

# MR PORTER

## EIGHT OF THE BEST EARLY-SUMMER HOLIDAY DESTINATIONS FOR 2019

How to beat the crowds and enjoy the experiences on offer at the world's most exciting travel hotspots



The Almanac Barcelona. Photograph by Ms Sivan Askayo, courtesy of Almanac

*Words by Ms Kerry Smith*

**W**inter's been hard, cold and it's gone on far too long. Salvation is at hand, however, because the next three months are the best time to visit destinations with clement temperatures. The time before the great summer exodus begins, before the hordes – and the hordes' mothers' aunts – descend. At any rate, before temperatures start to climb there's often more happening in these places. This is a time for festivals, celebrations and old-world traditions. Plus, some stunning new urban landscapes are being unveiled. Here, MR PORTER brings you the best early-summer trips around the globe.

## 08. ROME



Vineyards at Castello di Bolgheri. Photograph courtesy of The Grand House. Inset: The Grand House, Rome. Photograph by Ms Giulia Venanzi, courtesy of The Grand House

Harvest time in the autumn always brings a flock of wine enthusiasts to the vineyards outside Rome. Go in May, though, and the weather will be good and the crowds smaller. Some of Italy's most prestigious vineyards can be easily reached from the capital city, especially if you are travelling by helicopter. Stay at The Grand House and they can arrange for a driver to take you by limousine to a nearby helipad to fly to Bolgheri. The 50-minute journey, over Cypress-lined avenues, pine forests and the small city of Orvieto perched on its rock cliff, is extraordinarily beautiful. On arrival, guests are taken to the vineyards of Castello di Bolgheri, set in the grounds of the 13th-century Bolgheri Castle. Wine tasting, a family reception and a lunch of local dishes follow. When you return, you'll have the rest of Rome to explore. The classic ruins, the neighbourhood trattorias and buzzing aperitivo scene all await.

## *Where to stay*

The Grand House is a newly launched concept that turns historic homes in the heart of Rome into luxurious suites for travellers. One of the most quintessentially Italian is the magnificent Grand Emperor Suite, where Emperor Napoleon III lived in 1830. Today, the walls are still furnished with elegant oil paintings and original 16th-century tapestries and the traditional parquet floors are intact. For a more modern space, book The Grand Penthouse, which has magnificent views across central Rome. The Grand House also puts guests in touch with Italy's leading protagonists of culture, art and literature, wine experts, chefs and designers.

**[thegrandhouse.com](http://thegrandhouse.com)**

## *What to pack*



NORSE PROJECTS  
Godtfred Striped Cotton-Jersey T-Shirt



ORLEBAR BROWN  
Slim-Fit Linen-Chambray Drawstring Shorts