

Press Coverage: Marugal Hotel Management

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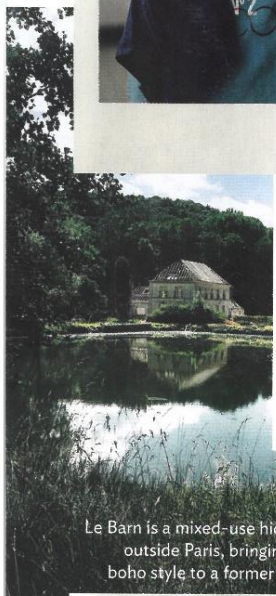
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WORD OF MOUTH



Le Barn is a mixed-use hideaway outside Paris, bringing boho style to a former mill



my horse was mila.

LE WEEKEND

A FRENCH SPIN ON THE SOHO FARMHOUSE/DAYLESFORD MODEL

Unlike Londoners, Parisians aren't spoiled for choice when it comes to country escapes. But Franco-American businessman William Kriegel and hotelier Edouard Daehn are hoping to change that with a rural retreat deep in the Rambouillet forest, a leafy 45-minute drive south-west of the capital. As much therapeutic nature camp as hotel, Le Barn taps into the growing trend for getting back to the land. Rooms are slotted into two former grain stores from the 1950s, while the spa is set in a 19th-century mill and has an in-house osteopath, Ayurvedic treatments and outdoor Nordic baths. There are also two locavore restaurants serving produce grown on the nearby 200-hectare Haras de la Cense estate. 'Everyone talks about reconnecting with nature. We wanted to offer a tangible way to do that,' says Daehn. That could mean horse riding through meadows or hiking in the hills, yoga under the trees or gardening on the allotment, outdoor film screenings or fishing with a local. The interior design, too, feels born out of the surroundings: Parisian studio Be-pôles (Les Roches Rouges on the Côte d'Azur; Hotel Le Pigalle in Paris) has fused tactile raw materials such as corkboard walls with elements of French country style and American Shaker functionality. 'It's about democratising the idea of a rural retreat,' says Daehn. Whether staying in a bunk-house dorm or a suite, there's no Sunday check-out time, ensuring a few extra hours to breathe in the country air before heading back on the late train. LINDSEY TRAMUTA [lebarnhotel.com](http://lebarnhotel.com). Doubles from about £125 (bunk-house beds about £40)



WHAT'S TAKING OFF AND WHAT'S RUNNING OUT OF FUEL

✈ ARRIVALS ↑

**AMSTERDAM**

Now a direct train away thanks to Eurostar. In just three hours and 41 minutes you could be checked in to the new Soho House, opening this summer.

**GLENEAGLES**

The famous Highlands estate spreads its wings, with a club opening in Edinburgh's New Town and another outpost in Mayfair.

**PICASSO**

The Tate Modern's exhibition is drawing rave reviews, and his stepdaughter is planning to open a museum dedicated to the artist in Aix-en-Provence.

✈ DEPARTURES ↓

**EAST LONDON**

Bristol's Montpellier was voted the UK's hippest area, beating Dalston, and Martin Parr just opened his photography foundation in the city.

**DODGING TRAFFIC**

Paris is strolling into a car-free future. Grand Palais will have a pedestrianised boulevard linking Champs-Élysées and the Seine in time for its 2024 Olympics.

**SHIPPING CONTAINERS**

The latest trend in post-industrial places to stay is... a crane. Copenhagen is leading the way with The Krane, high above the harbour. KATHARINE SOHN