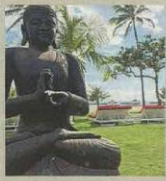


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Escape Extra News | Deals | Round-ups

**TOP THREE
LATE DEALS**


SITTING next to the beach on the Indonesian island of Bali, the Club Med resort is made up of cottages with thatched roofs and has its own spa. Save £344 per person on a seven-night stay, including return flights from London Heathrow. Departing on April 30. From £1,375. clubmed.co.uk



THE Chalet Appaloosa in Val d'Isère, France, is a contemporary chalet sleeping 14. It has six ensuite bedrooms, its own wellness centre with jacuzzi and steam room and access to the huge Espace Killy ski area.

Save £500 per person on a seven-night stay, fully catered, beginning December 19. From £599. powderwhite.com



CLOTES apartments, in the heart of Sauze d'Oulx, Italy, are located just moments away from lively après-ski and are popular with a young crowd. The Clotes chairlift is 50m away.

Save £215 per person on a seven-night stay, self-catering, including return flights from Gatwick, Birmingham or Manchester. Departing December 20. From £395. nelson.co.uk/ski

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Michelin stars and stripes grace Madrid

A Madrid pop-up restaurant is the place to be next month when the team from Alinea in Chicago crosses the Atlantic, says Jane Mulkerrins

WITH three Michelin stars and a reputation for mischievous molecular gastronomy, Alinea in Chicago is widely recognised as one of the best restaurants in the world – and the most strict. Diners who fail to show up for their reservation are subject to a hefty fine. However, next month you won't have to cross the Atlantic to sample the flavours created by its famed chef, Grant Achatz – Spain will suffice. From January 12 to February 6, Achatz and his team will open Alinea Chicago, a pop-up version of his Stateside restaurant, in the NH Collection Eurobuilding in Madrid. The hotel is already home to the restaurant DiverXO, which also has three Michelin stars, under head chef David Muñoz.

Six Michelin stars under the roof of one hotel, and the arrival of Alinea, will turn Madrid into an even greater gastronomic destination, says Hugo Rovira, general manager of NH Hotel Group in Spain, Portugal and Andorra.

European visitors will not have to cross the ocean to taste Achatz's acclaimed cuisine. They will also have the opportunity to split their dinner in half, to dine at both Alinea and DiverXO on the same night.

Achatz's science-project style of cooking fits well with the ethos



Intricate: Corn, white chocolate, honey and mango, Alinea-style. Inset: how the Madrid pop-up could look

of the NH Collection Eurobuilding, which also runs the Living Lab, a laboratory where guests can test out the latest technological advances.

The temporary transatlantic move, which will cater to 80 diners per night, means the Chicago restaurant will close for a month while Achatz and 45 of his team members relocate.

The 21-course tasting menu in Chicago deconstructs classic flavours, with dishes such as tempura-fried pheasant breast with green grapes and walnuts, and rabbit parfait with

ALINEA MOTION

AFTER four years working as a sous chef at the acclaimed French Laundry in California, Grant Achatz opened Alinea in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighbourhood in 2007. The restaurant is housed in a modest grey brick building with no external markings beyond its street number. It has no bar or lobby and seats just 64 guests. In 2008, *Gourmet* magazine named it the best restaurant in the US.

rabbit rillettes and a cinnamon-scented rabbit consommé. But Alinea Madrid will reflect the culture and cuisine of its surroundings.

'Achatz feels it is important to use the influence of Spanish ingredients and techniques,' says Rovira. 'He wants to honour being in Spain and the great culinary history it has.'

Wine pairing from £88, tasting menu from £350, alineainresidence.com
Return flights to Madrid from £69, easyjet.com

Snow business skills A reel adventure



Learning curve: Master your ski moves

BREAKING through the barrier from being an amateur skier to becoming a pro can be tough. But this winter, Powder White is launching a six-day package to help snow bunnies master the ultimate ski skills. With five three-hour ski skill sessions, the course, based in Méribel, includes tuition in off-piste and cross-country skiing, moguls and freestyle.

From £949, including seven nights in a fully catered chalet, ski pass, ski equipment hire and tuition, powderwhite.com



Roar talent: Learn a skill while on safari

WHETHER you're harbouring film-making ambitions or simply want to make the most of your African adventure, Wilderness Safaris is offering the chance to learn top-notch video skills from a pro. BBC executive producer Fiona Pitcher, who has 20 years' wildlife TV experience, will be leading the workshops in March 2016 at three camps in Botswana.

From £4,725 per person, including flights, accommodation, all meals, safari activities and lessons, wilderness-safaris.com