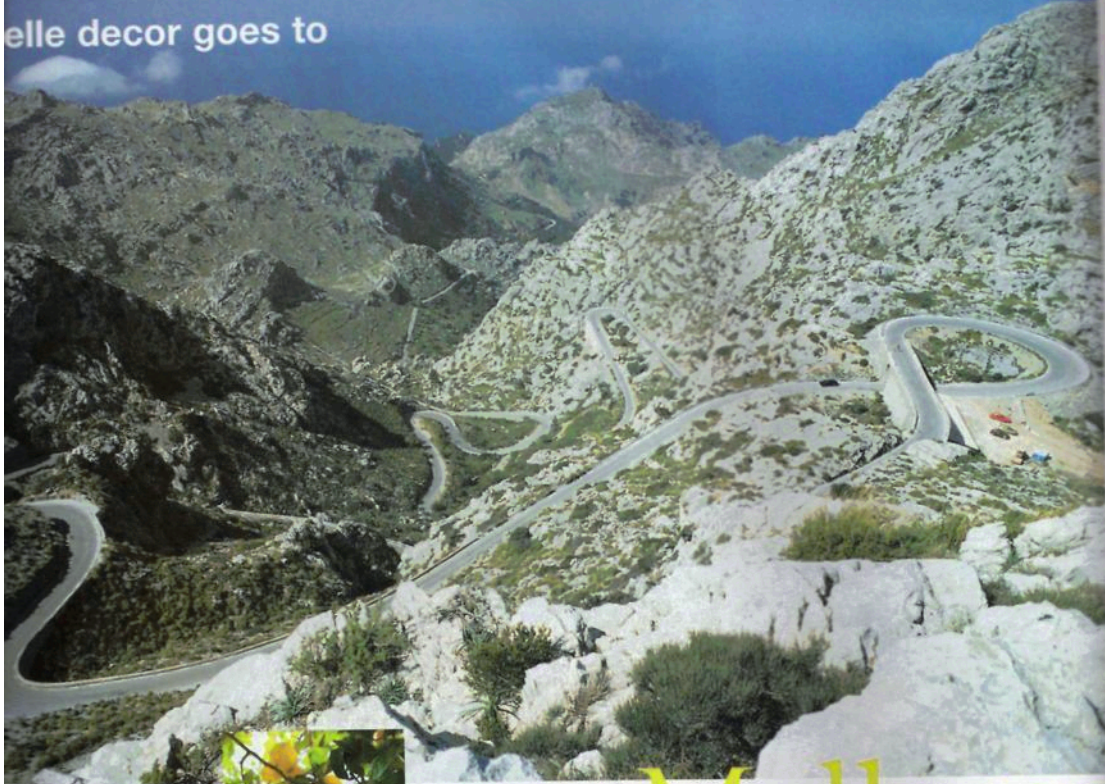


elle decor goes to



Mallorca

The glam island where supermodels and Spanish royals play

By Jeff Book



Clockwise from top: Mountains near Sa Calobra bay. A new crop of lemons. Forn des Teatre bakery in Palma de Mallorca. Sa Cartuja Monastery, where Chopin played (in more ways than one).



Balmy, palmy Mallorca is a magnet for what used to be called the jet set, as its elegant shops and restaurants and smartly renovated villas can attest. Of course, package-tour hordes still flock to high-rise hotels on the Bay of Palma, relics of a misguided building boom that peaked in the 1970s, but in recent years development has been restricted, preserving the island's natural beauty and the charm of its villages. At 1,400 square miles, this largest of the Balearic Islands off Spain's eastern coast is big enough to escape the madding crowds yet small enough for leisurely exploration.

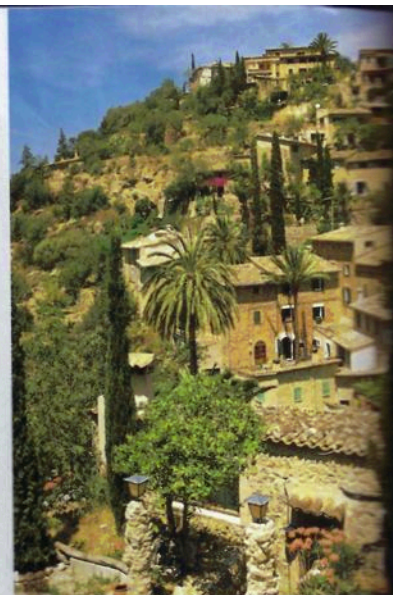
Culturally, Mallorca is a tapestry of influences. The island, an easy pit stop on Mediterranean trade routes, had passed through the hands of the Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Vandals, and Byzantines before the Moors arrived in 707 and stayed until Catalan

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King Jaume I took over in the 13th century. Although Mallorca broke free in 1229 to become an independent kingdom, self-government did not last long: Aragon incorporated the island in the 14th century. Today it's a favorite of the Spanish royal family, which traditionally spends every August here, making the paparazzi work overtime to catch Prince Felipe with his latest flame or a glimpse of his brother-in-law Iñaki Urdangarin, the Basque Olympian. (Mallorca is a celebrity playground too—Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones, Annie Lennox, and Claudia Schiffer own villas here.)

The capital city, Palma de Mallorca, remains Catalan in character to this day, its harbor dominated by La Seu cathedral, a Catalan Gothic masterpiece. Its vast, dark interior contains the sinuous Crown of Thorns altar canopy, ▷



Clockwise from top: The village of Deià, home of novelist Robert Graves. Glassblowers at work. Castell del Belver in Palma de Mallorca. Mallorca's *roba de llengües* woven cottons. An almond orchard in a field of wildflowers.



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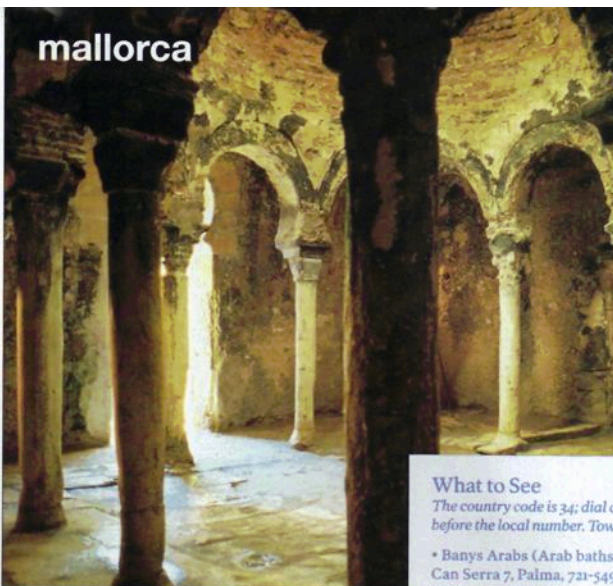
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From top: The now
dry Banys Arabs. Cala
Deià, a rocky beach
near the village of
Deià. George Sand's
sleeping quarters at
Sa Cartuja monastery.



added in the early 20th century by architect Antonio Gaudí, the biggest name in Catalan Art Nouveau. (Palma has some exuberant buildings in this style, known as Modernismo, designed by Gaudí acolytes.) For more architectural splendor, visit Palau de l'Almudaina, the royal palace, which features a harmonious fusion of Islamic and Gothic styles, as well as the 14th-century courtyards of Castell de Bellver and Basilica de Sant Francesc.

East of the cathedral, in Palma's mazy Gothic quarter, Renaissance-style townhouses surround the now dry 11th-century Arab baths. On Avinguda Jaume III, fashionable shops display stylish Spanish clothing alongside international brands like Benetton and Cartier. The tree-lined promenade Passeig des Born has inviting sidewalk cafés, while the area east of it and south of the grand arcaded Plaça Major is a shoppers' paradise chockablock with clothing and jewelry boutiques, antiques stores, and design showrooms.

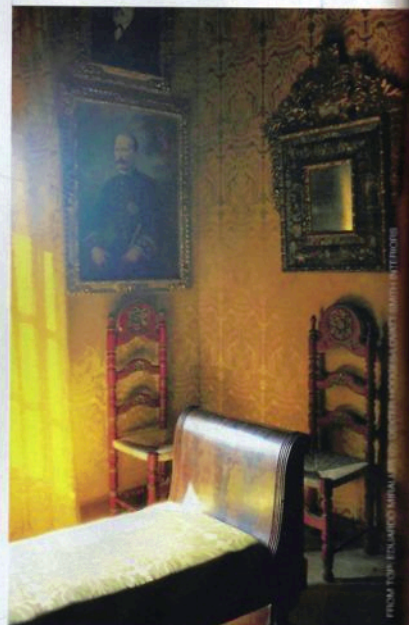
Visitors often don't venture far from Mallorca's coast, with its pleasure ports and miles of tidy beaches, yet many of the island's best features lie inland. The Serra de Tramuntana, a moun- ➤

(text continues on page 130)

What to See

The country code is 34; dial area code 971 before the local number. Towns are noted.

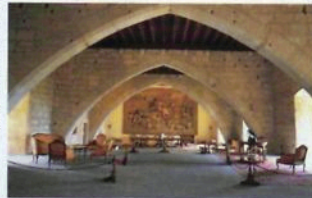
- Banys Arabs (Arab baths), Carrer de Can Serra 7, Palma, 721-549
- Casa March Sculpture Garden, Cala Ratjada, 563-033 (for reservations; closed until June or July)
- Coves del Drac, Carretera Cuevas, Porto Cristo, 820-753
- Fundació Pilar i Joan Miró, Joan de Saridakis 29, Cala Major, 701-420
- Sa Cartuja Monastery, Plaça de las Cartujas, Valldemossa, 612-106



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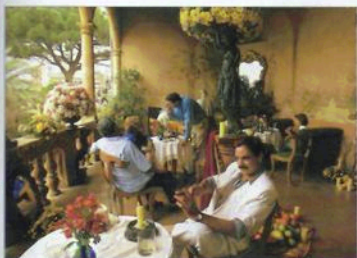


This page, clockwise from top:
A seaside villa in Valldemossa.
Coconut Company, a home-
furnishings shop in Manacor.
A salon in Palau d'Almudaina,
built for Jaume I in the 14th
century and now a retreat for
the Spanish royal family. Facing
page: A rustic bar in Palma.



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Where to Eat

Mallorcan cuisine is a delicious potpourri of Catalan, Spanish, and Moorish influences. Its mainstays are the island's succulent seafood, pork, lamb, wines, and the olives and fresh bread that accompany every meal. The country code is 34; dial area code 971 before the local number. Towns are noted.

- Es Baluard, Plaça Porto Santa Catalina 9, Palma, 719-609: A first-rate restaurant, where an extensive wine list complements smoked-goose salad and lamb shoulder stuffed with eggplant and *sobrasada* (spicy pork sausage)
- Bens d'Avall, Carretera Sóller-Deià (Km 56), 632-381: French-accented Mallorcan cuisine—request a table on the terrace and linger over the lobster cannelloni with Parmesan and almonds
- Ca's Xorc, Carretera de Deià-Sóller (Km 56.1), Sóller, 638-280: chef Jaime Uvacer works won-

ders with island ingredients like suckling pig, seafood, olives, and oranges; Claudia Schiffer celebrated her 30th birthday here

- Celler Ca'n Amer, Pau 39, Inca, 501-261: housed in a 300-year-old wine bodega, this eatery features a large wine selection and such Balearic dishes as mixed-seafood *frito mallorquin*, duck breast with olives, and Menorcan lobster with onions
- Forn des Teatre, Plaça Weyler, Palma, 715-254: among the confections at this patisserie are

tartas d'almendra (almond tarts), the airy spiral pastries known as *ensaimadas*, and its much-photographed Modernist façade

- Koldo Royo, Ingeniero Gabriel Roca 3, Palma, 732-435, afuegolento.com.kr: the harbor views are alluring, but the real draw here is the artistry of Basque chef Koldo Royo, whose specialties include oyster salad with seawater sherbet, mushroom terrine, and cheese-and-quince tart with ice cream
- El Olivo, Son Moragues, Deià, 639-011: La

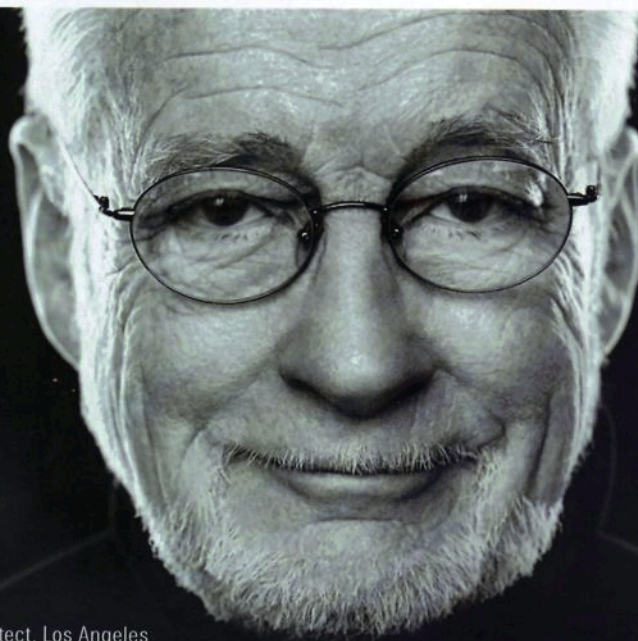
Residencia's flagship restaurant, praised for soigné fare like foie gras wrapped in Jabugo ham and olive-crusting Mallorcan lamb with rosemary sauce

- Taberna de la Boveda, Carrer de Boteria 3, Palma, 714-863: scrambled eggs with prawns and dates with bacon, paired with Mallorcan and Spanish wines, are among the offerings at this lively tapas bar

Where to Shop

The country code is 34; dial area code 971 before the local number. Towns are noted.

- AO Denario Diseño, San Felio 17, Palma, 712-547: top decorating source masterminded by architect Antonio Obrador
- Arlis, Can Veri 7, Palma, 120-637: high-end European and Asian furnishings
- Artesania Textil Bujosa, Bernardo Santa Eugenia 53, Santa Maria del Camí, 620-054: bujosatextil.com: traditional *roba de llengues* fabrics in linen, cotton, and silk, suitable for draperies, bedspreads, and upholstery
- Ceramics Mallorca, Sant Agustín 50-58, Felanitx, 580-201: ceramics in vibrant Mediterranean hues
- Coconut Company, Carretera Palma-Arta (Km 48), Manacor, 555-257: stylish furniture and accessories, from Mallorcan wares to African and Far Eastern imports
- Linares, Plaça Almoína 4, Palma, 717-219: local antiques and from points beyond
- Oliv-Art, Carretera Palma-Arta (Km 47), Manacor, 847-232: tableware, clocks, and figurines of richly grained olive wood
- Quesada, Passeig des Born 12, Palma, 715-111: fine Mallorcan and imported fabrics
- Rustic Antic, Ave. Alcudia 65, Inca, 502-556: attractive antique country furniture
- Vidrieras Gordiola, Carretera Palma-Manacor (Km 19), Algaida, 665-046; gordiola.com



Jerrold E. Lomax, Architect, Los Angeles

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