

Escape

Discover a hip New York hangout and an Alpine getaway in northern Italy.

▼ VIGILIUS MOUNTAIN RESORT, ITALY

Leave your stresses and worries behind as you make the 1,500-metre ascent to this award-winning eco resort in South Tyrol, overlooking the Dolomites (it's only accessible via cable car). The resort's sleek architecture - all pine, glass, reclaimed timber and a grass-covered roof - slots effortlessly into the location, its materials reflecting the environment. Here, you can relax in one of the eleven treatment rooms, find inner peace at the yoga workshops, relax in the open air sauna, or feel the burn tobogganing, snow-hiking or skiing on Mount San Vigilio. Escape doesn't come more definitive than this. Rooms from €225. Monte S. Vigilio, Pavicolo 43, 39011 Lana South Tyrol, +39 0473 556 600; vigilius.it

✈ AER LINGUS FLIES FROM DUBLIN TO VERONA, TUE, WED, THUR AND SAT.



◀ WYTHE HOTEL, NEW YORK

A former cooperage, the Wythe has become a magnet for cool Brooklynites since it opened in May. Besides its slick appearance - the interior boasts avant-garde art and locally crafted wallpaper - the Wythe also hosts many *über*-modern amenities to draw the crowds. There's a show-stopping giant glass cube on the roof that opens onto a bar, bike-sharing, valet parking and mini-bars that stock home-made ice cream. And all that's before you check out the restaurant, Reynards, brainchild of renowned Brooklyn restaurateur Andrew Tarlow. Rooms from \$179. 80 Wythe Avenue at North 11th, Williamsburg, Brooklyn, +1 718 460 8000; wythehotel.com

✈ AER LINGUS FLIES FROM DUBLIN TO NEW YORK DAILY AND FROM SHANNON MON, WED, FRI AND SUN.



▶ FAZENDA NOVA, PORTUGAL

Busy Londoners Tim and Hallie Robinson longed for a new life away from the stresses of the city. The upshot of that longing is a lovingly restored 19th-century farmhouse in the eastern Algarve. Fazenda Nova is a ten-suite, boutique hideaway with an understated beauty that carries from the rooms to the impressive restaurant, A Cozinha, which uses seasonal produce from the farmhouse's gardens and local markets. Bread is baked fresh every morning in the original 200-year-old oven - almost worth making the trip for that alone. Rooms from €170. Estiramentens, Santo Estevao 8800-504, Tavira, +351 281 961 913; fazendanova.eu

✈ AER LINGUS FLIES FROM DUBLIN TO FARO DAILY AND FROM CORK TO FARO, MON, TUE, WED, THUR, SAT AND SUN.



▲ BALLYNATRAY HOUSE AND ESTATE, CORK

Shake the moth balls from your tweeds, pull on your galoshes and make like the gentry this winter with a self-catering stay at Ballynatray Estate in Co Cork. Big house activities include simulated game shooting, archery and fishing. Foodies will be happy too - just a stone's throw away you have the renowned Ballymaloe cookery school and restaurant. Accommodation comes in many forms, none more romantic than the Boat House, above: a tiny cottage perched on the edge of the River Blackwater. Spend your weekend sipping something amusing on your balcony or relaxing in the roll-top bath watching the wildlife pass by. Cottages from €165. Ballynatray, Youghal, Co Cork, 024 97460; ballynatray.com



LIKE HISTORY? Then you'll love Torre Prendiparte, one of Bologna's few surviving medieval towers.

The twelfth-century fortress is a staggering 65 metres high, has twelve floors, some 18th-century graffiti and has been converted into a one bedroom B&B. It also hosts chamber music concerts on its rooftop; prendiparte.it