns-blazing?

YES

NOT NECESSARILY

Somewhere far-flung?

But you still need a pool?

YES

NO

YES

NO



Pure Powder

purepowder.com or 020 7736 8191
The best heli-ski thrills and perfect T-piste powder in Canada, Alaska and Chile. Bed down in properly kitted log-cabin lodges in the middle of nowhere and ski like crazy – all day, every day.



Royal Villas Europe

royalvillaseurope.com or 020 7887 1457
Serious, serious houses, especially in the Private Collection. Everything from insanely pretty Provençal numbers to outrageously majestic Lake Como estates – it's all on the grandest scale. Royal indeed.



James Villas

jamesvillas.co.uk or 0800 074 0122
Charmingly dependable for a family holiday, with seemingly bottomless reserves of lovely Greek and Spanish boltholes, as well as a souped-up gang of more expensive houses in the Luxury section.



Unique Home Stays

uniquehomestays.com or 01637 88194
Clever, clever, clever. Houses to rent (in the UK and further afield too) that are the loveliest homes. Think watermills and beach huts, monasteries and manor houses – all deeply desirable.

Brown + Hudson

ownandhudson.com or 020 3358 0110
Send-over-backwards brilliant at making the most flawless trips, be it a stay at a palace in Ladakh or an Argentine estancia. Villa not completely up to scratch? B+H will ship in an interior designer or landscape gardener to polish it up for you. Now that's service.

Red Savannah

redsavannah.com or 01242 787800
Ex-A&K MD George Morgan-Grenville's enterprise may be shiny and new (founded in 2011), but it's already right up there with the big boys. Villas, whether they're two- or 10-bed, are handpicked and hot to trot, with a crack team working to keep you relaxed.

Meon Villas

meonvillas.co.uk or 0844 415 1990
A plethora of bougainvillea-draped cottages and gleaming whitewashed farmhouses dotted around Crete, Corfu, Cyprus and all sorts of European beach spots. Nice and low-key for when you really want to be left to your own devices.

Canopy & Stars

canopyandstars.co.uk or 01275 39544
Who needs four walls and a roof? Here is an assortment of the coolest and kookiest places to bed down – from converted horse-trucks and shepherd's huts, to treehouses and yurts. And they're so ridiculously cute and cosy inside, too. This will change the way you holiday.

Petersham Properties

petershamproperties.com or 01608 658627
Terrifically chic houses in 17 countries – from Costa Rican casitas and Pacific-coast haciendas in Mexico, to Hollywood homes and an Aussie beach beauty. This is the insider's pick.

OS Private Travel

osprivatetravel.com or 01993 899430
OS is all about finding you a house that is as finger-clickingly polished as a hotel, complete with housekeepers, cooks, nannies, fixers and more. Pick from its awesome Mediterranean anthology.

Belvedere Travel

belvederetravel.com or 01264 738257
Chalets and yachts and villas, oh my. Owned by ambassadors, counts and rock stars, oh my. And not eye-wateringly bank-busting either – a very sensible number to add to your phone book.

National Trust Cottage

nationaltrustcottages.co.uk or 0844 800 2070
Booking through the National Trust just seems like the right thing to do. Pick a fisherman's cottage – or how about a stately home? Considerably less stressful than owning one.

Private Label Worldwide

privatelabelworldwide.com or 01628 771171
Private villa on Mustique? They've got more than 70 of the wonders. Not to mention hidden gems on Bali, Malaysian estates and a house in China. Rather great for those one-upmanship holidays.

Carpe Diem Travel

carpediemtravel.co.uk or 020 7402 5330
Grown-up and glorious – and crucially it only deals with places that make founder Marina Gratsos's heart sing. Swishy chalets in Verbier, aristocratic 18th-century Catalunya manor houses, shuttered Gascony chateaux... That sort of thing.

Dalmatian Destinations

dalmatiandestinations.com or 0333 700 8007
There is nothing these connoisseurs of Croatia don't know about this craggy coastline's most magnificent waterside houses, and boats too – from beautiful wooden gulets to fast-paced whizzy white ones.

Duchy of Cornwall Holiday Cottages

duchyofcornwallholidaycottages.co.uk or 01579 346473
Super-well-turned-out crash-pads on one of the largest and oldest landed estates in Britain – thank you Charles. The houses are gleaming gorgeous and properly elegant.