



## Shop! Buzz

Ideal for combatting jet-lagged eyes, La Mer The Eye Concentrate is an ultra-luxe eye serum based on La Mer's famed 'miracle broth' – a cocktail of active ingredients which help to renew skin cells. Use the silver applicator (which cools skin) to dab on the rich formula and say goodbye to puffy eyes. £99. Available to buy onboard.

## TO THE MANOR BORN

Hotels in historic buildings and castles are two-a-penny, but staying with bona fide aristocracy as a house guest and joining in their weekend activities is a whole other experience. The extravagantly named Veronica Joly de Lotbinière (whose husband is a descendant of Henry VII and who herself comes from an impressive roster of admirals, generals and ambassadors) has persuaded a group of friends and

relatives to open up their stately homes and castles across the country for visitors wanting to sample an authentic slice of British upper-class life.

You can stay, for example, with the Earl and Countess of Devon at Powderham Castle near Exeter, or with Lord and Lady Coke and family in

18th-century Holkham Hall in north Norfolk (check out the views of the 3,000-acre park from your window). You can also reside at Belvoir Castle, the 11th-century Leicestershire home of the Duke and Duchess of Rutland and their five children. Or be the guest of Lord and Lady Carnarvon at the Victorian Highclere Castle, set amid spectacular Berkshire parkland. Meanwhile, Veronica herself

opens the doors to her Victorian country house in Norfolk.

Weekends are tailored to personal interests, from learning to fly a golden eagle to a day at Ascot or a tour of the Jockey Club in Newmarket (home of British racing), while evenings are spent socialising at balls or enjoying black-tie dinners and bridge at home. For more details, contact +44 (0)1366 328 962, [morethangoodmanners.com](http://morethangoodmanners.com).



**Room at the top**  
Live like the aristocracy at Holkham Hall in Norfolk; Veronica Joly de Lotbinière is the real thing (far left).

## FOOD FESTIVALS



### LONDON

#### Taste of London, 18-21 June

Around 40 of the capital's best restaurants are hoping to whet your appetite in Taste of London (above), which is sponsored by BA. Culinary big hitters such as Le Gavroche, Quo Vadis and Cinnamon Kitchen will set up stalls in Regent's Park for the weekend and offer tasting size portions of their signature dishes. [tastefestivals.com](http://tastefestivals.com)

### THESSALONIKI

#### Sani Gourmet festival, 15-24 May

Held in the Sani Resort in Halkidiki, the Sani Gourmet festival features top chefs from France, Spain, Italy, the UK, Morocco, and, of course, Greece, who will showcase a special menu of five or six courses paired with complementary wines. Expect Catalan cuisine from experimental chef Santi Santamaria and Japanese fare from Colin Clague of Zuma in Dubai. [saniresort.gr/sanigourmet](http://saniresort.gr/sanigourmet)

### NEW ORLEANS

#### New Orleans Wine & Food Experience, 19-23 May

More than 800 vintages are poured over the five-day New Orleans Wine & Food Experience. Wineries from around the world showcase their produce alongside sample dishes from more than 75 of the city's world-renowned restaurants. The event to look out for is the Royal Street Stroll – shop at the galleries and sample wine along the way to a soundtrack of live jazz music. [nowfe.com](http://nowfe.com)

### MELBOURNE

#### Good Food & Wine Show, 5-8 June

For aspiring chefs, the Good Food & Wine show is the place to head for recipe ideas and the latest trends. Find inspiration at the cooking demonstrations, wine seminars and beverage workshops, and watch out for Gordon Ramsay, who is set to appear. Sydney, Perth and Brisbane host the event at later dates. [goodfoodshow.com.au](http://goodfoodshow.com.au)

### SINGAPORE

#### The Singapore Food Festival, 1-31 July

The whole of July is given over to a celebration of Singapore's best-loved local cuisine. Banquets and carnivals take place as well as workshops, food tours and sampling sessions. From curries and sushi to tapas, this event will show off the diversity of Singapore's culinary scene. [singaporefoodfestival.com](http://singaporefoodfestival.com)

# Spending Power

SUMMER'S HERE SO CELEBRATE IN STYLE WITH THESE UPLIFTING EXPERIENCES AND GLITTERING GIFTS

## VEND YOUR WAY

Hotel gift shops are so last year. At the chic Mondrian Hotel (of the Morgans Hotel Group) on Miami's South Beach, Semi-Automatic (right), an oversized vending machine, offers a myriad luxury goods at the touch of a fingertip, from a Paul Smith toothbrush to the keys for a 2000 Bentley Azure convertible.

Gifts include work by up-and-coming artists as well

as top brands and the machine is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so there's no need to worry if you have a sudden urge to hire a Bentley in the middle of the night. The concept is due to be rolled out to other Morgans properties later this year. For more information, contact +1 305 514 1500 or [mondrian-miami.com](http://mondrian-miami.com).



## Let us spray

Inject some old-fashioned glamour into your travels with this handbag-sized, crystal-encrusted perfume decanter. Launched this summer by luxury *haute parfumerie* Caron, the atomiser's design is based on the stalactite-shaped bottle created for the perfume house in 1913. Caron was founded in Paris in 1904 by Ernest Daltroff, widely acknowledged as one of the finest ever 'noses', who created iconic fragrances such as Tabac Blond, launched in 1919 to mark the dawn of women's liberation. Available from Harrods ([harrods.com](http://harrods.com)).



COURTESY OF HOLKHAM HALL