



Food and Travel Magazine
(Circulation 32,000; Points
13) 1st May 2020

(IMAGE 1 OF 2)

GRIFCO
AN MMGYGLOBAL COMPANY



Food and Travel Magazine
(Circulation 32,000; Points
13) 1st May 2020

(IMAGE 2 OF 2)

Hotel news



Clockwise from top left: an island church in Montenegro; a One&Only Portonovi guestroom; the pool; Ostuni's revamped Paragon 700 hotel; poolside views in Montenegro; an ornate Iniala Malta interior; rustic luxe at Birch; the library

While many of us wait for the impact of the current pandemic to subside, preparations are underway for the July launch of **One&Only Portonovi** resort in Montenegro. Marking the ultra-luxe brand's first foray into Europe, the opening is reflective of the Balkan nation's emergence onto the global travel radar after years of being overshadowed by its northern sister Croatia. Anchored in the sheltered idyll of Boka Bay on the Adriatic, not far from Unesco-listed Kotor, One&Only Portonovi promises 113 sleek guestrooms with floor-to-ceiling windows and fireplaces, plus two secluded villas and a presidential suite with a private wine cellar and its own butler access. Giorgio Locatelli will be opening Sabia, his first restaurant in the region, on the site, while Montenegrin-inspired dishes will be championed at La Veranda. Central to the resort offering will be Chenot Espace, a medi-spa grounded in the principles of Chinese medicine, offering a range of detoxing and anti-ageing treatments plus fitness packages. If you want to feel the years melting away, you could also try sipping a sundowner on the terrace while contemplating the serene mountain and bay views that surround you. oneandonlyresorts.com

Just when we were getting used to the levels of bucolic luxury offered by the likes of Heckfield Place and Soho Farmhouse, along comes **Birch** birchcommunity.com – and the concept of the rural retreat shifts up a gear. Brainchild of Ace Hotel alumnus Chris Penn and serial entrepreneur Chris King, this 22ha haven in rural Hertfordshire, just 30 minutes from London's Liverpool Street Station, combines a 140-room hotel with a working farm, two restaurants and a bakery run by Robin Gill, scion of farm-to-fork dining. But there's more: a pottery workshop, lido, music and art, plus coworking and events spaces and the option for membership – a draw, if ever there was one, for stressed-out city folk.

Meanwhile, over in Valletta, the much-anticipated **Iniala Malta** iniala.com is setting similar standards. Witness the stylish conversion of four townhouses dating from the 1600s into a stunning, art-filled design hotel comprising 23 rooms and suites in the Maltese capital. And, though it may take some time for Italy to find her feet again, there's plenty to look forward to at another heritage property.

Paragon 700 paragon700.com – a meticulously restored palace recently opened in the labyrinthine 'white city' of Ostuni, Puglia.

Words by Emma Venturini. Photos by Birch; Engh Aydiniz; Gregory Verrens

OPENINGS IN...

ITALY

MALTA

MONTENEGRO

UK

