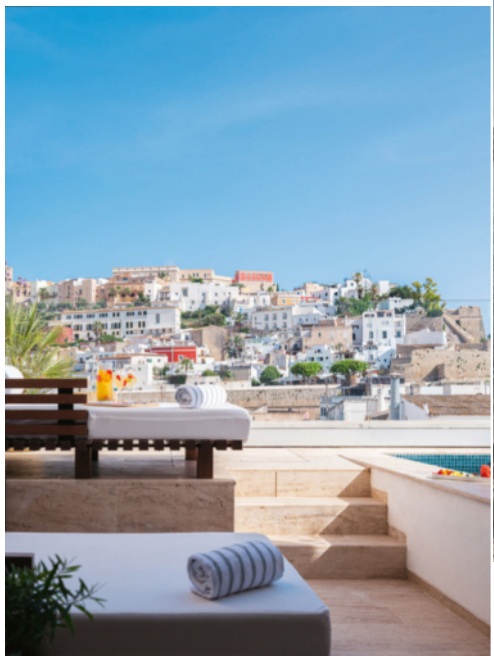

A love letter to...

Designer Angus Buchanan explains why Ibiza holds a special place in his heart

I'VE been visiting this island for years - for work, holidays with the family and to spend time with friends. We've seen it in full summer swing as well as during the shuttered winter months. By far the best time to go is early spring or late summer for a final autumnal swim and to catch the last rays of sunshine.

■ The island means many things to different people, but it's not only about clubbing (though there's lots of that if you are so inclined). We have young children, so for us, holidaying here involves finding a great restaurant on a beach that has wonderful food and service, but is also relaxed enough to not worry about wearing shoes and for our children to be able to play nearby while we order yet more grilled fish, rosé and padron peppers.

■ The Fish Shack in Talamanca, located on the cliffs at the far end of the bay, offers a compact choice of just-caught fish with potatoes and salad served up a few metres from the shore. There's no website, menus, reservations or card payments, but that's its charm. It's super laid-back and you'll have to queue to get a table but it's worth the wait.

■ In the north of the island, in former fishing village Portinatx, Los Enamorados (top right) is a fun spot – you'll find rooms here, a shop selling vintage and new lifestyle items and a relaxed restaurant. The Standard Ibiza (top left) has also recently opened. It has a fun restaurant, lively rooftop bar and retro-modern rooms.

■ Beach restaurant La Escollera is a favourite. Most of the island closes down between October and April, but this is a year-round classic. The view is amazing – it's the perfect place to spend a long Saturday lunch.

■ Sa Caleta, on Playa Es Bol Nou, is cut into the rocks and set back from the sea, but worth going for a swim and the views. Slightly off the beaten track, it's been here for generations and it's a truly beautiful spot.

■ Cala Escondida at Cala Conta (top middle) is our favourite bar. The only place to watch the sunset with a mojito. The entire beach cheers as the sun's rays vanish.

■ We make a beeline for La Galeria Elefante. This shop celebrates craft and artisanal items from the island and around the world, whether textiles, art or ceramics. We always return home inspired.

■ buchanan.studio

FEATURE EMMA J PAGE **PHOTOGRAPHS** (PORTRAIT) SOPHIA SPRING