

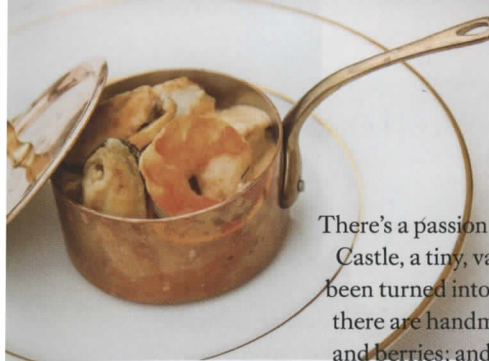


THE ULTIMATE TRAVEL GUIDE 2017
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BAZAAR

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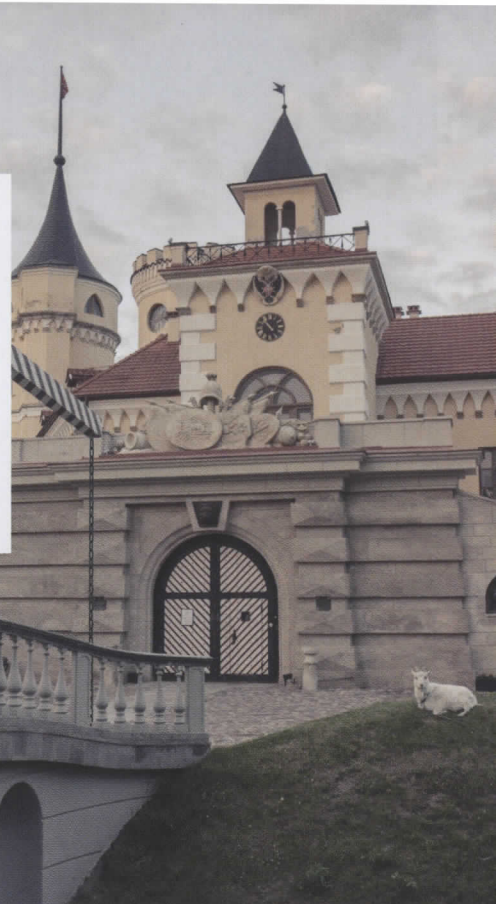


Bip Castle ST PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

25

There's a passion for the home-grown, the natural and the local at Bip Castle, a tiny, vanilla-coloured, turreted pile. The old dungeon has been turned into a pantry filled with home-bottled pickles and jams; there are handmade vodkas flavoured with birch buds, horseradish and berries; and the central courtyard is now a market garden with great beds of radishes and parsley, lettuces and peas. Dinner might be pelmeni (Russian dumplings), herrings and salads, followed by chicken Kiev and braised duck – flavours that haven't changed in the 220 years since the emperors ate at the castle.

From about £150 a room a night (www.bip-hotel.ru).



Cotton House Hotel, Autograph Collection BARCELONA, SPAIN

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Cotton House Hotel's elegant restaurant, Batuar, is centred around a magnificent freestanding bar under an old-fashioned conservatory. The interior designer Lázaro Rosa-Violán has cleverly combined the original 19th-century parquet floors with modern chandeliers and brightly upholstered chairs. It's open from 7am until midnight, creating a relaxed ambience that reflects the laid-back Catalan culture. The food is an ambitious mix of local and global cuisine – including Iberian bellota ham, and oxtail cannelloni with truffled béchamel.

From about £180 a room a night (www.hotelcottonhouse.com).



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Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons OXFORDSHIRE, UK

Raymond Blanc's superb two-Michelin-starred restaurant is the stuff of legend – a place for milestone celebrations and special occasions, serving some of the very best French cooking in the UK. It also offers gourmands the chance to relax after dinner in the supremely comfortable manor house. Loveliest of all are the garden suites, tucked away from the main building, with their own beautifully planted terraces and borders; while Blanc's two-acre walled kitchen garden is a delight to behold, with verdant plots of vegetables, herbs and wild mushrooms, to ensure the freshest organic ingredients for the restaurant chefs.

From £595 a room a night (www.belmond.com).