

VANITY FAIR



ON TRAVEL

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PANAMA

IT'S A *JUNGLE* OUT THERE

By STEVE KING

KASHMIR

BEAUTIFUL BEYOND DISPUTE

By TREVOR FISHLOCK

Plus

Tom Parker Bowles *HITS THE ROAD* in Search of *STREET FOOD*
Nigel Tisdall *GOES OFF THE RAILS* in *STATION HOTELS*

THINK BIG

Need space, not just room? Go for a villa and bring your pals, says DAISY FINER



From top: the main pool at Borgo Egnazia; Villa Magnifica; a view from inside Villa Giardino Pugliese.



BORGO EGNAZIA, ITALY

Puglia has been talked up as the new Tuscany for so long it is now an old friend, but what is new is Borgo Egnazia, an ideal place to stay with children in a family villa. Borgo Egnazia is designed as a Mediterranean village, which sounds ghastly (shades of the Forte Village Sardinia) but is in fact miraculously chic. Everything is whitewashed or made of chunky local stone; sunlight oozes about the place like butter on a piece of toast; in the evening there are candles everywhere and bowls of the fattest lemons you've ever seen. There are masses of swimming pools, both indoor and outdoor, a village square with festivals and cinema action, a glam spa for Mama, charming restaurants—the crispy pizzas are irresistible—and the kids' club, usually a dodgy idea, is a riot of fun where nobody puts baby to dribble miserably in the corner. The hotel is for grown-ups, the villas have everything a family needs without the sticky-paw stress: each with three bedrooms and three different floors, which is ideal for a three-generational holiday with grandparents, good bathrooms, a kitchenette with a washing machine (so no astronomical laundry bill), two sitting rooms and your own pool in a garden filled with lavender. Bustling housekeepers come twice a day to magic away the clutter—every mother's dream—and you can order family feasts to be delivered pronto, or leave the small fry with nanny and head out for Bellinis. The smartest family set-up in Europe.

A Royal Garden Villa costs from £7,150 a week for a family of four, on a B&B basis, including flights and transfers, with Bailey Robinson (baileyrobinson.com).

