

# Royal treatment

Jessica Basi goes regal and rustic as she checks into a former hangout for Russian tsars, a farmhouse in Spain and an island escape

## New HOTEL OPENINGS

UK

HONDURAS

RUSSIA

SPAIN



LAS VERANDAS



LAS VERANDAS



FOUR SEASONS LION PALACE



TORRALBENC

Have fond memories of camping as a kid – woodland rambles and singed sausages by the campfire? Swap the tents for luxury log cabins and that twiggy fire for your own personal beast of a barbecue and you'll begin to get a feel for **The Suffolk Escape**, a self-catered countryside retreat on Northlands Farm in **Suffolk**. Set on the edge of a glassy lake on a 120-hectare estate, each of the four lodges comes with private hot tub and the offer of in-cabin spa treatments ([suffolkescape.co.uk](http://suffolkescape.co.uk)).

A world away from the English countryside, secluded golf resort **Las Verandas** has sprung up on Roatan island, just off the Caribbean coast of **Honduras**. Funky modern artwork is splashed across the cool white villas, each of which is ribboned with a wrap-around veranda that looks out across the blue. Adventure sports abound here: you can dive among schools of sailfish and yellow-tail snapper or career through the jungle on a zipline. Just watch out for the parakeets. ([las-verandas.com](http://las-verandas.com)).

Heading for cooler climes, the long awaited **Lion Palace**, housed in a 19th-century royal residence, has opened its doors in **St Petersburg**. The first foray into Russia for the Four Seasons group, this golden-domed city stay is all about five-star glamour. Rooms take on a tsarist grandeur – neoclassical suites, gilded mirrors and gleaming marble bathrooms – while food is an international affair, with classic Italian cuisine and a teppanyaki restaurant among the many offerings ([fourseasons.com](http://fourseasons.com)).

Heading back westwards, the tiny village of Cala En Porter in **Menorca** has gained a boutique hotel, with the renovation of sleepy Spanish farmhouse **Torralbenc**, a limestone structure circled by vineyards. Visitors to this hushed-up retreat will spend most of their hours lying beside the rippling pool, wine glass in hand. It's worth venturing away from your cocoon to seek out nearby Macarella cove, a pine tree-sheltered patch of rocky perches and luminous turquoise water ([torralbenc.com](http://torralbenc.com)).

## Diary dates

### BAHAMAS

Celebrate the island's 40th Independence Day this month with concerts and fireworks. The independence junkanoo on 10 July has parades, gospel singing and powerboat races. [bahamas.co.uk](http://bahamas.co.uk)

### USA

California hosts the Gilroy Garlic Festival (pictured, bottom right) from 26-28 July, with cooking demonstrations, food stalls and live music. And, of course, plenty of garlic. [gilroygarlicfestival.com](http://gilroygarlicfestival.com)

### SOUTH KOREA

Get down and dirty at the mud festival in Boryeong (pictured, top right). More than two million visitors revel in the mineral-rich sludge that the small town piles onto its beach from 19-28 July. Bring face wipes. [visitkorea.or.kr](http://visitkorea.or.kr)

### AUSTRIA

From 1-7 July, the coastal town of Portschach will explode with colour at the World Body Painting Festival, bringing together a mix of music, dancing and 'body art'. [bodypainting-festival.com](http://bodypainting-festival.com)

### MONGOLIA

The Nadaam Festival of 'manly games' takes place across the country from 6-14 July. Testosterone-crazed alpha males compete in wrestling, horse racing and archery. Don't expect any tickle fights. [mongolia-tourism.gov.mn](http://mongolia-tourism.gov.mn)

