



**THE BEST FOR: RELAXATION
LAKE COMO**

An Italian-waterfront incarnation of Wes Anderson's Grand Budapest Hotel, the Grand Hotel Tremezzo is a wistful belle époque-style palace with glorious views onto the proud cypress-trees and stepped pastel façades of the nearby town of Bellagio.



Set within a 100-year-old park, Tremezzo's gold-and-orange front appears between perfumed clouds of magnolia, rhododendron and wisteria. From the warm and friendly staff, to the food – gilded saffron risottos and torta Valentinas, a chocolate-and-almond dessert named after the owner's daughter

– a sense of charm and tradition simmers beneath the hotel's grandeur. Just over an hour from Milan's Malpensa airport, Lake Como offers the chance to take a boat trip for some dreamy but serious house-envy – you will find an abundance of pristine neoclassical palazzi and villas with flower-filled steps down to shaky pontoons alongside which polished Rivas bob. EMMA ZACHARIA

Grand Hotel Tremezzo, from about £315 a room a night (+39 0344 42491; www.grandhoteltremezzo.com).



**THE BEST FOR: CULTURE
SEVILLE**

Why Seville? Because it is, quite simply, one of the loveliest cities to visit in Europe. Small but perfectly formed, it has picturesque winding streets that make as much sense as a ball of string but charm you with their hodge-podge of traditional Andalusian architecture, Moorish extravagance and colourful art deco. This is where you go to find North Africa in Europe: the stunning Alcázar palace rates alongside Granada's better known Alhambra. Summer is hot, hot, hot, but spring and autumn are glorious – the air warm and orange-blossom-scented. Staying at the pretty boutique hotel Corral del Rey, set around a courtyard, makes you feel like the chicest of locals. ANNA MURPHY

Seven nights at Corral del Rey costs from £936 a person B&B, including flights and transfers, with Scott Dunn (020 3393 8864; www.scottdunn.com).



**THE BEST FOR: FOOD
MOSCOW**

Long, long gone are the days when Russian gastronomy consisted, as one of my gloomier Soviet relatives once said, of 'a boiled potato'. These days, that potato is lavishly sprinkled with caviar and smetana (soured cream). From the Ararat Park Hyatt's legendary Armenian Café Ararat to the organic, farm-to-table delights of LavkaLavka, Moscow's foodie scene has come of age. Gorge on khajapuri – basically bread and cheese, and the most delicious thing ever to come out of the Caucasus – at Genazvale. Dip into the high-society equivalent of home-cooking at the cosy and kitsch Mari Vanna – which also has a branch in Knightsbridge. Chainaya is a hidden-away speakeasy with an excellent cocktail list, while Dom 12 gives a Muscovite take on French bistro hits. Should you want to play with the oligarchs, head for Bolshoi, which is decked in Ralph Lauren furniture and goes long on dark leather and marble. Oh, and that relative of mine? He was Boris Pasternak's son, which I only mention as Dr Zhivago is now the hottest restaurant in town, with the entire State Duma networking there night after night. SASHA SLATER

Ararat Park Hyatt Moscow from £1,597 a night for a Winter Garden Suite (+7 495 783 1234; www.araratparkhyattmoscow.com). □