

Client: Borgo Egnazia
Source: FT How To Spend It
Date: 1 December 2018



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travelista

Wander woman Maria Shollenbarger
fast-tracks international intelligence
on where to be and what to see

→ Leonardo Ferragamo is no stranger to hospitality: in 1995 he founded the Lungarno Collection (lungarnocollection.com), which includes the elegant Portrait hotels in Florence and Rome and, soon, Milan. Now he's expanded his remit with a project offering select tailor-made experiences across **TUSCANY** that reflect his family's commitment to its arts, artisanal culture and even its wilderness (one fact that tends to get lost in all the wine/food/art chatter: the region harbours some exceptional parks and wildlife reserves). **Tuscany Again** (tuscanyagain.org; itineraries from €380) offers conventional (albeit very exclusive) options, along the lines of private museum tours, personal wine blendings and visits to top artisans' studios, but there is also birding in pristine private wetlands, foraging for wild edibles with etho-botanists and sustainable fishing with local environmentalists (culminating in a cracking seafood lunch prepared on board the boat). All leverage the Ferragamos' own vast network of contacts and assets.

→ Down on the Adriatic coast of **PUGLIA**, **Borgo Egnazia** (borgoegnazia.com; from €269) has been a go-to for private digs and great service with a high glamour factor since opening in 2010. But there is impressive farsightedness too: owner Aldo Melpignano has evolved his resort thoughtfully, creating year-round wellness programmes

and retreats more or less unmatched in the region. This month sees him taking on a far bolder challenge with the launch of **Imagine** (imaginesailing.com; from \$46,500 per week), an Ed Dubois-designed sailing yacht that sleeps seven with a crew of five, and will count **ANTIGUA**, Panama's **SAN BLAS ISLANDS** and the **GALAPAGOS** among its ports of call in 2019. In each place Melpignano and his team have crafted "Nowhere Else" experiences, ranging from remote beach barbecues to drill-down cultural excursions.

→ Recovery in **NEPAL** after 2015's devastating earthquake has been slow, but hospitality is doing its part. Openings include **The Pavilions Himalayas** (pavilionshotels.com), which debuted in late 2015 on an organic produce farm in Pokhara. This month sees the arrival of sister property **The Pavilions Himalayas Lake View** (from \$200), which consists of just eight luxury tents overlooking Lake Phewa with views of the Annapurna Massif. They're fully



Above: one of the eight luxury tents at The Pavilions Himalayas Lake View in Nepal. Below: Tuscany Again's tailor-made experiences include visits to the studios of top artisans



Above: Antigua, Panama and the Galapagos Islands are among the 2019 ports of call for the newly launched yacht Imagine

