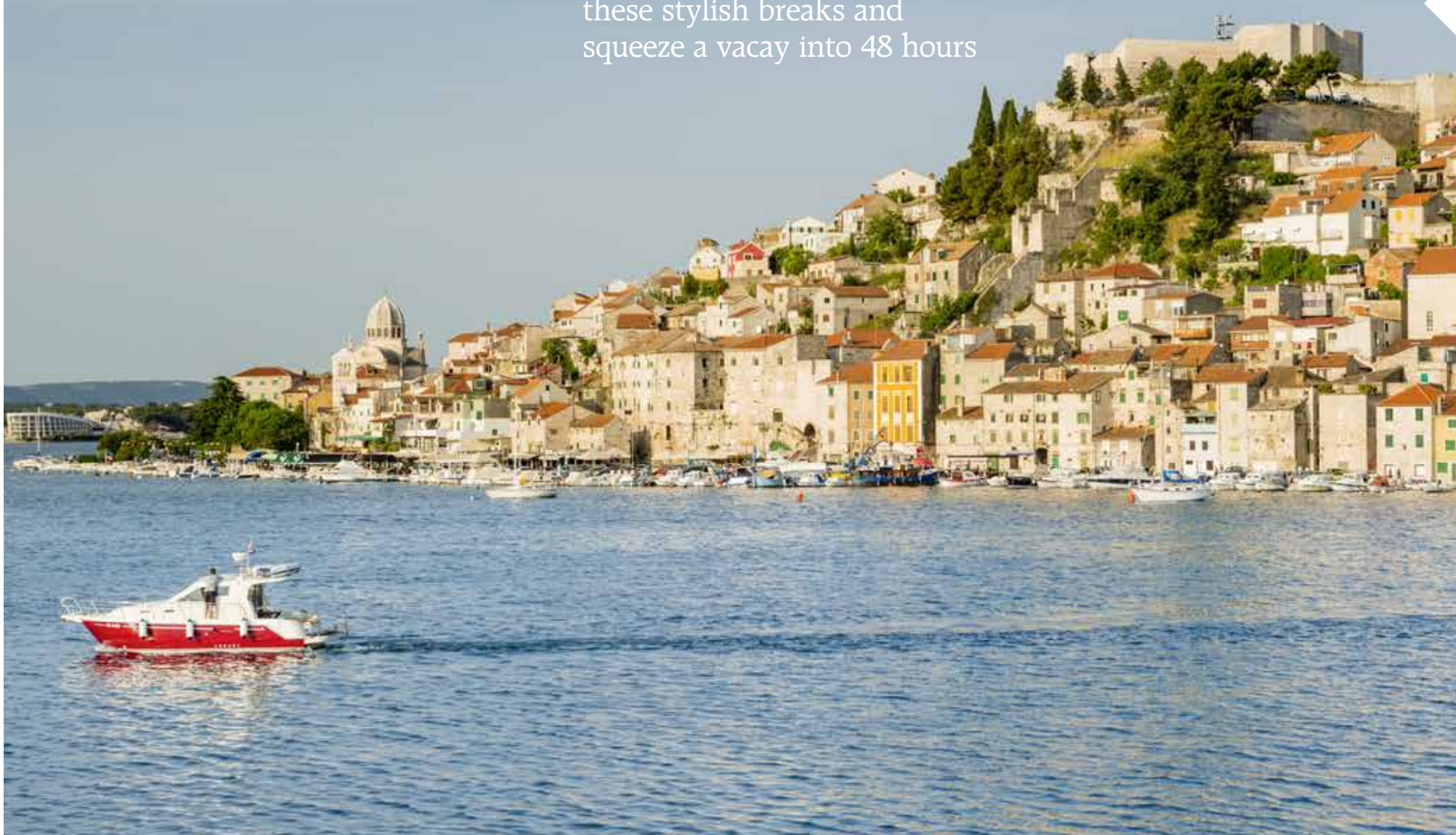


I'm a Grazia girl...

GET ME OUT OF HERE!

You don't need a bank holiday to build bliss into your weekend. Try one of these stylish breaks and squeeze a vacay into 48 hours



Boho luxe in CROATIA

The region around Dubrovnik is a made-for-Instagram destination with its eye-poppingly gorgeous towns and cities and wow-factor Dalmatian coast.

WHERE TO STAY The Admiral Zaton gives you a cool boutique hotel experience at a super-affordable price. Situated in the charming village of Zaton, near the iconic city of Dubrovnik, the 15-bedroom hotel nestles on the shoreline of a beautiful bay for breathtaking harbour and sea views. The décor is Californian beach style meets Mediterranean chic – think deep blues, whites, pale wood and wicker, and spacious rooms that are light and bright.

THE VIBE Activities a-go-go. *Game Of Thrones* fans will recognise the nearby medieval town of Šibenik as Bravos, but you don't need to be a fan of the TV series to appreciate the beauty of the town, including the UNESCO World Heritage

Saint Jacob's Cathedral, which is worth a visit even if you're not usually into churches. Make use of the hotel's boat to go island-hopping to the rugged Kornati islands and swim in the pristine emerald waters. Don't miss the series of tumbling waterfalls among the forested hills of the beautiful Krka National Park, check out local Croatian cuisine at the market and, of course, there's Dubrovnik, the stunning UNESCO walled city that's just a 20-minute drive away.

EAT Given the location, it has to be seafood, from fish to squid, cuttlefish and prawns, that's just-out-of-the-water fresh and delicious. Dine in the hotel's new restaurant, Konoba Kalifornija, or pop over to Konoba Porat, a local hot spot that serves up great local dishes (about £40 per head for a three-course meal; call 00 385 22 485294).

PACK Bikinis and shorts for when on a boat, comfy shoes for exploring the towns and dress and wedges for evenings.

THE LOWDOWN Queen rooms at The Admiral Zaton (theadmiralzion.com) start from €60 (£51) per room, per night. EasyJet flies from London Gatwick to Split from £50 return (easyjet.com). The hotel can organise airport transfers. ▶



Main picture: the beautiful town of Šibenik. Left and top: the Old Harbour and Old Town of Dubrovnik. Above: stay in the spacious rooms at The Admiral Zaton

Soho style in BARCELONA

Barcelona has everything you want from a chilled-out city break – sensational food and drink, amazing things to see and do and now a fabulous new It hotel, too.

WHERE TO STAY Soho House Barcelona is the perfect home-from-home, situated in the city's newly cool Gothic Quarter – just 10 minutes from the main thoroughfare, Las Ramblas, and overlooking Port Vell marina. The 19th-century building has been given a chic makeover that combines local touches, such as traditional red-brick vaulted ceilings and typical Catalan textiles, with English country house style for a superbly kick-back mood. There are also the Soho House staples, of course, such as a Cowshed spa, Cecconi's restaurant and a rooftop pool with amazing views across the city.

THE VIBE Exploring the many Gaudí sites is a must – they make Barcelona unique. His La Sagrada Família cathedral is breathtaking, while the magical Park Güell is great for seeing the city from on high. Definitely while away a few hours shopping, too: Passeig de Gràcia offers the usual high-street brands (H&M, Zara) as well as designer stores, and do check out Uterqüe for great, affordable fashion. Also explore the independents in the El Born area (between Via Laietana and Barceloneta; metro stops Barceloneta and Jaume I), which is also home to great eateries and bars. Head to the buzzy waterfront for lovely walks plus plenty more places to eat and drink. Both the port (Port Vell) and beach (Barceloneta) attract walkers, runners, cyclists and sunbathers.

EAT Cecconi's on the ground floor of Soho

House serves fantastic Italian food, but it would be a shame not to eat local too, especially as delicious seafood and tapas can be had almost anywhere in the city. We loved La Paradeta Born (one of seven La Paradeta restaurants in the city), where we queued with the locals to select a mix of fresh seafood which was then cooked for us to order. Fantastic!

PACK No need to take toiletries or hair straighteners (Soho House has that covered) so more room for shoes (include some comfy ones!) and your beach gear.

THE LOWDOWN Rooms for non-members start from €xx per night (sohohousebarcelona.com). Fly to Barcelona from Birmingham, Leeds Bradford, Gatwick and Manchester from £70 return with Monarch (monarch.co.uk).

La dolce vita in TUSCANY

The Chianti region is known for its wonderful cuisine, sensational wines and painterly landscapes of rolling hills, vineyards and olive groves, all under a deep blue sky.

WHERE TO STAY Castello del Nero Hotel & Spa is a converted 12th-century castle that sits atop a hillside with stunning views over the surrounding vineyards and olive groves. The building has been brought into the 21st century but with many historical features restored, such as polished tiles, marble and mosaic bathrooms



The glorious Tuscan countryside. Right: a deluxe suite at Castello del Nero Hotel



Above: Park Güell and the amazing architecture of Antoni Gaudí. Below: Soho House Barcelona's rooftop pool, with panoramic views over the city



and beautiful 18th-century frescoes. The 50 rooms and suites are in the castle and farm buildings, surrounded by manicured landscape gardens, plus there's also an ESPA spa.

THE VIBE Total relaxation. As well as the soporific mood induced by your surroundings, there's the spa with outdoor pools and hydrotherapy rooms with glass walls for kicking back with a view. If you're feeling energetic, take a hike across the hills of the Casetello De Nero estate and hop on the hotel's complimentary shuttle service to Sienna and Florence to marvel at Renaissance architecture and art – and shop!

EAT Tuck into upscale Tuscan cuisine, washed down with some of the world's best wines, at the hotel's Michelin-starred restaurant, La Torre; more relaxed is La Taverna with pizzas and pasta dishes, such as ravioli with ricotta and spinach on a Parmesan fondue with black truffle. You can also enjoy wine and olive oil tasting in the castle's ancient wine cellar.

PACK Italian countryside attire leans towards 'immaculate effortless'. Daytime calls for statement sunnies, a cashmere sweater, capri pants and comfortable shoes. As night draws in, layer on the accessories.

THE LOWDOWN Rooms start from €344 (£290) per night (castellodelnero.com). Florence airport is closest (45km) but Pisa (90km) is served by low-cost airlines such as EasyJet (from £99 return; easyjet.com).

Back to nature IN CORNWALL

Getting away from it all is becoming harder with every new 4G network, but if you're looking to switch off and take yourself back to a time of brooding historical heroes and gorgeous natural landscapes, Cornwall is the place to be.

WHERE TO STAY A campsite might not sound luxe, but while award-winning lodge Hilton Woods Park – in the forest near Bude – blends in with the beautiful surroundings, inside it's all contemporary open-plan living with remote-control fireplaces, TVs disguised as mirrors and sophisticated marble en-suites. Some lodges sleep up to eight, which make them perfect for group getaways enjoying the local delights of Bude, Padstow and Tintagel.

THE VIBE Take inspiration from *Poldark* and take a wind-whipped walk by Porthcothan Bay beach or stalk across Bodmin Moor on your journey towards the Cornish coast.

EAT Padstow is home to some of the UK's best seafood, courtesy of Rick Stein's restaurants, while Bude's North Coast Wine Company is a great spot to people-watch with a glass of Malbec.

PACK Be ready for rain, sun or even surf down at Newquay. A Breton stripe won't go amiss.

THE LOWDOWN From £542 for two nights (minimum stay; dreamlodgeholidays.co.uk). New to lodge breaks? See freedomtogo.co.uk for ideas.



GRAZIA WEEK IN WEEK OUT

Left: luxury lodges at Hilton Woods Park. Below: the wild beauty of Porthcothan Bay



City cool in HAMBURG

Germany's second-largest city has been a bit overlooked but, with its great mix of shopping, bars, restaurants, hotels and easy-to-navigate tourist sites, Hamburg is proving an increasingly popular alternative to Berlin.

WHERE TO STAY The city's first 'design' hotel, Gastwerk is, as the name suggests, in what was once a gasworks. And it shows – the design is industrial and pared back, with lots of original features, such as the machinery and original wall tiles (and a random motorbike) in the reception. The mezzanine is full of design books and comfy chairs, too. Rooms are

compact (go for one with garden views) but functional, and there are roomier, loft-style suites if you fancy a splurge. There's also a decent spa, bar and restaurant.

THE VIBE Très chic. Thanks to an influx of media and IT types and beautiful HafenCity port development, Hamburg is Germany's new destination city. The Sternschanze district (aka mini-Berlin) is home to lots of boutiques and vintage stores and, on Saturday mornings, its cobbled streets are taken over by stalls selling vintage goodies. If architecture is your thing, there's the Gothic splendour of The Rathaus (town hall), complete with traditional German market. Art lovers should buy the Kunstmeile Pass for €36 and see the city's big five galleries.

EAT While they didn't actually invent the hamburger here, meat features heavily on most menus – and there are more kinds of sausages

available than you could ever need. Try a salsiccia burger, with wild herbs, saffron, fennel and tomatoes at Gastwerk's Mangold restaurant (veggies needn't fret – there are meat-free options too, such as risotto with wild garlic, buffalo mozzarella, sugar snaps, peas and cress). Go native one night and try the speciality currywurst (steamed and fried pork sausage with curry ketchup) at renowned street food joint Mö-Grill at Jungfernstieg 7-8. Grab a craft beer at the lively beer garden Altes Mädchen (en.altes-maedchen.com).

PACK Your best city-cool gear but do layer – it can get fresh in the late afternoon, especially if you're down by the river Elbe.

THE LOWDOWN Rooms start at €120 (£101) excluding breakfast (gastwerk.com). EasyJet flies from London, Manchester and Edinburgh from €60 (£51) return (easyjet.com). ■



Left: Hamburg is Germany's new go-to city break destination. Above: industrial chic at Gastwerk hotel