

DEPARTURE INFO

From ruinously refined dining in Valencia to a stay in revamped wine tanks in the Peloponnese

Ancient and modern

SUCEDA, VALENCIA →

Miguel Ángel Mayor, the strapping head chef at Sucedede, finally has a restaurant space that is as slick and streamlined as his cooking. This is not to say that interior designer Francesc Rifé has completely erased all traces of the previous iteration (which, incidentally, he also designed, in 2010). Barcelona-based Rifé has left intact the imposing ruins of the 12th-century watchtowers and walls that once wrapped around Valencia, allowing the exposed brickwork to serve as monumental room dividers. Over this ancient patina, he has layered black-stained oak slats, and 500-year-old Valencian ceramics. The restaurant's centrepiece is a new show kitchen, accessed through a corridor of smoked glass and a Gothic arch. Here, Mayor – an El Bulli alumnus – orchestrates playful but beautifully plated tasting menus influenced by Valencia's Roman and Arabic gastronomic history, a conceit seen to best effect in dishes such as figs and trout bread, and pickled hare. **Daven Wu**
Almirall 14, Valencia, tel: 34.963 155 287, sucedede.com



Tatami time

KISHI-KE, KAMAKURA ←

While the lovely seaside town of Kamakura offers plenty to see and do on a daytrip from Tokyo (see W*193), visitors have been hard-pressed to find lodgings to match the charm of this former Japanese capital. New private ryokan Kishi-ke, right by the sea, offers precisely the kind of hospitality experience the town was lacking. It accepts just one group of up to five people at any time, so guests are guaranteed privacy and the full attention of the young couple (Mr and Mrs Kishi) who run the ryokan. The traditional *washitsu*, or living room, on the ground floor offers a quiet view of the immaculate Japanese garden to one side and Sagami Bay to the other. The bedroom and bathroom (with a stunning round hinoki bathtub) are on the first floor. Private local tours and experiences are also on offer. **Jens H Jensen**
21-5 Sakanoshita, Kamakura, kishi-ke.co.jp.
Rates: from ¥95,000 (\$863)



Stripped asset

THE LEVEE, TEL AVIV ←

Off a tree-lined street in Tel Aviv's Neve Tzedek neighbourhood, The Levee is a 1913 villa reborn as a smart urban stay, featuring eight sprawling apartments (including a swish rooftop-spanning duplex penthouse with panoramic views) and a 24-hour concierge. The meticulous renovation by Bar Orian Architects sees original concrete details exposed; in places, fragments of sea shell can be seen buried in the century-old cement, made from sand sourced from the city's shores. Israeli-Belgian designer Yael Siso oversaw the loft-like interiors, which mix contrasting materials such as marble, brass and sandstone, and furniture by the likes of Molteni & C, Cassina, Moooi and Moroso. **Harry McKinley** 16 Yehuda Halevi, Tel Aviv, tel: 972.3 771 4421, leveetlv.com. Rates: from \$950

New vintage

DEXAMENES SEASIDE HOTEL, PELOPONNESE →

Housed in a derelict 1920s winery in the Peloponnese, Nikos Karaflos' latest hotel floats above the beach at Kourouta like a chic, horizontal sea liner. Making the most of the low-slung proportions, Athens' K-Studio performed a delicate intervention that complements the industrial aesthetic. Having wrapped the building in a plywood canopy and cut spacious window openings into the wine tanks, flooding the ten new suites with light, the studio carefully restored the interiors, preserving existing texture where possible. The suites, some of which face the beach, come with terraces, while the smooth surfaces and cool palette inside offer a welcome, monastic respite from the brightness outside. **Warren Singh-Bartlett** Kourouta Beach, Amaliada, tel: 30.697 252 1806, dexamenes.com. Rates: from €160



Calm and collected

KIMPTON DA AN, TAIPEI ←

The Kimpton group has finally landed in Asia, making its debut in Taipei's Da'An, a district heaving with colourful night markets, boutiques and cafés. Design honours went to Neri & Hu, which has turned a low-rise residential building into a slick 129-room retreat. Here, the mood is one of quiet escapism, rather than the usual riot of colours for which Kimpton is better known. The restraint is most evident in the rooms, where pale timber, white tiles and greys dominate. A similar calmness settles over the in-house restaurant, where chef James Sharman dishes up pork belly with pineapple, and grouper with pine nuts. **DW** No 25, Lane 27, Section 4, Ren'ai Road, Da'an District, tel: 886.2 2173 7999, kimptonhotels.com. Rates: from TW\$16,000 (£397)

Photography: Hey/Cheese