

Europe



PORTUGAL BECAUSE NOW THERE'S EVEN MORE TO LOVE.

There's charming Lisbon, the wineries of the Douro Valley, the seaside towns of the Algarve. And now the Alentejo, where stylish Lisbonites go on private home holidays, has three magnetic new places to stay: São Lourenço do Barrocal, a centuriesold estate that is now a dreamy boutique resort (restored by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Eduardo Souto de Moura); on the coast, the design-driven **Sublime Comporta**, its villas shaped like the area's traditional rice storage buildings; and the just opened Quinta da Comporta, set between dunes and rice fields. Think the solitude and natural beauty of the Hamptons before they became hot. **TO BOOK** Virginia Irurita, who devises great itineraries throughout the Iberian peninsula. VIRGINIA@MADEFORSPAINANDPORTUGAL.COM. J.M.

BECAUSE THE ART WORLD IS ARRIVING.

wiss-born art collector and philanthropist Maja Hoffmann has invested a decade (and nearly \$200 million) in laying the foundation for the city of Arles, France, which played muse to van Gogh and Gauguin, to become a new cultural hub. Her biggest project is Luma Arles, a 20-acre contemporary arts complex that includes a performance venue that launched last summer, and the crown jewel, a tower designed by Frank Gehry, which is slated to be completed in late 2019. In anticipation of Arles's ascent to art destination status, Hoffmann has opened a Michelin-starred restaurant, La Chassagnette, and the creatively decorated hotel L'Arlatan, which is set in a grand centuries-old townhouse. TO BOOK Philip Haslett, all-knowing on things Provençal. PHILIP@ KAIROS-TRAVEL.COM J.M.

ROMANIA

BECAUSE PRINCE CHARLES HAS THREE HOUSES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE— AND CHARLES KNOWS COUNTRY.

ucharest is getting its first real luxury hotel this year (the Corinthia) and has a burgeoning food scene. But the real star is Romania's countryside: Bukovina, with its painted monasteries; Maramures, with its wooden churches; and Transylvania, a.k.a., Dracula country—romantic reminders of what this continent looked like centuries ago. In an era of shrinking biodiversity, Romania's Carpathian Mountains contain the largest swath of virgin forest in Europe; its meadows, which have never been sprayed with pesticides, are miraculously abundant in flora and fauna, with Europe's largest populations of bears, wolves, and lynxes. Prince Charles, one of the country's most vocal protectors, rhapsodized that here "man lives in harmony with nature." You can go tracking with guides and otherwise geek out on the natural world, and because the hinterlands are unfenced, there is excellent horseback riding and cycling.

When Charles is not around, you can stay at Zalanpatak, one of his meticulously restored homes (seven rooms, no phone or internet). Small, family-owned inns are becoming increasingly stylish, and even a tad modern (i.e., WiFi). Copsa Mare, a Saxon village at the edge of a vast forest, has four charming cottages suitable for two to eight guests; larger properties include Raven's Nest, Sesuri, and Viscri 125. All will immerse you in local culture, customs, and cuisine. **TO BOOK** Raluca Spiac has the keys to this kingdom and can arrange bespoke activities, such as a stay at a castle in Zabola owned by Austro-Hungarian aristocrats, where a day of 4x4 adventures culminates with a lakeside dinner, a performance by a gypsy band, and some astronomerled stargazing. A peek at the old-fashioned life just may be the bucket-list trip of the future. RALUCA@ BEYONDDRACULA.COM. J.M.

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