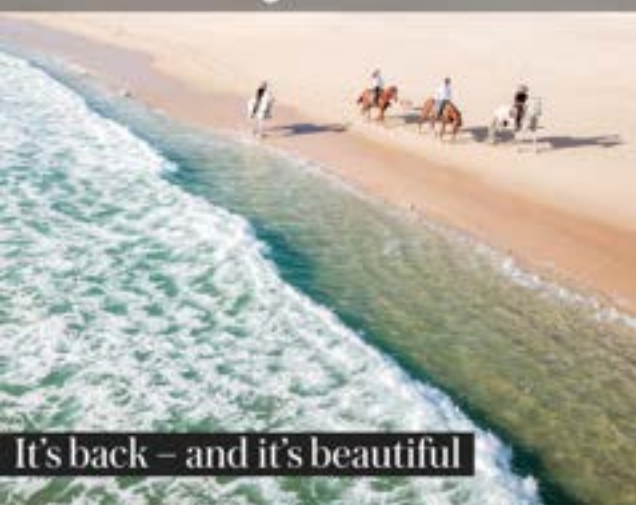




Travel on Sunday



It's back – and it's beautiful

Uphill Umbria

A cycling challenge in Italy helped one family cope with lockdown

Jenni Murray

You will never get a Princess Diana shot at the busy Taj Mahal

Staycation express

Step aboard a British train service that scales the heights



Treat yourself to a grape escape

Travel the country on a wine-themed break, starting in the Douro and ending in the Algarve, with a stay at Herdade Malhadinha Nova in the Alentejo in the middle. This hotel, with its just-launched villas, is setting a new benchmark in the region with the lightest of delectable dishes from chef Joachim Koerper and of course, its own - delicious - wine to wash it all down.

◇ *Pippa Rose Lifestyle* (pipparoselifestyle.com) offers a 12-night 'Grape Escape' wine themed itinerary, with car hire, flights and copious wine tastings from £1,400pp.

Star gaze in the Alentejo

The first Starlight Tourism Destination in the world, the Dark Sky Alqueva Reserve, offers a memorable chance to understand the sky at night. Sitting within the reserve is the beautifully restored farmhouse of Sao Lourenco de Barrocal which has evening sessions with Dark Sky Alqueva astronomers where in their ancient bee garden you will learn how to find the Polar Star, the constellations and the planets.

◇ *Original Travel* (originaltravel.co.uk) offers five nights at Sao Lourenco de Barrocal from £1,430pp B&B, including flights and transfers. Dark Sky observation experience: €12.

