

COUNTRY & TOWN HOUSE

MAY 2014 £3.60

The
FAMILY
issue

PLAYTIME
*Keeping children
out of mischief*

**THOMASINA
MIERS**

Chef, author, campaigner, mother...

**DESIGN WITH
KIDS IN MIND**

*Stylish spaces
for little
people*

**MICHAEL
MORPURGO**

*At home
in Devon*

7 MARBELLA BEACH HOTEL

CORFU

Cascading down a hillside with stunning views out over the bay to Albania and mainland Greece, surrounded by folding hills of olive and plane trees that could date back to ancient Greece, the locale is the very essence of the Med. The main thrust of last year's refurbishment was aimed squarely at families. There's a wonderfully light and airy new kids' club, expertly run; new two-bedroom family suites come with their own private front gardens, large patios, fun furniture and grassy lawns, screened in frameless glass with wonderful sea views. It's a perfect mini-villa holiday with hotel facilities on tap. La Terraza restaurant has an impressive daily buffet. There's a Greek Taverna (new this year) behind the swimming pool and a seafood shack on the beach. The two swimming pools are vast, with a kids' paddling pool and surrounding garden, from where it's a short walk to the half pebble, half sand beach. It's very contemporary, no-fuss modern med; the new Corfu.

FROM Classic Collection Holidays offers seven nights for a family of four including flights and private transfers from £4,736 all-inclusive. 0800 008 7299; classic-collection.co.uk



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4 FOUR SEASONS, SHARM EL SHEIKH

EGYPT

The architecture of this hotel is the Disney version of an arabic village. There are little houses and big villas, interwoven with cobbled paths, spurting fountains, highly irrigated lawns and masses of bougainvillea, golf buggies (oooh, they love to whizz you about in a buggy), and the resort's very own tram – for 'walk-resistant' types to

speed straight from the main hotel building to the ice cream hut by the pool. Once you're in this clean, safe, gated compound with endless family activity and entertainment, there's not much reason to leave. Except for one; the food. Let's just say there are no Michelin stars heading this way any time soon. Enjoy the energetic snorkeling or spectacular diving in the national park of Ras Mohammed. Crash out on the beach beds and set up camp by the puppy-eager beach boys who swing by hourly to take drinks orders, offer freshly chopped melon, a cold towel, a massage or, maybe, even your sunglasses cleaned? And, if you want none of it, the charming lads utter, 'Enjoy your time', before disappearing. Only to return a prompt Four Seasons 59 minutes later to make doubly sure you're enjoying your time.

DOUBLES FROM £185 B&B

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