

Press Coverage: Pavillon des Lettres

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Taking off

BRIEFING

Mine's a double

Royal Caribbean's Double Fun offer gives up to two guests all-inclusive drinks on board, plus up to \$300 (£266) per room to spend on the ship. Third and fourth guests will also receive 25% off the price of their cruise fare. The offers applies to cruises now booking, including a 10-night eastern Caribbean cruise on the Anthem of the Seas from New York, a seven-night Caribbean cruise on the Oasis of the Seas from Florida, and a seven-night Med cruise on board the new Harmony of the Seas from Southampton to Barcelona. Prices start at £1,069 per person. royalcaribbean.ie

Game of scones

The Michelin-listed Ristorante Rinuccini and the four-star Kilkenny River Court hotel have teamed up to launch La Dolce Vita, a new midweek dining break in the medieval city. You will stay overnight, with free parking and wi-fi, at the hotel and enjoy a three-course dinner at the restaurant. This is followed the next day by a full Irish or healthy breakfast and afternoon tea on the terrace, with views of Kilkenny Castle. The midweek break costs from €84 per person, or from €124 for a two-night stay. It is valid from Sunday to Thursday until June 30 and excludes bank holidays. rinuccini.com; rivercourthotel.com

Volcan highs

Spend seven nights at the five-star Hotel Volcan Lanzarote on a B&B basis and save €140 per person, or almost 20%. The hotel is in Playa Blanca, directly in front of the yacht harbour, and designed in the style of a typical Lanzarote village, with traditional courtyards and secluded spots. There is an adults-only section, as well as four à la carte restaurants offering Spanish, Japanese and Italian food, plus squash and tennis courts and spa facilities. The seven-night holiday costs €609 per person departing from Cork on May 24, while departures from Dublin start at €625 per person. The price includes flights but excludes transfers. To book, call 01 901 0175. blueseaholidays.ie

Language of love

Impress your date with your lingo skills in the city of love and lights, and a stay at Paris's original literary hotel, Pavillon des Lettres. The hotel has teamed up with French à la Carte, a French-language tutoring company, to design a special stay that includes private French language lessons on a guided walking tour of the city. The price is from €330 per person, based on two people sharing a one-night stay in a superior room on a B&B basis. This includes a private two-hour lesson with a trained tutor. pavillondeslettres.com



◀ TURKISH DELIGHT

Hotel Villa Mahal in Kalkan, Turkey, has an exclusive offer for readers of The Sunday Times Ireland, of 10% off high-season room rates and 15% off low-season rates. The hotel – a former Conde Nast Johansens' "most romantic hotel in Europe" – has just 13 rooms set in mature gardens, which lead directly onto Kalkan Bay, a beautiful stretch of coastline with a 450km coastal trekking trail from Fethiye to just west of Antalya. The hotel has an infinity pool and a private beach club, and all rooms have air-conditioning, free wi-fi, Molton Brown cosmetics, minibars and private outdoor terraces. Spring is the best time of year for a walking holiday, when it's still pleasantly warm and wild flowers are at their best. Rooms start at €220 per night in low season (B&B, from now until May 31 and during the month of October), or €187 with the discount. Flights are not included; return fares to Dalaman in May start at €268 with Turkish Airlines. Book at villamahal.com.



◀ SPIKE YOUR COFFEE

A hedgehog cafe has opened in Tokyo. Don't worry, we're not talking some quirky new cuisine trend (cocktail sticks not required). Rather, the animals are there for cuddling and fussing over in the same mould as Japan's ubiquitous cat cafes. Punters pay about €8 for an hour at the Harry cafe, in the Roppongi district, which will have a variety of hedgehog species available. We fear the odd prick is unavoidable. And we don't mean the clientele.

BARRELS OF FUN ▶

Bordeaux, the elected Unesco World Heritage city voted European Best Destination 2015, is also home to La Cité du Vin, a multisensory wine museum scheduled to open in June. It will be the world's largest dedicated to wine, taking inspiration from theme parks and museums, and is set over 10 floors in a 55-metre building. To coincide with the launch, the Rebeis & Chateaux "architecture hotel" Le Saint-James is offering one night in its Michelin-starred restaurant (including drinks, and tickets and transport to La Cité du Vin) for €420 a head. Flights are not included; Aer Lingus has regular returns to Bordeaux from about €190. sainjames-boulac.com

