



**Centurion Magazine**  
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(IMAGE 1 OF 3)

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# YOURS for the TAKING

Sometimes, a milestone is so big it demands a trip of equally epic proportions. These property buyouts are the ultimate occasion markers, welcoming you and yours to take over and make your next big gathering—whether it's a family holiday ski retreat or an adults-only birthday blowout in paradise—a celebration for the ages.

*by Lemina Sissons*

An aerial view of  
Bangs, a private Indonesian  
island for up to 14 guests.

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Left: The pool at Paragon 700 in Puglia, Italy. Below: One of the hotel's 11 guest rooms.

**PARAGON 700**

Owners Pascale Lauber and Ulrike Bauschke coaxed this 17th-century Italian palazzo out of a 40-year slumber when they opened it in June as a boutique hotel in the heart of Ostuni, the "White City" of Puglia. What they've created with its meticulous restoration is the ideal getaway in which to relax and revel after a major success—selling the business, publishing that novel, retiring. The palace's laid-back luxuries were made for R&R, from the gardens (the city's largest) and the swimming pool (the city's only) to the 11 guest rooms and suites adorned with original frescoes and patchwork art composed from 17th-century majolica tiles. Dinners

are nightly celebrations in their own right, with dishes like marinated red prawn with smoked black tea served in the vaulted restaurant or the orange grove. Outside, a fleet of motorbikes awaits to whisk your group off for a round of golf or a cruise along the Adriatic Sea on the owners' yacht. Better yet, stay in and perch in the shade of a pomegranate tree sipping a L'Oro della Puglia—made with lemon leaves and gentian plucked from Paragon 700's herbarium—or toast your achievements with the region's Primitivos and Negroamaros in the old olive oil storage cellar turned tasting room. *From \$15,320 for two nights for up to 22 guests; paragon700.com.*



COURTESY PARAGON 700; OPPOSITE PAGE: COURTESY CASTELNAU DES FIEUMARCON; RIGHT: COURTESY PRANZANO VILLAGE



**THE EXCLUSIVE VILLAGE**

When Frédéric Coustols first came to the medieval Gascony village of Castelnau des Fieumarcon in 1978, it was an abandoned ruin covered in vines. Drawn to its historic structures and isolated setting, the hotelier (who owns Lisbon's beloved Palácio Belmonte) acquired the French hamlet from its owner and, ten years later, completed the restoration of its 14 houses, stable yard, and 13th-century church. Now Coustols says he is sharing his oasis with guests who appreciate it for exactly the reason it was once deserted: "It was so far away from anywhere that nobody wanted to live there," he says. "This is what gives it its value today." As it stands—restored with antiques, surrounded by pines and wild pastures—the village is a rural idyll well

suited for an exclusive "I do" for the happy couple and 80 of their nearest and dearest. Ceremonies take place in the chapel, along the cobblestoned streets (undisturbed by any streetlights, cars, or tourists), or out in the surrounding fields, where ducks and Blonde d'Aquitaine cows roam and melons and tomatoes grow in abundance. Guests can gather for a reception dinner in the banquet room or on the Renaissance-era porch, with music from the grand piano swirling through the air. At the end of the night, everyone retires to the cottages, where Coustols's art collection, which includes works by Miró, Delacroix, and Serres, hangs on the limestone walls. *From \$34,360 for three nights; olivetravels.com.*



Above: Castelnau des Fieumarcon's restored medieval structures. Right: Casagrande House, one of 14 guest cottages in the village.

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