



ISLAND LIFE
Cala Llobards in Santanyi; mango gazpacho by Fera Palma; Santanyi's Plaça Major; Fera head chef Simon Petutsehnig; an old Mallorquin house built from Santanyi's golden *marés* stone; the Rialto Living store in Palma



WHY NOW?

Long overshadowed by Ibiza being 'the creative one' in the Balearic family, Mallorca – just two hours away – is playing its hand. Thirst things first: Mallorca's wines are likely the best Spanish bottles you've never tried, with two DOs – Binissalem and Pla i Llevant – creating blends with the native red grapes Callet and Manto Negro, and Moll in white wines. As slow living gathers pace (the irony isn't lost), talented local artisans have become internationally bookmarkable names in ceramics (Jaume Roig), woodwork (Con Alma Designs) and textiles (Adriana Meunié).

EXPERIENCE

It's impossible to visit Mallorca without imagining uprooting your life here, such is the allure of having the capital Palma – with its oceanside cathedral, buzzy cultural agenda and quaint shuttered streets – 30 minutes' drive from olive groves, pine-backdropped beaches and tiny villages dressed in bougainvillea. Days start with an *ensaimada*, a spiral-shaped brioche smothered in icing sugar, and end with Hierbas, a feisty anise and rosemary liqueur that Mallorquins insist (perhaps questionably) is a health tonic.

ESCAPE THE CROWDS

It's not *where* but *when* – go early, a time of day that locals aren't known to embrace. In the Tramuntana mountains, Valldemossa is as postcard-perfect a village as you'll ever snap, and right now you'll never see it quieter. For ocean magic, head south to the arty village of Santanyi. There, nearby Cala Llobards, Caló del Moro and Caló Des Marmols are three good picks – part sand, part cliff drama and full turquoise sea.



MINIBREAK MALLORCA

When you're on island time, life is sipped on terraces and dipped in Pantone-blue coves. And Mallorca's food, drink and arts scene is as lit as those beachside sunsets

EAT

Fancy? Fera Palma's 'MediterrAsian' tasting menus are served in a secret garden. Fun? La Vieja de Jonay Hernández is a riot of street art, concrete interiors and 'Say what?' dishes, such as oysters with a negroni and a pistachio dessert served on a green hand (gamely called The Incredible Hulk). Fuss-free? Go for Duke Palma, where local ingredients make simple but bang-on dishes, like vegan Lebanese kebabs or shrimp croquettes with Brussels sprout kimchi. ferapalma.com; lavieja.net; dukepalma.com

SHOP

Just 100m from Passeig del Born, the main boulevard of boutiques, Rialto Living is Palma's coolest lifestyle concept store – occupying an old palace and run by a founder of the Gant clothing label. Then stroll to the hipster 'hood of Santa Catalina for an epic food market and one-off shops, including Degüayhaus for island-made baskets, home goods and suitcase-sized design pieces, and Pas Normal Studios for high-end cyclewear. rialtoliving.com; deguayhaus.com; pasnormalstudios.com

STAY

Palma's newest address is Concepció by Nobis – a soap factory-turned-minimalist hideaway with statement tiles and a dazzling sundeck with rooftop pool (the Terraza room, with a private 17m patio, is *the pick*). Outside the capital, two places are drawing all the hype right now. Can Ferrereta is the all-suite Santanyi sister to Palma's slick Hotel Sant Francesc, and Es Racó d'Artà is a pared-back, sustainability-focused retreat with daily yoga, hikes and workshops. concepcionobis.com; hotelcanferrereta.com; esracodarta.com