

TRAVEL

CHECK-IN

Jo Linehan

ESCAPE TO EXHIBITION

■ **Paris:** Celebrate 70 years of Dior at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, then stay at the Peninsula for five-star Parisian hospitality. Rooms from €950; paris.peninsula.com

■ **Milan:** To commemorate the 30th anniversary of opera singer Maria Callas's death, the La Scala Theatre Museum hosts a series of events from now until January 31st. Stay at Baglioni Hotel Carlton from €300 per night B&B; baglionihotels.com

■ **Cork:** The Quay Co-op plays host to a photographic exhibition of Síomha Callanan until the end of September. Base yourself at the Imperial Hotel for two nights B&B, plus an Aveda Spa gift for €385 per person sharing; flynhotels.com



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NEWS

Room with a Kelly's eye view

The last phase of the multimillion-euro refurbishment at The Shelbourne hotel by renowned London design agency Oliver Laws is complete, rounding off with the announcement of the newly refurbished Presidential Suite, The Princess Grace. To celebrate, the hotel has announced an exclusive overnight stay in the suite with champagne on arrival, butler service, breakfast, complimentary return Dublin Airport transfers, valet parking, internet access and daily amenities, from €7,500 per night for up to four guests. theshelbourne.ie

Aspin in the Wild

The first Wild Atlantic Way Cycle Sportif is underway from now until September 29th, featuring 17 stages spanning over 2,000km of Irish coastline. This is the first of its kind to take place in Ireland, visiting nine counties from Cork to Donegal. wildatlanticwaycyclesportif.ie

Online shopping pal

For those who love their American sweaters or Korean beauty products, An Post has created a new service to allow customers ship their favourite items straight to Ireland. AddressPal creates a proxy address for the delivery of online shopping from the UK, US and beyond, enabling purchases from websites that don't typically deliver to Ireland. addresspal.ie



VENI VIDI VENICE

Venice is one of the most tourist-heavy destinations in the world, so finding an intimate stay in the city is just the trick. Try the Cima Rosa Venezia, a boutique bed & breakfast on the canal, that looks and feels like a wealthy merchant's home. Choose from one of five rooms, three which offer views of the Grand Canal, and use it as a base to taste some of the most beloved local cuisines at Zucca, Muro Pizza, and Da Fiore. The Natural History, Prada Foundation and Mocenigo museums are on its doorstep and the decadent, old-world decor makes this an escape from the bustle of the city. Stay in an Elegant suite from €325, or a Grand Canal double room from €255; cimarosavenezia.com

DEALS

■ **Beijing and Xi'an:** Explore the wonders of China on an eight-day trip at the end of March, and visiting the Terracotta warriors, prices from €1,599pps; slatterys.com, 066-4011150.

■ **Murder on the Orient Express:** Have dinner in one of the original carriages at Glenlo Abbey, Galway. Dinner, B&B and movie from €289 per room; glenloabbeyhotel.ie, 091-519600.

■ **Vilamoura:** Villas to rent in October in the Algarve, sleeping 4-8 from €600-€950 per week; holidayshomesdirect.ie. *Joan Scales*

TRAVEL GEAR



1. Eagle Creek Converge

With Ryanair declaring it is going to reintroduce more restrictive carry-on allowances, perhaps it's time to rethink the whole luggage paradigm. One packing philosophy which has its (admittedly less chronologically-challenged) advocates is only to pack what you can carry: no wheeling. Eagle Creek's Converge weekend bag is the sort of hybrid to make this work. Part rucksack with padded back straps, part soft shell case with lots of handles, it's also got a shoulder strap. Plenty of compartments and pockets to organise everything. €200, see eaglecreek.eu

2. JBL Boombox

Not quite the scale of some of the monster ghetto-blasters (probably an entirely non-PC expression these days) that the 1980s saw, JBL's new so-called Boombox is still a decent heft. Weighing in at 5kg, it's built to last, promising 24 hours play time from a full charge and IPX7 rated waterproofing. It can take a ducking. That big battery lets it charge other devices too, while the tunes are streamed over Bluetooth. And with a pair of woofers and tweeters, and passive bass radiators, it'll kick up a bit of a ruckus to boot. €499, see jbl.com

3. Silca Tattico Bluetooth mini-pump

Founded in Milan and now based out of Indiana, Silca has been ahead of the peloton for a century when it comes to pumps. Its Tattico shows off its technical chops with a pressure sensor – sealed, shock resistant and waterproofed – built into this mini-pump which can be paired with an iGauge app on your smartphone for super-accurate inflation. It measures PSI, BAR or KG/CM2, with the hose and check valve secreted away in the inner-tube. \$150, see silca.cc

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