

# TAKE SIX AUTUMN & WINTER OFFERS 2019

## FOR DISCERNING TRAVELLERS

If you have yet to plan your autumn or winter short break then now is the perfect time – not only will Kirker's team of experienced consultants provide inspiration and expert advice, but we have also negotiated some excellent hotel offers which can be combined with a favourite museum...my personal selection would be Degas in Paris or Dürer in Vienna (see page 7), and whether you are celebrating a special birthday or anniversary or not, I am sure you deserve to treat yourself to a Kirker holiday. Overleaf we highlight suggestions for September and October which can be perfect for warm autumn sunshine in Southern Europe. On pages 4 & 5, we have chosen destinations where we have exceptional winter offers for November and December when the madding crowd will be elsewhere, leaving you to enjoy the great cities in relative tranquillity. Speak to the Kirker Concierge to book an expert local guide or a recommended restaurant, or perhaps tickets for an opera, ballet, or a timed entrance pass to a favourite museum – all of which can combine to make a very civilised short break away.

For those planning a longer holiday – turn to pages 8 and 9 for some tailor-made multi-centre holiday ideas, and remember that we also offer a range of escorted Cultural Tours & Music Holidays – see pages 14 and 15 for departures in late 2019 and early 2020. Finally, if you seek warm winter sunshine, turn to the back page for a choice of six of my personal favourites. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

*Ted Wake* Ted Wake – Joint MD & Director of Sales & Marketing



Berlin

Prices are per person and include flights, transfers, accommodation with breakfast, and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

### FLORENCE

#### Villa La Massa \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

Villa La Massa is set in 22 acres of peaceful gardens on the banks of the Arno. The 41 bedrooms are spread across the main house and several other villas. There is a **swimming pool**, a riverside restaurant and a new spa. A complimentary shuttle service operates to the Ponte Vecchio.



3 nights for the price of 2  
from 23 September -  
26 October - price from  
£898, saving £262

Includes entrance to the Uffizi Gallery

### SORRENTO

#### Excelsior Vittoria \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

Located just two minutes' walk from the city centre, this grand hotel offers spectacular views over the harbour and across the Bay of Naples. There is an atmospheric bar with large panoramic terrace, a Michelin-starred restaurant and 92 comfortable rooms.

3 nights for the price of 2 in  
October - price from £980,  
saving £295

### BERLIN

#### Hotel De Rome \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

The Hotel De Rome is located just off the Unter den Linden. It has 145 bedrooms, an Italian restaurant, a bar, and a roof terrace with excellent views, and the jewel vault has been transformed into an indoor **swimming pool**. Ask about tickets for the new State Opera.

3 nights for the price of 2 for  
Sunday arrivals - price from  
£738, saving £185

Includes a 72hr museum card

### VERONA

#### Due Torri \*\*\*\*\*

Located next to the Gothic church of Sant'Anastasia, the Due Torri is Verona's 'grand dame'. There are 89 bedrooms, a panoramic rooftop terrace, a seasonal grill restaurant and a gastronomic restaurant on the ground floor beneath a mediaeval arcade.

3 nights for the price of 2 from  
1 November - 28 December  
- price from £594,  
saving £148

### PROVENCE

#### Crillon le Brave \*\*\*\*\* Superior

In the heart of the Côtes du Ventoux vineyards, Crillon le Brave is one of our favourite hotels in France. There are wonderful views of the surrounding countryside from 32 Provençal bedrooms. There is a heated outdoor **swimming pool**, a small spa and an exceptional restaurant with a terrace overlooking the serene, picturesque valley.



3 nights for the  
price of 2 from  
9 September -  
3 November  
- price from £792,  
saving £230

### PRAGUE

#### Hotel Paris \*\*\*\*\*

Located in the heart of the atmospheric Old Town, the Paris is one of Prague's few hotels where all the public rooms are still in the original Art Nouveau style. These include a magnificent restaurant, a grand staircase, lounge and the famous 'Café de Paris'. All of the 86 bedrooms are more contemporary in style. The autumn opera season in Prague offers exceptional value for money.



3 nights for the  
price of 2 from  
1 November -  
30 March  
- price from £657,  
saving £162

Includes a 3hr walking tour

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To book or request a brochure please contact your independent travel agent

All prices shown are per person sharing a double room, include special offers as applicable and are subject to availability. Prices are correct at time of publication: September 2019. For booking conditions please see [www.kirkerholidays.com](http://www.kirkerholidays.com).



# Kirker

FOR DISCERNING TRAVELLERS

# SIX OF THE BEST SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER CITY BREAKS

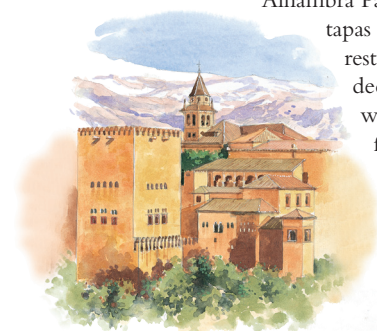
*There are few better months for a short break in Europe than September and October, when the summer crowds have moved on but the late summer sunshine remains. It is never too late to book a Kirker holiday and we have selected some of our favourite destinations where we still have availability this month.*

*Prices are per person and include flights, private car transfers, accommodation with breakfast, and the services of the Kirker Concierge.*

## GRANADA

### Casa 1800 \*\*\*\* Deluxe

Set in Granada's lower Albayzin, off the River Darro, Casa 1800 is situated in a quiet pedestrian walkway, within a stone's throw of the Alhambra Palace, as well as local shops and tapas bars. Following a painstaking restoration, its 25 rooms are decorated in a baroque style with wooden balustrades, terracotta floors and comfortably-sized terraces.



*3 night price from £998*

*Includes a Granada Card which provides entrance to the Alhambra Palace*

## MALTA

### Xara Palace, Mdina \*\*\*\* Deluxe

Located in the ancient capital city of Mdina, a beautifully-preserved mediaeval citadel, the Xara Palace dates from the 17th century and is a member of Relais & Châteaux. There are just 17 bedrooms furnished with original antiques and adorned with Maltese and international artwork. The 'De Mondion' rooftop restaurant is one of the best on the island and offers al fresco tables on top of the city's walls. Informal dining is offered at the hotel's trattoria-style restaurant with tables available outside in the quiet square.



*3 night price from £798*

## ATHENS

### St. George Lycabettus \*\*\*\* Superior

This boutique property with great views of the Acropolis is located in the Kolonaki area of Athens, one of the oldest and most fashionable parts of the city. There are 154 bedrooms decorated in a modern style, a breakfast room on the top floor and a gourmet restaurant 'Le Grand Balcon' that offers panoramic views stretching from the Acropolis to the sea. Facilities include a trendy café/bar that, in summer, leads to a romantic garden, a stylish outdoor swimming pool and a spa.



*3 night price from £795*

*Includes entrance to the Acropolis Museum*

## ISTANBUL

### Eresin Crown \*\*\*\* Superior

This comfortable hotel is in an excellent location in the heart of the Sultanahmet district. It was built on the site of an Imperial palace and many of the original archaeological finds uncovered during the construction have been incorporated into the design and now form part of the hotel's unique private museum.

The 59 rooms are decorated in a modern style with paintings from the hotel's collection of over 150 works. The hotel's bar and excellent restaurant are located on the ground floor.



*3 night price from £798*

## PALERMO

### Federico II \*\*\*\* Superior

The Sicilian capital is home to Italy's largest opera house and some extraordinary Norman architecture. This classic early 20th century hotel in Palermo's theatre district, well located for exploring the old and new attractions of the city, has recently been renovated in a style more fitting with the early 21st century. The 65 comfortable rooms all feature neutral colours and local art. The 'Aromi' restaurant serves classic Italian cuisine with a contemporary twist in keeping with the surrounding design.

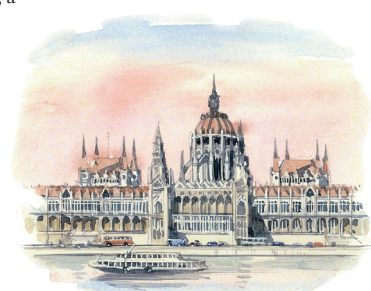


*3 night price from £779*

## BUDAPEST

### The Prestige \*\*\*\* Superior

Located on the Pest side of the Danube, The Hotel Prestige is a 19th century neo-classical town house just 10 minutes' walk from the Chain Bridge and almost adjacent to the magnificent dome of St Stephen's Basilica. There are 85 bedrooms, a Michelin-starred restaurant and an impressive inner courtyard where interior balconies look down onto the spacious lobby on the ground floor.



*3 night price from £579*

*Includes a 3hr private walking tour*



# SIX OF THE BEST SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER SPECIAL OFFERS

*At this time of year we can also offer Kirker clients excellent value for money including complimentary nights in some of our favourite destinations, from elegant cities such as Aix-en-Provence and Bologna, to countryside hotels on the Cote d'Azur, the Costa Brava and the Loire Valley, and a private palazzo on the shores of Lake Como.*

*Prices are per person and include flights, transfers or car hire, accommodation with breakfast, and the services of the Kirker Concierge.*

## LAKE COMO

### **Il Palazzo del Vice Re, Lezzeno (a luxury private residence)**

This wonderful aristocratic palace will appeal to discerning clients seeking an authentic experience. An aperitif with the owners (included for all Kirker clients), is a great way to learn more about Lezzeno and the history of their palazzo. There are just six bedrooms – five overlook the lake – and the delightful sun terrace, 50 metres from the property, has comfortable loungers and a small private rocky beach for lake bathing.



*4 nights for the price of 3 in October - price from £899, saving £135*

## LOIRE VALLEY

### **Château de Beauvois \*\*\*\* Superior**

Perfectly located for exploring the Loire Valley castles of Villandry, Langeais, Azay le Rideau and beyond, the Château de Beauvois dates back to the 16th century and has been beautifully restored to the grand and traditional hotel you see today. Its 36 rooms are classically furnished in a manor house style and all look out over the estate's extensive parkland, lake, terraces or woods. Guests can enjoy gourmet cuisine in the cosy and intimate dining rooms or on the outdoor, flower-filled terrace in summer.



*3 nights for the price of 2 all year - price from £495, saving £105*

## COSTA BRAVA

### **Hostal de la Gavina, S'Agaró \*\*\*\*\***

Half an hour from Girona airport, or 90 minutes from Barcelona, this traditional property is located between two delightful beaches, Cala Sa Conca and Sant Pol in the town of S'Agaró. There are 74 characterful bedrooms, decorated with antique furniture and paintings; rooms overlook the charming courtyard or the sea. Fine dining is available at the 'Candlelight' restaurant and lighter dishes are served at 'Garbi'. There is a spa with an indoor pool as well as tennis and paddle-tennis courts.



*4 nights for the price of 3 from 16 September - 31 October - price from £876, saving £169*

## BOLOGNA

### **Novecento \*\*\*\* Superior**

Run and owned by our good friends the Orsi family, the Novecento is located on Piazza Gallilei, a pretty square near to the Piazza Maggiore and the Basilica di San Petronio, ideally placed for exploring the beautiful old town. Behind the traditional façade lies a distinctive contemporary interior in Viennese Secession style with a beautifully lit reception, lounge and bar and just 25 individually furnished bedrooms. On the same square the Orsi family also own two self-catered apartments decorated in a modern style; please ask for more details.



*4 nights for the price of 3 until 10 December - price from £796, saving £151*

*Includes a 72hr Bologna Welcome Card*

## ST. JEAN-CAP-FERRAT

### **Royal Riviera \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe**

This elegant hotel, just 30 minutes from Nice, has been a favourite for the affluent since its opening in 1904. The lobby, bar and lounge are beautifully decorated in warm tones of brown and red and have chequered marble floors. The same style is represented in the 77 bedrooms in the main building and there are a further 14 rooms in the Orangerie which is located in the delightful gardens. The gastronomic restaurant looks out over the gardens and there is a heated outdoor swimming pool.

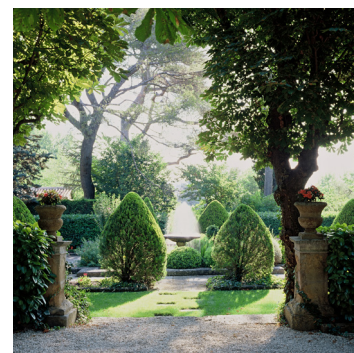


*3 nights for the price of 2 from 1 October - 17 November - price £749, saving from £240*

## AIX-EN-PROVENCE

### **Le Pignonnet \*\*\*\* Deluxe**

With an excellent art gallery and a host of boutiques, cafés and good restaurants, Aix is one of France's most charming cities. Le Pignonnet is an 18th century country house surrounded by tranquil gardens, which were an inspiration to Paul Cézanne who sat in a corner and painted his famous views of 'Montagne Sainte-Victoire' in 1890. There is an outdoor swimming pool, a gastronomic restaurant with an al fresco terrace, a Champagne bar and 48 bedrooms.



*3 nights for the price of 2 in October - price from £696, saving £155*

# SIX OF THE BEST FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

*November & December are not only two of the best months to escape from the UK, but they also offer excellent value for money in both cities and countryside destinations. It is a wonderful time of year to enjoy museums and galleries in serenity and perhaps take in an opera performance, whilst visitors to the South of France and Spain can enjoy surprisingly pleasant temperatures.*

*Prices are per person and include flights, transfers or car hire, accommodation with breakfast, and the services of the Kirker Concierge.*

## VIENNA

### Palais Hansen Kempinski \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

Located on the Ringstrasse, 10 minutes' walk from the Rathaus and 15 minutes from St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Palais Hansen was originally built as a hotel for the World Exhibition in Vienna in 1873. There is a bright lobby lounge and bar in the glass covered central courtyard. An excellent breakfast and dinner are served in the 'Die Küche' restaurant. Alternatively, try the Michelin-starred 'Edvard' for fine dining where the focus is on seasonal produce and a relaxed atmosphere. There are 152 spacious rooms and a spa with a small indoor pool.



*4 nights for the price of 3 in November - price from £899, saving £212*

*Includes entrance to the Leopold Museum and the Kunsthistorisches Museum*

## PROVENCE

### Couvent des Minimes Hotel & Spa \*\*\*\* Deluxe

This beautifully restored 17th century convent is located on a hillside amongst lavender fields, orchards and olive groves close to the hamlet of Mane, just over an hour from Marseilles. There are 46 extremely comfortable bedrooms and a swimming pool in the terraced gardens. Chef Jerome Roy prepares exceptional cuisine using local produce and the spa uses local products from the famous L'Occitane range.



*3 nights for the price of 2 from 12 November - 20 December - price from £675, saving £186*

## BRUGES

### Heritage \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

Located just 100 metres from the Market Square, the Heritage is housed in an attractive classical building dating from 1869. It is a privately-owned Relais & Châteaux hotel and is decorated throughout in a traditional style with original antiques and paintings. There are just 22 bedrooms, a cosy lounge and a restaurant offering fine French and Flemish cuisine. The cellar dates back to the 14th century and is home to a fitness centre.



*4 nights for the price of 3 for Sunday & Monday arrivals - price from £618, saving £130*

*Includes a 72hr museum card*

## VALENCIA

### The Westin Valencia \*\*\*\*\*

Valencia combines a lively historic old town with a wonderful stretch of sandy beach. The Westin opened after the renovation of a building dating from 1917 and is located in the centre of the city. There are two restaurants and guests can also enjoy an appetizer and aperitif in the hotel's lush garden. There are 135 bedrooms and a spa with an elegant indoor plunge pool, sauna and hammam.



*Special winter offer: 3 night price from £697*

*Includes entrance to the City of Arts & Sciences*

## SEVILLE

### Fontecruz Sevilla Seises \*\*\*\*\*

Located close to the cathedral, this former archbishop's palace was built over Roman baths, parts of which are still visible. The highlight is the wonderful roof terrace with its swimming pool and outstanding views of the Giralda and the city's rooftops. It is a great place to relax and to enjoy a variety of dishes prepared at the restaurant by different guest chefs. The hotel has 42 comfortable bedrooms and a ground floor breakfast room leading to a delightful courtyard terrace.



*4 nights for the price of 3 until 5 December - price from £654, saving £90*

*Includes entrance to the Cathedral & Giralda or the Alcazar Palace*

## DRESDEN

### Bülow Palais \*\*\*\*\* Superior

Now accessible with a new direct flight from Stansted, Dresden is one of the most culturally-rewarding destinations in Europe. This delightful Relais & Châteaux hotel is located in the peaceful cobbled streets across the river from the immaculately-restored Old Town. The 58 bedrooms have been decorated with the same care and finesse as the public areas, creating a cosy and luxurious environment. The Michelin-starred 'Caroussel' restaurant is amongst the most celebrated in Saxony. The 'Palais Bistro' offers light German dishes and there is a comfortable bar with separate Cigar Lounge, a fitness room and a small spa.



*3 nights for the price of 2 from 1 - 27 November - price from £499, saving £116*



# SIX MORE... OF THE BEST FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

*Elude the onset of the Christmas festivities with a short break to Carcassonne, Barcelona or Lisbon, where the sun often shines in winter and you can enjoy the sights in relative peace. Alternatively head to Jerez to taste authentic sherry from the bodega – or embrace the festive season in Austria or the atmospheric Christmas markets of Prague.*

*Prices are per person and include flights, transfers or car hire, accommodation with breakfast, and the services of the Kirker Concierge.*

## CARCASSONNE

### De La Cité ★★★★★ Deluxe

One of our favourite hotels in France and certainly one of the most dramatically situated, the De La Cité has been beautifully restored. The original beamed ceilings, stained glass windows, wood panelling and floral tapestries have been retained and the hotel is situated in its own gardens. There are 64 beautifully decorated bedrooms, a library and 'La Barbacane', a renowned Michelin-starred restaurant with an extensive wine cellar.



*4 nights for the price  
of 3 from 8 December  
2019 - 20 March 2020  
- price from £699,  
saving £141*

## BARCELONA

### Sixty Two ★★★★★ Superior

Located right on the Passeig de Gracia, between Gaudi's magnificent landmarks, Casa Batlló and La Pedrera, and a short stroll from the Plaza Catalunya, Sixty Two is a delightful boutique hotel. It has 45 contemporary bedrooms either overlooking the avenue or its Japanese Garden. A small ground floor reception leads upstairs to a stylish lounge and breakfast room where hot dishes are cooked to order at no extra charge and where complimentary tea and coffee is served from mid-morning.



*4 nights for the price of 3 from 1 October -  
31 December - price from £636,  
saving £99*

*Includes entrance to the Sagrada Família*

## JEREZ

### Villa Jerez ★★★★★ Superior

We are delighted to feature this charming hotel which is within walking distance of the old town, the Royal School of Equestrian Art and some of the best sherry bodegas. Overlooking a palm-fringed courtyard and beautifully manicured gardens, the hotel gives its guests a sense of staying in a private villa with cosy lounges and an attractive bar and restaurant serving Italian and Mediterranean cuisine, all leading onto the terrace and lawn beyond. The 18 bedrooms face the gardens or the pool and are individually decorated in a classical manor house style.



*3 night price from £650*

## LISBON

### Lapa Palace ★★★★★ Deluxe

Built in the 19th century for a noble Portuguese family, this is Lisbon's most luxurious and sumptuously furnished hotel. Located in the between the Bairro Alto and Belem districts, the palace is set in beautiful landscaped gardens which slope towards the River Tagus below. The gastronomic 'Lapa' restaurant serves classic Portuguese and Mediterranean cuisine and the 'Tejo' bar terrace is a wonderful place to relax with a drink overlooking the river. There are 109 rooms spread among the villa, garden wing and the main palace.



*4 nights for the price of 3 from  
1 November 2019 - 31 March  
2020 - price from £987,  
saving £227*

*Includes a 48hr Lisboa card*

## PRAGUE

### K+K Hotel Central ★★★★★ Superior

This excellent hotel opened in Spring 2004 after the comprehensive restoration of one of Prague's most attractive Art Nouveau buildings. Formerly a theatre, the period architectural detail such as stained glass and wrought iron has been retained and combines favourably with a modern, contemporary design. The 130 bedrooms are very comfortable and bathrooms all have welcome underfloor heating. There is a gym with a sauna, and massage treatments are also offered. The location is great – just steps from the Powder Tower and the Municipal Hall.



*3 nights for the price of 2 from 3 November -  
25 December - price from £546, saving £80*

*Includes a 3hr private walking tour*

## SALZKAMMERGUT

### Schloss Fuschl ★★★★★ Deluxe

This romantic castle, with its perfect lakeside setting has been associated with empresses, archbishops and film stars. The hotel lies in its own parkland and has beautiful views of the peaceful Fuschlsee and its surrounding mountains, yet is just 30 minutes from Salzburg. Facilities include a luxury spa with indoor pools and an outdoor sauna. The restaurant serves superb Austrian and French cuisine, the bar is housed beneath 16th century vaulted ceilings and light meals are available on the lake shore jetty. The Schloss Fuschl has 104 rooms plus six private lakeside cottages which are beautifully furnished.



*3 night price from £889*

# SIX OF THE BEST RAIL JOURNEYS

*Travelling by rail is a uniquely enjoyable way to explore a destination, as you glide through towns, cities and countryside whilst enjoying the passing scenery. We have selected some particularly spectacular routes – from the Alpine passes of the Bernina Express to the dramatic fjords of Norway and the vine-covered Douro Valley, and from the high-speed TGV which whisks from the centre of Paris to ancient Nîmes, to the stately and elegant Venice Simplon-Orient-Express.*

*Prices are per person and include flights, transfers, accommodation with breakfast, rail tickets as described and the services of the Kirker Concierge.*

## VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT-EXPRESS

The world's most famous luxury train is an experience which should be on every discerning traveller's wish list, and there is no better way to celebrate a special birthday or anniversary in style. Passengers enjoy spectacular views as you pass through the Alps, exceptional cuisine prepared by expert chefs and served in elegant 1920s dining cars, and comfortable private cabins – where a bottle of Taittinger Champagne awaits Kirker clients.



*Price from £3,190 for a three night holiday including 2 nights in Venice and one night on board the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express*

## BERNINA EXPRESS

Possibly the most scenic of all the Alpine railways, the Bernina Express carries passengers through the 2,253m Bernina Pass from Switzerland into Italy. On the five hour journey you will traverse dramatic ravines and mountains and pass through 55 tunnels and over 196 bridges, including engineering marvels such as the Brusio Spiral viaduct, all enjoyed from the comfort of modern carriages with panoramic windows. Our tailor-made itinerary includes two nights each in Zurich and Milan.



*Price from £1,294 for a four night holiday*

## LA ROBLA

The North of Spain is a region of rugged and dramatic landscapes including spectacular coastline, mountainous peaks and verdant countryside. The best way to see the countryside is by rail, and La Robla offers a gentle touring itinerary with simple but comfortable accommodation, good local cuisine and daily excursions to historic cities such as Oviedo, Santander and Leon. You can choose from several routes but we can recommend the inland journey from Bilbao to Leon.



*Price from £1,639 for a four night holiday including two nights on La Robla and one night each in Bilbao and Leon*

## THE BERGEN RAILWAY

Taking passengers from the capital Oslo to Bergen on the Atlantic coast, this six hour journey takes in the best of Norway's countryside, including forests, lakes, fjords and the vast open plains of the high altitude Hardangervidda Plateau. Stay in Oslo and visit the striking modern Opera House where you are encouraged to walk on the roof, and finish with a few days in the charming waterfront city of Bergen.



*Price from £1,198 for a three night holiday including one night in Oslo and two nights in Bergen*

## DOURO VALLEY

Famous for its vineyards cut into steep terraces, the Douro Valley is one of the most beautiful parts of Portugal, and one of the most popular ways to see it is from a boat travelling upstream to the charming port-producing town of Pinhão. For a different perspective, travel one-way by train on the Linha do Douro which switches from one side of the river to the other, offering equally spectacular vistas.



*Price from £729 for a three night holiday including a day trip to Pinhão by ferry and rail*

## PARIS TO NÎMES

The Roman city of Nîmes is not only home to two of the world's finest ancient buildings – its intact amphitheatre and the Maison Carrée – but a new Musée de la Romanité opened in 2018 providing a fascinating insight into the city's Roman history. Whilst the journey from Paris would take seven hours by road, the TGV covers the distance in a little under three hours, with fine views of the French countryside from your seat.



*Price from £1,197 for a three night holiday including one night in Paris and two nights in Nîmes, Eurostar, TGV and a one-way flight from Nîmes to London*



# SIX OF THE BEST EXHIBITIONS

This autumn brings a host of major new exhibitions to some of our favourite museums and galleries in Europe. We have selected some highlights below, ranging from Van Eyck in Ghent and Dürer in Vienna, to Peggy Guggenheim's modern art collection in Venice – and including some of the greatest works of the Impressionists in Paris, Madrid and Rome.

Prices are per person and include flights, transfers, accommodation with breakfast, entrance to the exhibitions, and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

## ALBERTINA - VIENNA

**'Dürer' from 20 September 2019 - 6 January 2020**

Albrecht Dürer, was one of the finest draughtsmen of the mediaeval era. Vienna's Albertina Museum is home to the world's largest and most important Dürer collection, and this winter's major new exhibition will unite the museum's own pieces with international loans to create an extraordinary collection of over 200 works.



**Savoy \*\*\* Superior**

Noted for its friendly staff and relaxing atmosphere, the Savoy is a privately-owned hotel with 42 rooms, located just five minutes' walk from the Museum Quarter.

3 night price from £598

Includes entrance to the Albertina

## FINE ARTS MUSEUM - GHENT

**'Van Eyck: An optical revolution' from 1 Feb - 30 Apr 2020**

In 2020 Ghent celebrates the work of Jan Van Eyck, with a series of events revolving around his masterpiece 'The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb'. Its recently-restored outer panels will be joined by other works by the artist for the first time, in an exhibition which includes works by contemporary late mediaeval artists from Germany, France, Italy and Spain.

**1898 The Post \*\*\*\***

This small boutique hotel is located on the upper floors of the city's old post office. Built between 1898 and 1910 the building is a beautiful mix of neo-Gothic and neo-Renaissance architecture. There are 37 bedrooms and a cocktail bar with views of the famous spires of Ghent.

3 night price from £698



Includes entrance to the Fine Arts Museum

## PALAZZO BONAPARTE - ROME

**'Secret Impressionists' from 6 October 2019 - 8 March 2020**

Palazzo Bonaparte, once the home of Napoleon's mother, has been converted into a new exhibition space which launches this autumn with an exhibition of 50 Impressionist works from important private collections, including paintings by Monet, Renoir, Cézanne, Pissarro, Sisley, Gauguin and Signac, most of which have rarely been seen in public.



**Regno \*\*\* Superior**

This family-run hotel is located in the heart of ancient Rome, close to Palazzo Bonaparte. All 66 bedrooms are pleasantly furnished and there is a small lounge and a bar.

3 night price from £698

Includes entrance to the Palazzo Bonaparte

## PEGGY GUGGENHEIM - VENICE

**'The Last Dogressa'**

**21 September 2019 - 27 January 2020**

This new exhibition at Peggy Guggenheim's Palazzo will reveal the fascinating story of her time in Venice from 1948 until her death in 1979, through works that she acquired during this period – from well-known paintings such as René Magritte's *Empire of Light* to rarely exhibited works from the Collection by artists such as René Brô, Gwyther Irwin, and Grace Hartigan.

**American Dinesen \*\*\*\***

Located overlooking a picturesque canal just a few minutes' walk from the Guggenheim the American Dinesen is a delightful hotel with just 27 bedrooms and a small terrace on the second floor.

3 night price from £629

Includes entrance to the Peggy Guggenheim



## MUSEUM THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA - MADRID

**'The Impressionists and Photography'**

**5 October 2019 - 26 January 2020**

Madrid's Thyssen launches a new winter exhibition which follows the influence of early photography on the Impressionists – and vice versa. With both photographers such as Le Gray, Cuvelier, Nadar and Disderi, and paintings by Manet, Degas and their contemporaries, the exhibition explores the treatment of light through eight selected subjects common to both media.



**Villa Real \*\*\*\*\***

Opposite the Parliament building and the famous Thyssen museum, the Villa Real has 115 rooms, a stylish bar and restaurant.

3 night price from £668

Includes entrance to the Thyssen

## MUSÉE D'ORSAY - PARIS

**'Degas at the Opera' 24 September 2019 - 19 January 2020**

The Opera was a formative influence on Degas throughout his career and his works follow dancers, singers, musicians and audience members through the atmosphere of the Paris Opera in the 19th century. This new exhibition focuses on this relationship, exploring themes such as movement, lighting and multiple points of view, and transporting visitors into the boxes, foyers, studios and onto the stage of the Palais Garnier.

**Pont Royal \*\*\*\* Superior**

In the heart of St. Germain-des-Prés, within walking distance of the Musée d'Orsay the Pont Royal has maintained its 'club' character with a library bar, 75 comfortable bedrooms and a popular restaurant.

3 night price from £728

Includes entrance to the Musée d'Orsay



# SIX OF THE BEST TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAYS

*With a week or 10 days to spare, why not extend your short break to create a tailor-made holiday which includes two or more destinations in one carefully-planned itinerary? With the expert advice of one of our consultants, it is possible to see more of your chosen destination, whilst travelling at a relaxed pace without sacrificing comfort and style.*

## VENICE, FLORENCE & ROME

The classic Italian trilogy combines the three great cities of Venice, Florence and Rome in one tailor-made holiday, which takes you through Renaissance, Classical and Baroque architecture, exceptional art galleries and magnificent religious buildings ranging from the Basilica of St Mark in Venice to Brunelleschi's Duomo in Florence and the vast dome of St Peter's in Rome. Kirker clients receive complimentary entrance tickets to the most important sights in each city – the Doge's Palace in Venice, the Uffizi Gallery in Florence and the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel in Rome – where you will skip the queues and enjoy some of the world's most astonishing works of art by Tintoretto, Leonardo, Botticelli, Raphael and Michelangelo, to name just a few.



*With high-speed intercity trains, these three cities can easily be incorporated in a holiday of about a week – but stay during low season, and you can stay nine nights for the price of six, with three free nights, saving £698*

*High season price from £2,796 per person for six nights in September and October*

*Low season price from £2,098 per person for nine nights from 3 November - 23 December, saving £698*

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Flight to Venice and back from Rome
- Private transfers throughout
- First-class rail between cities
- Two nights' accommodation with breakfast at the Luna Baglioni, Venice (5★ Deluxe)
- Two nights' accommodation with breakfast at the Relais Santa Croce, Florence (5★ Deluxe)
- Two nights' accommodation with breakfast at the Regina Baglioni, Rome (5★ Deluxe)
- A complimentary dinner in each property
- Entrance tickets to the Doge's Palace, Uffizi Gallery and Vatican Museum
- Speak to the Kirker Concierge for details of opera and concert performances in each city

## ANDALUCIAN TRILOGY

Seville is the beating heart of Andalusia, a city of orange blossom, flamenco and Moorish architecture, and one of the warmest parts of Europe even in December. This is the perfect place to begin a tailor-made tour of the region, which should also include Córdoba – once capital of Al Andalus – and Granada, the home of the magnificent Alhambra Palace, the pinnacle of Moorish architecture. Kirker has negotiated an exclusive special offer with our friends at the Spanish hotel company Hospes, which means that Kirker clients who stay in their three stylish properties in these cities will benefit from a number of added benefits, including a complimentary lunch or dinner at each hotel.



*Price from £2,098 per person from 1 September 2019 - 31 October 2020*

*Price from £1,768 per person from 1 December 2019 - 28 February 2020*

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Flights from London to Seville and back from Granada
- Private car transfers in Seville and Granada
- AVE train from Seville to Córdoba
- Three nights' accommodation with breakfast at the Las Casas del Rey de Baeza in Seville
- Two nights' accommodation with breakfast at the Palacio del Bailio in Córdoba
- Two nights' accommodation with breakfast at the Palacio de los Patos in Granada
- Light tapas lunch served at the hotel in Seville
- A complimentary dinner in Córdoba and Granada
- Public guided tours of the old quarter of Seville and the Alhambra Palace in Granada
- Entrance to the mosque in Córdoba

## EXTREMADURA

For those in search of the authentic, undiscovered side of Spain, look no further than the astonishing region of Extremadura, located south-west of Madrid and covering a vast, sparsely-populated, yet historically important landscape of plains, castles and hill-towns. Our suggested self-drive itinerary will traverse the region, starting in Madrid and returning from Seville, including a stay in three historic Paradors. Your first stop will be in Trujillo with its many medieval and



Renaissance buildings, you will then visit the UNESCO World Heritage city of Cáceres before finishing in Mérida, once the capital of the Roman province of Lusitania, with its well-preserved monuments.

*Price from £1,096 per person for six nights*

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Flight from London to Madrid
- Car hire for the duration
- Two nights' accommodation with breakfast staying at the Parador in Trujillo
- Two nights' accommodation with breakfast staying at the Parador in Cáceres
- Two nights' accommodation with breakfast staying at the Parador in Mérida
- Flight from Seville to London
- Ask about extending your holiday with a couple of nights in either Madrid or Seville – supplements on request



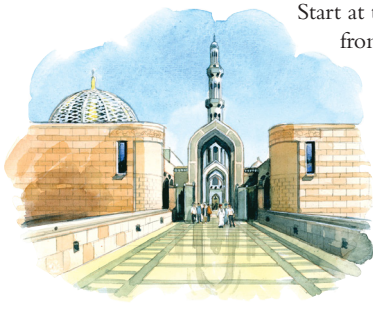
# SIX OF THE BEST TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAYS

*We have selected some tailor-made holidays which showcase the best of each region, but please speak to your independent travel agent for advice on the best itinerary to suit your own personal requirements and a bespoke quotation.*

## OMAN – MOUNTAINS, DESERT & THE INDIAN OCEAN

For those in search of guaranteed winter sunshine, as well as starkly beautiful desert landscapes, fascinating historic forts and villages, and a surprising diversity of wildlife, Oman is the perfect destination. This seven night tailor-made itinerary combines ancient forts at Nizwa, Bahla and Jabrin, the crystal clear waters of Wadi Bani Khalid, and the towering sand dunes of the Sharqiyah Sands, as well as a few days in the capital Muscat, located on the shores of the Indian Ocean.

Start at the spectacular mountain-top Anantara Al Jebel Al Akhdar from where you can enjoy rose farms and pomegranate orchards, before spending a night under the desert stars at a comfortable permanent desert camp, and then relax at the opulent Shangri-La resort in Muscat with a wide sandy beach which is a popular nesting site for several species of turtle.



*Price from £3,590 per person for seven nights*

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights from London to Muscat with Oman Air
- Private transfers throughout including three days in the company of an expert driver-guide
- Tour of the historic forts at Nizwa, Bahla & Jabrin
- A stop at the spectacular oasis of Wadi Bani Khalid
- Visits to a date plantation and two ancient villages
- Three nights' accommodation with breakfast at the Anantara Al Jebel Al Akhdar (5★ Deluxe)
- One night's accommodation with breakfast staying in a desert camp
- Three nights' accommodation with breakfast staying at the Shangri-La Al Bandar (5★ Deluxe) in Muscat

## ACROSS THE ATLAS MOUNTAINS: MARRAKECH & TAROUDANT

The perfect way to explore the heart of Morocco, this tailor-made itinerary combines a stay in the ancient medina of Marrakech with an oasis-like countryside retreat in Taroudant. Begin at the charming and authentic Riad Kniza, a delightful riad with just 11 bedrooms and a very good restaurant in the heart of the medina. You will then cross the majestic Atlas Mountains to

Taroudant via the famous Tizi-n-Test mountain pass which offers spectacular views over the countryside. Arriving in the distinctive red-walled city, which dates from the 11th century, you will stay at the comfortable hotel Dar Zitoune, a charming boutique property, which has extensive gardens filled with fruit trees, a large swimming pool, and 14 rooms – as well as a good restaurant and spa with a Moroccan hammam.



*Price from £1,398 per person for seven nights*

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Flight to Marrakech and back from Agadir
- Private transfers throughout
- Four nights' accommodation with breakfast at the 4★ deluxe Riad Kniza, Marrakech
- Private walking tour in Marrakech
- Three nights' accommodation with breakfast at the 4★ superior Dar Zitoune, Taroudant
- Kirker Guide Notes to restaurants and sightseeing in Marrakech
- The services of the Kirker Concierge to make a reservation at a recommended restaurant as required

## PROVENCE

One of the most iconic landscapes in France, the Provençal countryside attracts visitors en masse during high summer, but it is a wonderful region to explore during the quieter autumn and winter months, when the historic cities of Avignon and Aix-en-Provence are at their best. Fly into Marseille, the revitalised port city which is the gateway to Provence, and hire a car to explore independently. Our recommended itinerary includes a stay first in Roman Avignon for two nights,

before continuing to Cézanne's hometown of Aix-en-Provence for a further two nights at Le Pignonnet, one of our favourite hotels in the region. Finally, spend three nights relaxing in the Luberon countryside at the sublime Crillon le Brave, overlooking Mont Ventoux.



*Price from £1,748 per person seven nights*

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Return flights to Marseille
- Car hire for the duration
- Two nights' accommodation with breakfast at the Hotel Avignon Grand, Avignon
- Two nights' accommodation with breakfast at Le Pignonnet, Aix
- Three nights' accommodation with breakfast at the Crillon le Brave, Luberon countryside
- Kirker Guide Notes to restaurants and sightseeing
- The services of the Kirker Concierge to make a reservation at a recommended restaurant as required

# SIX OF THE BEST RURAL ESTATES

*For those who prefer a short break in the countryside, we can highly recommend visiting one of our favourite rural farmhouse hotels, many of which produce their own fruit, vegetables, wine and olive oil on the estate, and serve freshly-prepared homemade cuisine – the perfect antidote to city life.*

*Prices are per person and include flights, transfers or car hire, accommodation with breakfast, and the services of the Kirker Concierge.*

## THE ALGARVE

### Vila Monte Farmhouse Hotel \*\*\*\* Superior

This unique property has a rural location, ten minutes' drive from the coast. Just 30 minutes east of Faro, it is a great base to discover the traditional fishing villages of Olhau and Tavira as well as the Ria Formosa National Park with its abundance of birdlife. Formerly a manor house, it now consists of three buildings set around nine acres of manicured gardens and has 55 spacious bedrooms, all with a terrace or balcony. The main restaurant serves local produce such as honey from the Monchique Hills and citrus fruits, figs, almonds and fresh herbs from the estate.



*3 night price from £499*

## THE CAMARGUE

### Le Mas de Peint \*\*\*\* Superior

A working cattle and rice farm, set in a 500 hectare estate dating back to the 17th century, the Mas de Peint has been beautifully converted into a stylish and comfortable rural hotel. The hotel's lounges, restaurant, eight bedrooms and three suites are all furnished in a relaxed and fresh style. The food is fresh, locally sourced and delicious, with many of the vegetables and herbs grown on the hotel's land. Activities at the hotel include bird watching, horse riding, jeep safaris and walking.

*3 nights for the price of 2  
for midweek stays until 10  
November - price from £677,  
saving £162*



## TUSCANY

### Borgo Scopeto Relais \*\*\*\* Superior

Set against a dramatic backdrop of rolling countryside and overlooking the city of Siena, this property has 58 bedrooms scattered among eight buildings. There is a restaurant serving wines from their own vineyard,



two outdoor **swimming pools**, two tennis courts and a small wellness centre.

*3 nights for the price of 2  
for Sunday and Monday  
arrivals from  
14 - 31 October  
- price from £645,  
saving £132*

## SALAMANCA

### Hacienda Zorita Wine Hotel & Spa \*\*\*\* Deluxe

Located on the Tormes river in the heart of one of the country's principal wine regions, Ribera del Duero, Zorita was formerly a 14th century Dominican monastery and is now a stylish hotel and spa. Thick stone walls and magnificent oak beams contrast beautifully with contemporary design in the 40 bedrooms, a number of which have balconies overlooking the river. As well as a restaurant, there is a wonderful bodega for wine-tasting and an organic farm 20 minutes' drive away. There is an impressive spa in the old mill and a summer plunge pool.

*4 nights for the price of 3 from  
1 November 2019 - 28 April  
2020 - price from £645,  
saving £105*



## PUGLIA

### Masseria Montelauro (a superior country house hotel)

This renovated, whitewashed masseria is just a few kilometres from the historic port of Otranto and one hour from Brindisi airport. It has 29 bedrooms located in the farmhouse or adjoining buildings which are simply furnished in a Mediterranean style. The **swimming pool** is a central feature and the owner's dogs and cats add to the friendly and informal atmosphere. Good food is also a feature with the Masseria's home grown fruit and vegetables featuring on the daily changing dinner menu which is served on the candlelit terrace.



*3 night price from £696*

## SICILY

### Azienda Agricola Mandranova (a superior country house hotel)

This typical Sicilian country house is located 15 miles southeast of Agrigento and the famous Valley of the Temples, and a short drive from the sea. The masseria has been restored to house nine bedrooms, a library, a small infinity pool, and the excellent restaurant with its outdoor dining terrace. The property is a working farm, and produces some of Sicily's best olive oil. A highlight of a stay here is a cooking lesson with Silvia, the charming owner. Ask about extending your stay to include Palermo, Syracuse or Taormina.



*3 night price from £642*



# SIX OF THE BEST WINTER SHORT BREAKS

*Whilst some choose to escape the onset of winter, many Kirker clients enjoy the opportunity to embrace the season with a short break to an atmospheric city such as Copenhagen or Krakow where Christmas markets emerge from late November, or to a city framed by the Alps such as Salzburg or Turin – or, for guaranteed snow, Moscow or Sweden's Ice Hotel.*

*Prices are per person and include flights, transfers or car hire, accommodation with breakfast, and the services of the Kirker Concierge.*

## SALZBURG

### Auersperg \*\*\*\* Superior

The Auersperg is located in a quiet part of Salzburg, yet it is just five minutes' walk from the pedestrianised Linzergasse and 15 minutes from the River Saalach and the Old Town. The impressive marble floored reception is decorated with period furniture and antiques and the 55 bedrooms are of a contrasting contemporary style. The buffet breakfast is served in the garden room and there is a bar and a rooftop terrace overlooking the city.

Prices for Advent weekends and New Year available on request.



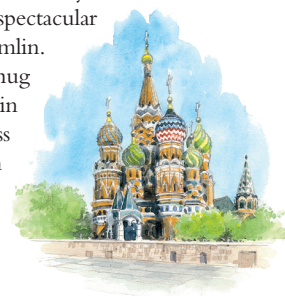
*3 night price from £697*

## MOSCOW

### Kempinski Baltischug \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

Moscow is at its best in the depths of winter, when its domes and rooftops are crowned with crisp snow. Located on the banks of the Moskva River, just five minutes' walk from Red Square, this excellent modern hotel is ideally situated to explore the city.

Many of the 230 rooms and suites enjoy spectacular views of St. Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin. The stylish lobby opens on to the 'Baltischug Grill' offering modern European cuisine in a refined setting, and 'Café Kranzler', a less formal bar serving light meals. The health club has an indoor swimming pool, jacuzzi and sauna.



*3 night price from £1,268*

*Includes a Russian visa service*

## SWEDEN

### Ice Hotel

For those who enjoy a winter adventure, the Ice Hotel in Swedish Lapland is the perfect destination. Constructed from blocks of frozen river water during December, the Ice Hotel is best visited during March, when the days have lengthened and you can enjoy dogsledding, snowmobiling or a gentle ride in a reindeer sleigh during the



day, whilst keeping your eyes open for the spectacular Northern Lights in the evenings – this is one of the world's best locations to see the Aurora.

*3 night price from £987*

## COPENHAGEN

### Copenhagen Strand \*\*\*\*

The Strand is located on the harbour promenade just a few minutes' walk from the famous Nyhavn. Originally a warehouse dating back to 1869, the hotel was fully renovated in 2017 – the result is a mixture of exposed brickwork, pale woods, sleek Danish furniture and accents of blue which create a subtle maritime theme. The 174 rooms are light, simply furnished and include tea/coffee facilities; higher categories have views of the harbour.



*3 night price from £598*

## TURIN

### Grand Hotel Sita \*\*\*\* Superior

The first capital of Italy home to two world-class museums, Turin remains blissfully undiscovered by tourists. Opened in 1925, this traditional 4\* hotel is located in the historical centre, a few minutes from the via Roma and close to Piazza San Carlo and Piazza Castello. The restaurant 'Carignano' (closed on Sundays) with its Empire-style decoration, is famous for traditional Piedmontese cuisine. Guests can enjoy a cocktail in the 'American' bar or in the small courtyard garden during the summer. There are 114 bedrooms tastefully decorated in classical style.



*3 night price from £598*

*Includes a 72hr Torino Card*

## KRAKOW

### Stary \*\*\*\* Superior

Located off the Market Square in the centre of Krakow's exceptionally well-reserved mediaeval Old Town, this 18th century aristocratic residence has been carefully restored with many original features left exposed. These have been complemented by modern design and the result is an atmospheric and chic boutique hotel. The theme of combining old with new continues in the 53 bedrooms, as frescoed walls and painted ceilings blend with modern furniture and Italian marble bathrooms. There is a spa located in the mediaeval cellars which has two swimming pools, a seasonal menu inspired by traditional Polish cuisine is served in the restaurant and an aperitif can be enjoyed in the Lounge Bar.



*3 night price from £739*

# SIX OF THE BEST ALTERNATIVE CITIES

*If you are in search of a new destination for your next short break, we would be delighted to recommend one of our favourite lesser-visited cities – including historic cities such as Parma, Tallinn and Ghent, the charming Slovenian capital Ljubljana, and world-class art galleries in The Hague and Montpellier.*

*Prices are per person and include flights or Eurostar, transfers or car hire, accommodation with breakfast, and the services of the Kirker Concierge.*

## MONTPELLIER

### Grand Hotel du Midi \*\*\*\* Superior

One of our favourite provincial French cities, Montpellier offers elegant architecture, two opera houses and the excellent art collection at the Musée Fabre, as well as traditional bistros and brasseries on tree-shaded squares, perfect for a delicious al fresco lunch. Just off the atmospheric main square, the Place de la Comédie, this Art Deco hotel



has a stylish bar and 44 rooms recently renovated in a modern style with classical touches.

*3 night price from £598*

## ANTWERP

### T'Sandt \*\*\*\* Superior

For those who have visited Bruges, Antwerp, the birthplace of Van Dyck, is a fascinating alternative. The T'Sandt is ideally located in the heart of the historic city centre and close to the cathedral. Housed within a 17th century Neo-Rococo mansion, it retains many of its original features. The 29 rooms have been elegantly furnished and are decorated in a classical style. There is an Italian courtyard and terrace with wonderful views over the city.



*3 night price from £568*

## PARMA

### Palace Maria Luigia \*\*\*\*

Well-known for parmesan, prosciutto and the composers Verdi and Toscanini, Parma is surprisingly little-visited. A member of the privately-owned Sina Hotel Group, the Palace Maria Luigia is located in the historic centre of the city with a wide range of monuments and churches, all within easy walking distance. The hotel has 102 comfortable bedrooms and a central lounge and bar which are pleasant places to relax. The restaurant serves seafood, fish and home made pasta based on traditional Emilian recipes.



*3 night price from £589*

## LJUBLJANA

### Lesar Hotel Angel \*\*\*\* Superior

The Slovenian capital is a compact and charming city with riverside bars and restaurants and a 12th century castle. This characterful boutique hotel has an excellent location beneath the castle on the right bank of the river Ljubljanica, right in the heart of the historic Old Town. On the ground floor there is an elegant lounge where breakfast is served with views of the famous Hercules fountain and the Church of St. James and a cosy bar with a vaulted ceiling in which to relax after a busy day. The 12 light-filled bedrooms are tastefully decorated with antique furniture and period features.



*3 night price from £591*

## THE HAGUE

### Des Indes \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

Just an hour from Amsterdam, The Hague receives a fraction of the number of visitors, despite having one of Europe's great art galleries The Mauritshuis. Located on a leafy square in the heart of the city, this famous and luxurious hotel has played an integral part in the city's history. Since 1881 it has hosted royalty, Emperors and heads of state and was originally built in 1858 as the residence of King William III's personal advisor. The 92 bedrooms are extremely opulent, and the lounge bar and restaurant, run by chef Remco Biesma, is one of the city's most popular meeting places; the traditional high tea, served in the lobby, is an institution in The Hague. A spa with a small indoor pool has recently been added.



*3 night price from £795*

*Includes entrance to the Mauritshuis*

## TALLINN

### Telegraaf \*\*\*\*\*

This 19th century former post office is now the finest hotel in Tallinn. Located close to Town Hall Square, it is perfect for exploring the cobbled streets of the old town. There are 86 bedrooms and a summer terrace for drinks and light lunches. The 'Tchaikovsky' restaurant serves fine Russian cuisine and the spa offers a range of treatments and has an indoor swimming pool.

*4 nights for the price of 3 from 1 October 2019 - 31 March 2020 - price from £663, saving £120*





# SIX OF THE BEST AUTHENTIC NEIGHBOURHOODS

*Cities such as Paris, Venice and Barcelona may be popular destinations, but with the right expert advice, it is still possible to rediscover authentic neighbourhoods off the tourist radar. We have selected some of our favourite hotels in neighbourhoods where you can still enjoy a delicious dinner in a local restaurant, stroll through untrammelled side-streets and visit bars, boutiques and cafés patronised by residents rather than tourists.*

*Prices are per person and include flights, transfers or car hire, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.*

## PARIS

### Pavillon de la Reine \*\*\*\* Deluxe

This historic, ivy-clad property is located in the heart of the Marais, between the Musée Picasso and the Opéra Bastille. The hotel has 54 beautifully furnished rooms just off the elegant Place des Vosges, within a few steps of independent bookshops, stylish boutiques, and some of the Kirker Concierge's favourite Parisian bistros.



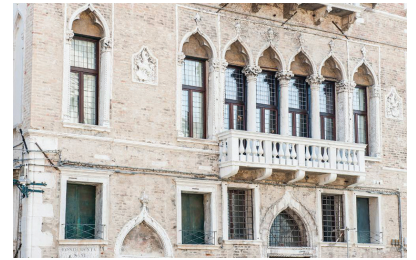
*3 nights for the price of 2  
from 22 October 2019 -  
23 February 2020  
- price from £799,  
saving £213*

*Includes a 48hr Museum Pass, Seine cruise and carnet of Metro tickets*

## VENICE

### Nani Mocenigo \*\*\*\* Deluxe

We are delighted to introduce this wonderfully restored hotel located in the local neighbourhood of Dorsoduro. Occupying a beautiful 15th century palazzo, an impeccable example of Gothic Venetian architecture, it has just 26 bedrooms, each beautifully decorated with rich fabrics and period furniture. The peaceful garden is a welcome haven and is the perfect spot to relax and enjoy an aperitif.



*3 nights for the price of 2  
from 3 November 2019 -  
7 February 2020  
- price from £668,  
saving £95*

*Includes water taxi transfers and entrance to the Doge's Palace*

## FLORENCE

### Grand Hotel Villa Cora \*\*\*\*\* Superior

This elegant villa was built in 1868 and reopened in 2010 as a stylish hotel combining elegant furnishings with personal service. It has a peaceful setting in its own grounds behind the Boboli Gardens, a gentle 25 minute stroll from the Arno. There are 30 rooms in the main villa and 14 in the 'villino' Eugenia which also houses the spa. Rooms overlook the large heated swimming pool or the gardens. The roof terrace has panoramic views of the city and is the perfect spot for an aperitif prior to dining in the restaurant.



*3 nights for the price of 2  
from 2 November 2019 -  
27 March 2020  
- price from £694, saving £174*

*Includes entrance to the Uffizi Gallery*

## ROME

### Donna Camilla Savelli \*\*\*\* Superior

We are delighted to feature this tranquil hotel in the heart of the Trastevere district, a bohemian area across the Tiber from the historic centre and known for lively local restaurants and winding mediaeval streets. A former convent, the property was designed by Borromini in the 17th century and features a beautiful church adjoining the hotel. There are 78 rooms, a peaceful cloistered garden with a Baroque fountain as its centrepiece and a roof terrace offering spectacular views of the city.



*3 night price from £597*

*Includes entrance to the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel or the Villa Borghese*

## BARCELONA

### Miramar \*\*\*\*\*

Originally built for the 1929 World Expo, the Miramar underwent a comprehensive restoration nine years ago. It has a unique location on Montjuic hill, overlooking the city and a short taxi drive from the port. With over 8,000 square metres of gardens and an outdoor swimming pool, the hotel enjoys rare commodities in Barcelona, namely space and tranquillity. All 75 bedrooms are stylishly furnished in a contemporary fashion. Most rooms have their own terrace



with views overlooking the gardens, the city or the sea. The L'Occitane spa is one of Barcelona's finest and has a heated indoor swimming pool.

*3 night price from £743*

*Includes entrance to the Sagrada Família*

## MADRID

### Orfila \*\*\*\*\* Superior

The elegant Orfila is located in Salamanca, a quiet, exclusive residential district of the city, yet only five minutes' walk to the Plaza de Colon. The hotel has been converted from a 19th century palace into a delightful property with a tranquil and intimate atmosphere. All 32 bedrooms are individually decorated; many have original antiques and all are extremely comfortable. As a member of Relais & Châteaux, the hotel has an excellent restaurant and a charming courtyard garden.



*4 nights for the price of 3 from  
9 - 27 December  
- price from £997,  
saving £192*

*Includes entrance to the Prado, Thyssen and Reina Sofia museums*

# SIX OF THE BEST CULTURAL TOURS & MUSIC HOLIDAYS IN 2019

*Our escorted Cultural Tours & Music Holidays consist of small exclusive groups in the company of an expert lecturer and are designed for those with an interest in history, art, gardens, architecture and music.*

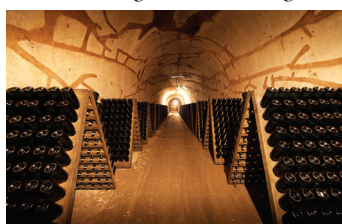
*Prices are per person based on two sharing a room and include flights, transfers, accommodation with breakfast, meals as described, a full programme of sightseeing, entrance fees and gratuities and the services of the Kirker Tour Lecturer.*

## REIMS & CHAMPAGNE

**A THREE NIGHT HOLIDAY | 24 NOVEMBER 2019**

*In the heart of the Champagne region we will discover the 'caves' of the most prestigious marques including Pol Roger, Bollinger and Taittinger, as well as excellent smaller houses and growers out in the vineyard villages.*

On this tour, you will explore the region in comfort and style, going behind closed doors for private tastings and exclusive meals at the cellars. During the course of the holiday, Tim Clarke will share his 30 years of Champagne insights with you and host a series of enjoyable tutored tastings in the evenings, which demonstrate the complexity of Champagne. In just four days you will significantly increase your understanding of this most pleasurable of wines.



*Price from £2,168 (single supp. £105) for three nights including two dinners, one lunch and Champagne tastings and talks.*

## THE KIRKER ISCHIA MUSIC FESTIVAL

**A SEVEN NIGHT HOLIDAY | 11 OCTOBER 2019**

*For our fourteenth exclusive Kirker Music Festival in the Bay of Naples we will be joined by the Carducci Quartet; James Gilchrist, tenor; Tim Horton, piano and Simon Rowland-Jones, viola.*

We shall enjoy six exclusive concerts in the lovely concert hall overlooking the garden at La Mortella, the former home of Sir William & Lady Walton. Our base for the duration will be the 4\* Albergo San Montano, with spectacular views of the Bay of Naples. We include a guided tour of the garden at La Mortella and a half-day sightseeing tour of Ischia. There are three optional tours; one to Herculaneum and the Villa Oplontis, one to Naples; and the third is a half-day exploration of the Ischia countryside.



*Price from £2,489 (single supp. £350) for seven nights including seven dinners and six concerts.*

## THE HERITAGE & HISTORY OF MALTA & GOZO

**A FIVE NIGHT HOLIDAY | 18 NOVEMBER 2019**

*Malta and Gozo are small islands but there is a great deal of fascinating history on each, which will satisfy even the most demanding of travellers. They have beautiful coastlines, enigmatic archaeological sites, pretty villages often dwarfed by immense churches and much fine Baroque architecture.*

On this tour we will see some of the fascinating treasures of these islands including prehistoric temples, medieval settlements and the walled capital Mdina. This is the rich legacy of the Knights of Malta who constructed military fortifications and magnificent buildings, especially in Valletta where the era of British rule, including Malta's vital role in WWII, will also be explored.



*Price from £1,868 (single supp. £298) for five nights including three lunches and two dinners.*

## LEONARDO'S ITALY

**A SIX NIGHT HOLIDAY | 20 OCTOBER 2019**

*To mark the 500th anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's death, follow in his footsteps through Italy on our six night holiday.*

Beginning in Milan, we explore the Duomo, the Castello Sforzesco, and the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, where we will see his magnificent mural of The Last Supper. Highlights in Florence include the Leonardo room at the Uffizi and the Leonardo Museum. We shall also make day trips to Leonardo's birthplace, Vinci, and Arezzo, where we see the thirteenth century Buriano Bridge.



*Price from £2,798 (single supp. £450) for six nights including three dinners and three lunches.*

## THE METROPOLITAN OPERA & ART GALLERIES OF NEW YORK

**FIVE NIGHT HOLIDAYS | 18 NOVEMBER 2019, 30 MARCH & 28 APRIL 2020**

*Enjoy three star-studded performances at the Metropolitan Opera featuring some of the world's greatest opera singers including Ailyn Pérez, Plácido Domingo and Sonya Yoncheva, as well as a backstage tour of the Met.*

In addition to the opera, we will visit museums and galleries including the Metropolitan, the MOMA, where we enjoy a private visit before the crowds arrive, and the Botanical Gardens. We stay at the Hotel Empire (4\*), located just across the street from the Lincoln Center, and a couple of minutes' walk from the Met.



*Price from £2,833 (Nov, single supp. £660), £2,735 (Mar, single supp. £530) or £2,998 (Apr, single supp. £690) for five nights including accommodation on a room only basis, tickets to three operas and two dinners (including one at the Met's Grand Tier).*

## AUTUMN AT GLYNDEBOURNE

**A THREE NIGHT HOLIDAY | 12 OCTOBER 2019**

*The annual Glyndebourne on Tour season begins at the company's East Sussex home on the South Downs and is always the focal point of one of our most popular opera holidays.*

We shall attend performances of Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* and Verdi's *Rigoletto*, and we also include a visit to Charleston Farmhouse. Our base for the duration will be the impressive Grand Hotel in Eastbourne. The hotel has associations with Claude Debussy who stayed here with his mistress, Emma Bardac, in 1905.



*Price from £1,115 (single supp. £198) for three nights including three dinners with wine, top category opera tickets, programme book and return transfers between the hotel and Glyndebourne.*



# SIX OF THE BEST CULTURAL TOURS & MUSIC HOLIDAYS IN 2020

*Details of our 2020 Cultural Tours & Music Holidays are available now – for a copy of our dedicated brochure please speak to your independent travel agent.*

*Prices are per person based on two sharing a room and include flights, transfers, accommodation with breakfast, meals as described, a full programme of sightseeing, entrance fees and gratuities and the services of the Kirker Tour Lecturer.*

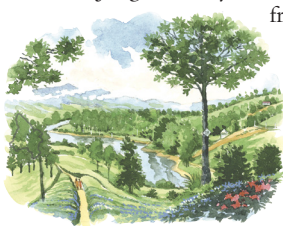
## THE HEART OF SRI LANKA

**A THIRTEEN NIGHT HOLIDAY | 11 MARCH 2020**

*Located off the southern tip of India, the island of Sri Lanka combines ancient temples and palaces, ornate Buddhist shrines, and charming colonial architecture, but it is the warm welcome and delicious cuisine which linger in the memory.*

One of the great charms of the country is the ease with which you can travel between diverse landscapes – and this tour of the most important regions will take you through high altitude tea plantations via scenic jungle railways, to verdant national parks and the palm-fringed beaches of the south coast. We shall be accompanied throughout by art historian Dr. Alex Koller, who has made many visits to Sri Lanka and has a particular interest in Buddhist art and architecture.

*Price from £4,498 (single supp. £889) for thirteen nights including twelve dinners.*



## JORDAN – THE LAND OF T.E. LAWRENCE

**AN EIGHT NIGHT HOLIDAY | 13 MARCH 2020**

*The sight of the Great Treasury of Petra is one of the most thrilling travel experiences you will encounter, giving the visitor a great sense of discovery and something very special to savour. There is so much more to Jordan than just Petra though, as this tour will demonstrate.*

As well as retracing some of Lawrence's steps in Aqaba and Wadi Rum – home of the 'Seven Pillars of Wisdom' – we will explore the country's incredibly well-preserved ancient sites. Highlights include Jerash, one of the region's most impressive Roman cities, the crusader castle of Shobak built in 1115, and Petra – the Nabatean kingdom of spectacular façades carved from glowing red sandstone.

*Price from £3,559 (single supp. £698) for eight nights including eight dinners and a group visa.*



## SICILY – AN ENIGMATIC ISLAND

**A NINE NIGHT HOLIDAY | 20 APRIL 2020**

*The largest island in the Mediterranean, Sicily's strategic importance has given it a violent, eventful and colourful history.*

Discover the four corners of this fascinating island, starting in Syracuse which was once the most important city in Magna Graecia. We will visit a private palace in Catania and spend some time in the beautiful resort of Taormina. Next comes the spectacular Valley of the Temples before Palermo, a city of great contrasts. We will visit the great Norman Royal Palace and the Chapel of the Kings, the Martorana with its impressive Norman tower, and visits will also be made to Monreale Cathedral, Segesta and Selinunte.

*Price from £2,858 (single supp. £598) for nine nights including seven dinners.*



## DUTCH MASTERS IN AMSTERDAM & THE HAGUE

**A FOUR NIGHT HOLIDAY | 1 MARCH 2020**

*Our holiday combines visits to exceptional art galleries with a performance of Giselle at the Dutch National Ballet and a concert at the famous Concertgebouw featuring NHK Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo and Sol Gabetta, cello.*

The masters of the Dutch Golden Age, from Rembrandt and Vermeer to Franz Hals and Paulus Potter, form the focus at the magnificent Rijksmuseum and The Hague's Mauritshuis, but we shall also visit the excellent Van Gogh Museum and Amsterdam's Hermitage.

*Price from £1,598 (single supp. £298) for four nights including two dinners and a ticket for one concert and one ballet.*



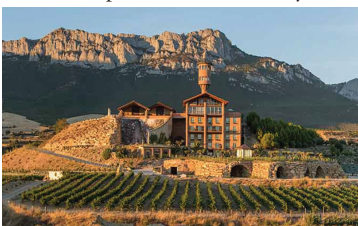
## WINES OF RIOJA & NORTHERN SPAIN

**A FIVE NIGHT HOLIDAY | 19 MAY 2020**

*Travelling through Northern Spain from Bilbao to Madrid we will explore the highly-prized and surprisingly varied wine regions of La Rioja and Ribera del Duero.*

We will enjoy the hospitality of great winemakers including celebrated traditionalists such as Contino, the oldest single-estate Rioja, striking modern wineries such as Aalto, and some of the innovative producers of biodynamic and organic wines. On our journey through Spain we will also experience the country's exceptional history and architecture – from Segovia's Roman aqueduct to mediaeval castles, Gothic cathedrals and Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum.

*Please call today to register your interest for Rioja & Northern Spain.*



## THE BEETHOVEN FESTIVAL IN BONN

**A SIX NIGHT HOLIDAY | 14 MARCH 2020**

*Ludwig van Beethoven, born in Bonn on 17 November 1770, will be celebrated around the world and throughout the year in 2020. At the helm of the Beethoven Festival since 2014, Nike Wagner, granddaughter of Franz Liszt, has long been preparing for this major anniversary.*

Eight symphonies will be performed by the MusicAeterna Orchestra over five concerts at the Opera House, Bonn, under the direction of the conductor, Teodor Currentzis. We also include a programme of sightseeing with visits to the house where Beethoven was born, Cologne, Brühl and a cruise on the Rhine to Königswinter, where we board a cog railway to Schloss Drachenburg. Our base for the duration is the 4\* centrally located Kanzler Hotel.

*Price from £2,246 (single supp. £398) for six nights including three dinners, one lunch, one wine tasting and second category tickets for all performances.*



# SIX OF THE BEST FOR WINTER SUN

*A relaxing holiday to warmer climes is the perfect antidote to long winter nights and chilly weather – and whilst our tailor-made holidays to South Africa, India and Sri Lanka offer a solution for a longer holiday, there are also a number of short break destinations which offer mild winter temperatures within easy reach. Some of our favourites include the sub-tropical islands of Madeira and Tenerife, the vibrant cities of Marrakech and Tel Aviv, and even Monaco, where the unique microclimate means winter days can be mild and sunny. For guaranteed warm sunshine, head a little further to Oman.*

*Prices are per person and include flights, transfers, accommodation with breakfast, and the services of the Kirker Concierge.*

## TENERIFE

**Botanico \*\*\*\*\***

One of Kirker's favourite hotels on the island, the Botanico is located in the harbour town of Puerto de la Cruz, and offers an oasis of lush subtropical gardens, perfect for a relaxing winter escape. All of the 252 rooms are spacious with private balconies and panoramic views of the gardens, sea and Mount Teide. As well as six acres of private gardens, there are indoor and outdoor **swimming pools**, an award-winning Oriental Spa and three excellent restaurants.



*3 night price from £948*

## MADEIRA

**Quinta Da Bela Vista \*\*\*\*\***

Madeira's year-round subtropical climate makes it the perfect destination for a winter escape. Just one mile above the centre of Funchal, this tranquil haven sits in beautiful gardens and is surrounded by towering trees. There are 89 elegant bedrooms with garden, bay, ocean or mountain views. The gastronomic restaurant serves delicious local produce and there is a heated outdoor **swimming pool** and a large sun terrace overlooking the bay.



*3 night price from £686*

## MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

**Jardins De La Medina \*\*\*\* Deluxe**

Morocco offers a warm climate, unique heritage combining French, Arab and Moorish cultures as well as spectacular scenery. The Jardins de la Medina is a delightful hotel with 36 bedrooms. The restaurant and bar both have an outside terrace overlooking the gardens, where the **swimming pool** (heated in winter) is neatly tucked away. Guests can enjoy the excellent views over the medina from one of the many rooftop terraces.



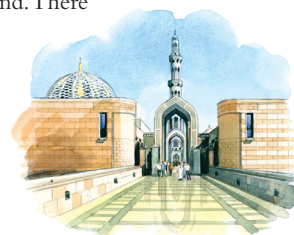
*3 night price from £746*

*Includes a private walking tour*

## MUSCAT, OMAN

**Grand Hyatt \*\*\*\*\***

Muscat's finest city centre property, the Grand Hyatt, is located close to the British Embassy. Decorated in traditional Arabian style it has an impressive view over the main gardens, the **swimming pool** with its network of lazy rivers, and the sea beyond. There are four excellent restaurants and 280 rooms and suites. Direct access to the wide sandy beach is a few metres walk from the hotel's private grounds.



*3 nights for the price of 2 until  
23 April 2020 - price from £1,195,  
saving £200*

## TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

**Shalom Hotel & Relax \*\*\*\* Superior**

Combining ancient Jaffa with Bauhaus architecture and vibrant bars and restaurants, Tel Aviv is the perfect winter break. A boutique hotel situated on bustling Hayarkon Street, the Shalom is across the road from Tel Aviv's sandy beaches. The 51 contemporary rooms and lobby bar are all designed in light, airy colours, and the sun terrace offers stunning views of the sea and there is a large jacuzzi with bar service available all day.



*3 night price from £1,096*

## MONACO

**Port Palace \*\*\*\* Superior**

Ideally located a few steps from the Place du Casino, the Port Palace is a stylish boutique hotel. All of the 50 spacious rooms and suites have great views of the Royal Palace and the millionaires' yachts in the harbour. The gastronomic 'Le Marée' restaurant offers fine al fresco Mediterranean dining on the large terrace overlooking the water.



*3 nights for the price of 2 from  
1 November - 30 December  
- price from £589, saving £155*

Agents details:

*To book or request a brochure please  
contact your independent travel agent*



# Kirker

FOR DISCERNING TRAVELLERS

Published September 2019. Terms and conditions apply.  
Prices are per person based on 2 sharing. Subject to availability.