



# POSITIVELY GLOWING

*Oslo and its coolest couple  
have their day in the sun*

**Summer Travel** with stops in the American Southwest, BANGKOK, Brooklyn, Costa Rica, Cyprus, DÜSSELDORF, the French countryside, Guatemala's Lake Atitlán, KERALA, LONDON, Los Angeles, Mississippi and SICILY. PLUS Julie Delpy takes New York, Gotye and Kimbra arrive from Down Under, and THE SELBY visits Majorca.



# BED CHECK

*From urban palazzos to off-grid retreats, Sicily's standout hotels perfectly play up their surroundings.*



ROOM WITH A VIEW

**San Domenico Palace Hotel**  
Taormina (Piazza San Domenico, 5 Taormina; 011-39-0942-61311; amthotels.it; doubles from \$512)

Hotels in Taormina are packed in tight, elbowing each other for the best view of Etna and Taormina Bay. This 105-room grande dame hogs most of it. Hugging the cliffside above the bay, the former 15th-century monastery's original cloisters are gloriously intact, and some of the suites have terraces with Jacuzzis facing the sea. There's also a two-Michelin-starred restaurant, Principe Cerami.



CITY BOLTHOLE

**Butera 28**  
Palermo (Via Butera 28, Palermo; 011-39-333-3165432; butera28.it; doubles from \$66)

Few Palermo hotels recall the city's past quite like this 18th-century palazzo atop the city walls. Once home to Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, who wrote "The Leopard," the property today is owned and operated by the author's surviving family, who carved out 11 apartments, each with its own kitchen. They also offer cooking classes (from \$197 per person per day) that begin with an instructional wander through Palermo's markets and end with dinner in the family's dining room.



MOUNTAIN AERIE

**Shalai Resort**  
Etna (Via Marconi 25, Linguaglossa; 011-39-095-643128; shalai.it; doubles from \$196)

Up the snowy slope of Mount Etna, this 19th-century palazzo was turned into a 13-room hotel two years ago. Period details like Baroque ceiling cherubs dressed in gold commingle stylishly with contemporary touches like teardrop lamps by the Italian designer Davide Groppi. The spa features candlelit Turkish baths and nearby are charming towns like Randazzo and the ski slopes of Piano Provenzana, to which the hotel can organize tours by jeep, bicycle, even donkey.



STYLISH AGRITURISMO

**Planeta La Foresteria**  
Menfi (Contrada Passo di Gurra, ex S.S. 115 s.p. 79, Km 91, Menfi; 011-39-0925-1955460; planetaestate.it; doubles from \$263)

The latest project of the Sicilian wine producer Planeta is this 14-room retreat tucked away in the rambling vineyards of Southern Sicily near the crystalline waters of Porto Palo beach. Some of the rooms are whitewashed with wooden-beam ceilings and all have terraces that peer over lavender and herb gardens. The chef Angelo Pumilia leads cooking classes, and regional excursions include trips to Planeta's winery and olive oil mills.



## Specks Aboy

Sicily's well-worn island circuit of Pantelleria, Panarea and Stromboli is overrun with tourists in the summer and prohibitively expensive year-round. But there are other untrampled isles where in-the-know Italians touch down (or tie up).

**DAY TRIP** An eight-minute tugboat ride from Marsala's Ettore and Inversa Salt Museum leaves you at uninhabited **Mozia Island** (left). You can't spend the night on this ancient Phoenician trading post, but you can pack a picnic and stroll around the old Grillo vineyards. Tasca d'Almerita (tascadalmerita.it) organizes wine tastings here in the afternoons, and the Museo Whitaker Giovinetto di Mozia has a fascinating collection of Phoenician, Greek and Roman artifacts.

**WEEKEND** For years **Salina** was the black sheep of Sicily's Aeolian Islands. No beachfront Buddah bars, only fisherman shacks; instead of yachters making a pit stop, lively working-class locals. But that's exactly why refugees from the party islands nearby are turning it into the latest destination for a rustic weekend. Among a handful of charming hotels is the Capofaro Malvasia & Resort (Via Faro 3; 011-39-090-9844330/1; capofaro.it; doubles from \$302), on 15 acres of seafront Malvasia delle Lipari vineyards.

**WEEK** Having recently touched down on the tuna fishing island of **Favignana** (where Miuccia Prada owns a house), the style set has its sights on neighboring **Marettimo** (left). Few tourists make it here (about one hour by boat from Trapani), and it has fewer than 500 residents and more gorgeous grottos and mountain trails than all of its neighbors. Hole up at the Marettimo Residence (Via Telegrafo, 3; 011-39-092-392-3202; marettimoresidence.it; weekly rental from \$683), a collection of whitewashed buildings that look out on the sea.