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MONTE-CARLO, MONACO MONTE-CARLO BAY HOTEL & RESORT

www.montecarlobay.com

In a relaxed yet sophisticated ambience, the Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort offers a new experience in this legendary destination. Gardens, groves, pavilions and fountains meander through the grounds, which are built to form a lagoon creating dramatic changes in scenery in an idyllic setting that leads directly to the seashore. The world-class Cinq Mennes Spa and Michelin-starred Blue Bay restaurant, which sports a brand-new outdoor terrace, are part of this haven of quiet luxury. Attractions this year include direct access to the sea via a newly built walkway, a new bar at the lagoon and live shows at the Blue Box. Monte-Carlo's size makes it an ideal destination to get to know on foot, and this hotel offers a respite from the city plus idyllic views over the Med. — Karin Hamer



ST. BARTS, CARIBBEAN LE BARTHELEMY

www.lebarthelemyhotel.com/en

Le Barthelemy is St. Barts' newest five-star hotel. Located on a crescent-shaped, white-sand beach, the property offers a calm, soothing, delightfully Caribbean experience in Grand Cul-de-Sac, which forms part of a nature reserve on the northeastern part of the island. As with most St. Barts hotels, the emphasis here is on comfort and understated sophistication, rather than over-the-top glitz. Le Barthelemy boasts 46 casually elegant rooms and suites, most with plunge pools and ocean views. Sybille de Margerie, best known for creating stylish places that react to their particular location, designed the hotel's interior, dividing the space in various shades of emerald, turquoise and navy blue. At only 25 square kilometers, this island is perfect for exploration on foot, and you can also stay in shape at Le Fitness or enjoy R&R at Le Spa. — Valerie Jones



AMALFI COAST, ITALY MONASTERO SANTA ROSA

www.monasterosantarosaa.com

Perched on the cliff-edge, Monastero Santa Rosa Hotel & Spa was originally a 17th-century monastery and has been restored into an exclusive boutique hotel with a superb Santa Maria Novella spa. Ideally located between Positano and Amalfi, the hotel has its own chapel and ancient herb garden, and all 20 rooms boast sea views. Sensitive to the fact that pizza and pasta can weigh down an Italian vacation, the hotel developed a Health & Hike package where you experience the natural beauty of the Amalfi Coast on foot by embarking on a guided hike offering stunning views of the surrounding area. Accompanied by a local expert, you are navigated through beautiful, otherwise inaccessible parts of Amalfi, uncovering natural treasures that few people have even seen. — Karin Hamer

