

FOOD

Aug/Sept 2009

and

£3.80 US\$6.95

TRAVEL

**COOL
ICES**

**Summer
fruit
desserts**

Home-grown
suppers

**Asian
flavours**

**Tuscan
retreats**
where the living is easy

48hrs by the water
Annecy, Bristol and Constance

**ISLAND
ESCAPES**

Greece, France
Spain, Croatia, Italy
Sweden, UK, Turkey

**Cider
with
Rosé**

Gourmet travelling in
**Austria
Northern
Ireland**



escapes entertaining drinks weekends restaurants adventure

Where to stay

Keya Modessa checks out the latest hotel openings while Emma Page-Roberts relaxes A-list style in Ravello

Hotel of the month

ITALY RAVELLO, AMALFI COAST VILLA CIMBRONE

Clinging vertiginously to the mountains of the dramatic Amalfi coastline, perched atop the craggy hillside town of Ravello, Villa Cimbrone, with its magical gardens, has for centuries welcomed travellers in through its ancient doors. Once a private villa, acquired by English aristocrat Lord Grimthorpe in 1904, today the Cimbrone is a 19-bedroom hotel, while still retaining the discreet air of a family home. Plump for the Greta Garbo suite, the setting of the reclusive Hollywood star's trysts with Leopold Stokowski, which enjoys panoramic views of the gardens and the coast below, or opt for the whimsical Camelia suite lodged in the crypt's courtyard, featuring a vast frescoed ceiling and full-height windows. Every room combines the traditional features of a patrician villa with widescreen TVs, wireless internet connection and sumptuous linen bedding. Fresh produce grown in the Cimbrone's herb and vegetable gardens feature in inventive dishes served at the terraced restaurant under the watchful eye of head chef Alberto Annarumma. Highlights include sublime stir-fried turbot with potatoes, capers and spices, and a 'sandwich' of red mullet with baby spinach and *bulli* (sea snail) sauce. Pasta lovers will enjoy *paccheri* with oxtail and an Amalfi lemon salad. Don't miss the fine local wines – Fiano di Avellino and Greco di Tufo are just two that have garnered an international reputation. Fresh home-made preserves adorn the breakfast table – try the delicate wisteria jam before taking a leisurely stroll to the belvedere terrace to absorb the unfeasibly sheer drop to the sparkling Mediterranean below.

Why go? To feast on fabulous fresh food and admire stunning coastal views.

Details Double from €410. Via S Chiara 26, Ravello, Italy (00 39 089 857459; villacimbrone.com)



FROM TOP LEFT: PRIME POSITION AT LE METROPOLITAN HOTEL, PARIS; DIZZY HEIGHTS OF LUXURY AT VILLA CIMBRONE – AERIAL VIEW AND CAMELIA SUITE; POOL AND ALMOND GROVES AT MAS DE LE SERRA IN SPAIN; DESIGNER DIGS AT HOTEL MISSONI; ALTIS BELEM IN LISBON

