





# Winter, warmer

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES IN STYLE  
WITH A SUN-KISSED GETAWAY,  
WRITES KATIE MCGONAGLE

PHOTOGRAPH: EIDEN MOROCCO; GERALD TESSIER; RALF TOOTEN

**BLUE SUNDAY** *Opposite, top to bottom:* Wake up to arresting terracotta vistas of Morocco's High Atlas Mountains at Eden Boutique Hotel's Berber-luxe oasis; Villa Secret Garden in St Barts allows guests to enjoy Caribbean sunrises and sunsets in supreme privacy and comfort **Above:** The Sira resort on Indonesia's Lombok island allows weary travellers to unwind in serene opulence, from spa treatments and pool drifting to cookery lessons and 18 holes on the nearby golf course

**W**inter holidays usually come down to a choice between snow or sun – but with so many stunning new beachfront hotels and revamped resorts opening up all around the world, you'll want to save skiing for another time. To fast-track your way to an exciting sun-soaked stay, here's our pick of where to go this winter.

## INDONESIAN IDYLL

If the palm-fringed beaches and volcanic peaks of Bali appeal – minus the crowds – look to Lombok, the neighbouring Indonesian isle offering a more peaceful take on the tropics. Go from hiking the slopes of Mount Rinjani, the country's second-highest volcano, to scuba diving alongside hawksbill and green sea turtles deep in the waters of the Gili Islands. Overlooking this trio of tiny isles is The Sira, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, which opens in November

with 60 ocean-facing suites around a palm-lined pool, where you can sample spiced Lombok coffee, learn to cook traditional dish ayam taliwang or get some rounds in on the greens of the Sire Beach Golf Course next door. For a similarly serene stay in Sri Lanka, restored heritage boutique Uga Halloowella is due to open in January. The six-suite escape is set on a 250-acre tea plantation that was once home to a First World War fighter pilot, now accessible via a scenic 90-mile drive or helicopter flight from Colombo.

The Sira's Ocean View suites are priced from £358 per night; One-bedroom Beachfront villas start from £826 per night, both including breakfast. [marriott.com](http://marriott.com)

## SAVOUR ST BARTS

With swish superyachts plying its waters and chic French vibes infusing its culture and cuisine, St Barts is a cut above even the most rarefied





isles of the Caribbean. You have to work a little harder to get there – with no direct flights, fly to Antigua or St Maarten and hop on a private jet for the last leg – but it’s worth it to reach those sugar-soft shores and cerulean seas. On the island’s east coast, the recently refurbished Villa Secret Garden makes the most of waking up to sparkling sea views from an expansive terrace, featuring a private pool and Jacuzzi. As well as little touches like breakfast delivered daily and Petit Prince toiletries for little ones, enjoy all the facilities of sister resort Le Barthélemy Hotel & Spa, where a private beach club, gorgeous rooftop bar and Michelin-starred guest chef’s services await.

A week at the four-bedroom Villa Secret Garden starts from \$22,000. [lebarthvillas.com](http://lebarthvillas.com)

### ATLAS, AT LAST

Being able to get a good look at Monkey’s Fingers might

not sound like much of a selling point for a stay – but uninterrupted views of this curiously named rock formation in the High Atlas Mountains is just one of many reasons to check in to the brand-new Eden Boutique Hotel, an 18-room oasis in the heart of the Moroccan mountain range. Featuring ornate decor that takes inspiration from Berber culture and gardens laid out by French landscaper Guillaume Berthier, every nook reveals another design detail that draws on the area’s rich heritage. It’s a good base from which to explore the rugged landscapes of the Dades Valley, either on guided hikes or 4x4 journeys – but be sure to make it back in time to soothe your tired muscles in the hammam or watch the vivid sunset from the rooftop bar.

Room rates at Eden Boutique Hotel start from £323 per night based on two sharing with breakfast. [edenboutiquehotel.com](http://edenboutiquehotel.com)

### SEYCHELLOIS SUN

When acclaimed architect Jean-Michel Gathy lends his expertise to a new development, expectations are high – but the Cheval Blanc Seychelles is on course to exceed them all when it opens its ‘maison’ this winter. Though with the unspoilt shores of Anse Intendance beach on Mahé’s south-west coast as his canvas, it’d be hard to create anything less than perfection. The 52-villa property is the sixth Cheval Blanc outpost, owned by luxury powerhouse LVMH. But while regulars might recognise a few familiar features, such as French fine-dining spot Le 1947 and laid-back Le White, there’ll be plenty of touches specific to this Seychellois spot, including specially commissioned art by French sculptor Prune Nourry as well as Malagasy artist Joël Andrianomearisoa.

Cheval Blanc’s rates are due to be released in November.

[chevalblanc.com/seychelles](http://chevalblanc.com/seychelles) **L**

**ART HOUSE Above:** Cheval Blanc Seychelles on the isle of Mahé is set to open this winter, providing first-class holidaymakers with lavish villas, fine dining and specially commissioned art.