

Cannes' old town offers spectacular views



The lake at Mimosas Resort

The resort has its own restaurant with delicious food, and live evening entertainment such as flamenco. It also boasts its own spa with a wide range of treatments, jacuzzi, sauna, and hammam. Perfect to unwind and enjoy a soak after all that sightseeing! Prices for a week in a one-bedroom apartment start from £665, based on two adults sharing. For more information visit [mimosascannes.com](http://mimosascannes.com).

### THINGS TO DO

The nearest town to the resort is the picturesque port of Mandelieu-La Napoule, where you can wander along the scenic Siagne river. The romantic 14th-century castle, Château de la Napoule ([chateau-lanapoule.com/en/](http://chateau-lanapoule.com/en/)), where Avril Lavigne and Chad Kroeger were married in 2013, rises above the sandy beach. For a bite to eat, try Le Bellini, which is opposite the castle and overlooks the beach.

From here you can easily catch the train to Cannes or, if you're feeling more adventurous,

head up the coast to Monte Carlo in the principality of Monaco. Well worth the trip, the hour-long journey takes you the scenic route along the stunning coastline of the Côte d'Azur. It costs £17 for an all-day ticket with multiple stops - allowing you to hop on and off whenever you like to check out the inviting beaches and coves along the way.

The town provides a stunning backdrop for the Monaco Grand Prix at the end of May and you can walk the Formula 1 street circuit. Stop for something to eat at the Miramar ([miramar-monaco.com](http://miramar-monaco.com)) on Avenue JF Kennedy, where you can rest your feet and gawp at the lavish yachts moored in Port Hercule.

### GETTING THERE

Fly direct to Nice from the UK with airlines including British Airways, Jet2, Ryanair and easyJet. Or, if you're really flash, you can fly in by private jet to the VIP airport at Cannes-Mandelieu. Ooh la la! ■

POLLY McCOMBE



## SPA OF THE WEEK

### Stobo Castle Health Spa Scotland

**Who goes?** Courtney Cox is a fan of the PhytoMer products used here.

**Why is it so special?** Proudly touted as Scotland's only destination spa, this award-winning pampering haven is housed in grand Stobo Castle, nestled in the countryside of the Scottish Borders and just an hour from Edinburgh.

The hotel, which dates from 1805, is the pinnacle of opulence, with individually decorated bedrooms decked out in a country-house style. In contrast, the spa has a sleek, modern feel.

The extensive facilities include a crystal steam room, outdoor hot tubs, and ladies-only laconicum. Not only has it been crowned the UK's best spa for a stay, it also has what it claims is

the most luxurious ladies' bathroom in the land!

**What treatments are there?** Get red-carpet ready with the just-launched Caudalie Premier Cru Ultimate Anti-Ageing Facial (£100 for 55 mins), which involves an innovative massage technique followed by a mask enriched with resveratrol to plump and firm.

**Any packages?** Recharge your batteries with an overnight Revitalising Break (from £135pp), including all meals, unlimited use of the health suites and spa facilities, guided walks and a range of classes. ■



Court likes the spa's products

**Stobo Castle Health Spa, Stobo, Peebleshire, Scotland EH45 8NY. Call 01721 725 300 or visit [stobocastle.co.uk](http://stobocastle.co.uk)**

## CELEB HANGOUT

### EL PIRATA 5-6 DOWN STREET, MAYFAIR LONDON W1J 7AQ

**Who goes?** Johnny Depp has dropped in and Queen guitarist Brian May reckons, "El Pirata rocks"!

**Vibe:** This cosy eatery is tucked down a quiet street in London's posh Mayfair, a stone's throw from The Ritz and Park Lane. But despite its swanky location, the vibe here is decidedly down to earth, with super-friendly staff, rustic wooden interiors and homely tapas classics that won't break the bank.

**Best for:** Quality tapas in unfussy surroundings. Order the moreish padrón (green peppers), ibérico ham and tortilla to kick off, then take your pick from the 60-plus small plates on the main menu. The pollo al ajillo, or pan-fried chicken, is a real showstopper. But there's plenty for veggies too - try the berenjena jardinera (aubergine stuffed with veg and topped with cheese) and patatas bravas. The great-value sharing set menus start from £10.25pp for lunch. End with vanilla ice cream doused with a glug of Pedro Ximénez sherry - heaven.

**Contact:** Call 020 7491 3810 or visit [elpirata.co.uk](http://elpirata.co.uk)



Johnny's made an appearance here