

# ESCAPES

## LATE SUMMER & AUTUMN 2021 FOR DISCERNING TRAVELLERS

We are delighted that the swift rollout of the vaccine programme and clear 'road map' for the return to normality means that over the coming months many restrictions will be lifted. Of course, we have learnt that the pathway to the Brave New World may take a little longer than anticipated, but there is no doubt that from summer onwards we have a very realistic expectation of returning to holidays in Europe, albeit with some reassuring social distancing guidelines.

I sense that many of us who took travel for granted in the past will now relish every journey abroad, every great hotel experience, every delicious dinner, each magical museum visit and every sublime opera as an extraordinary privilege to savour. Indeed, some holidays will remain 'socially distanced' for a while – and priceless travel experiences such as river cruising and the legendary Venice Simplon-Orient-Express will be offering enhanced service with passenger numbers reduced by nearly 50% yet the same number of staff on board. If you haven't yet been on the Orient Express, now is the opportunity to treat yourself – it is the most sublime way to celebrate a special birthday or anniversary in style – turn to page 7 for details.

We have selected the best destinations and our favourite hotels for a much-needed escape later this year, whether you prefer to depart in late summer, autumn or winter – or perhaps next year – we are taking a record number of bookings for late 2021 and early 2022 as hotels and airlines open up for advance bookings earlier than ever. Don't forget that Kirker holidays include safe and comfortable private transfers direct to your hotel, and we can also arrange self-drive itineraries, Eurostar and rail holidays – see pages 12 – as well as a range of exclusive private hire options, from luxury barges to Andalucian 'casitas', and lakeside cottages – see page 9 for suggestions.

Wherever, and however you choose to travel this year, our expert team is here and ready to help. We take full responsibility for the smooth running of every aspect of your holiday – before, during and after you travel, and look forward to hearing from you very soon.



*Ted Wake* Ted Wake – Joint MD & Director of Sales & Marketing

### INDEX

Classic City Breaks	2
Classic City Breaks	3
Coast & Countryside	4
Autumn Sunshine	5
River Cruises	6
Venice Simplon-Orient-Express	7
Self-drive Holidays	8
Private Hire	9
Cultural Highlights	10
Cultural Tours & Music Holidays	11
Holidays by Rail	12
UK & Ireland	13
Further Afield	14
2022 Destinations	15
Time Out with Ted	16

### SPECIAL OFFERS

Prices are per person and include flights or Eurostar, transfers, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

#### PARIS

##### Castille \*\*\*\* Deluxe

Located on Rue Cambon, the Castille is a stylish boutique hotel with 108 bedrooms, restaurant 'L'Assaggio', a popular bar and an elegant Salon de Thé.

3 nights for the price of 2 for stays including a Sunday night from 15 July - 31 August - price from £785, saving £205

Includes a 48hr Museum Pass, Seine cruise and carnet of metro tickets

#### ROME

##### Regina Baglioni \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

Located on the Via Veneto, the Regina Baglioni will appeal to lovers of Art Deco style. It has 103 bedrooms and a highly-regarded restaurant.

3 nights for the price of 2 from 8 - 28 August - price from £759, saving £210

Includes entrance to the Vatican Museum

#### BARCELONA

##### OD Hotel \*\*\*\* Superior

Located in the Eixample district, this modern property has 98 bedrooms, a bar and restaurant on the ground floor, and a small rooftop swimming pool, offering views over the city.

3 nights for the price of 2½ from 1 July - 31 August - price from £848, saving £66

Includes entrance to the Sagrada Família

#### VENICE

##### Bauer Palazzo \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

This original 18th century palazzo is a landmark on the Grand Canal, just a short stroll from St Mark's Square and offers some of the most opulent rooms in Venice. There is a rooftop restaurant and bar and a canal side terrace.

4 nights for the price of 3 all year - price from £1,089, saving £182

Includes water taxi transfers and entrance to the Doge's Palace

#### FLORENCE

##### Antica Torre di Via Tornabuoni (a boutique residence)

This beautiful 13th century 'tower house' is set in the heart of the city. The Antica Torre 'hotel' has just seven rooms in the Palazzo Gianfigliuzzi, where Kirker clients are accommodated and these are some of the most stylish in town.

4 nights for the price of 3 from 1 September - 29 October - price from £1,138, saving £221

Includes entrance to the Uffizi Gallery

#### NICE

##### La Pérouse \*\*\*\* Superior

Located a short walk from the Flower Market and Nice's old town, La Pérouse is nestled into the rock face above the waterfront. There are 63 bedrooms, a bar, and wonderful views of the town and the Baie des Anges.

4 nights for the price of 3 from 9 - 29 October - price from £854, saving £176

Includes a 24hr Museum Card including entrance to the Musée Matisse

To make a booking or request a brochure please speak to your independent travel agent Malvern World Travel.

All prices shown are per person sharing a double room, include special offers as applicable and are subject to availability. Prices are correct at time of publication: April 2021. For booking conditions please see [www.kirkerholidays.com](http://www.kirkerholidays.com).

# CLASSIC CITY BREAKS

As travel gradually returns to a form of normality this year, we are looking forward to returning to our favourite European cities, where the first visitors are sure to be received with a warm welcome and exceptional value for money – not to mention the rare opportunity to explore the great museums and galleries before the masses return. Whether you are among those keen to escape as soon as possible, or you prefer to book for later in the year, we have selected a range of destinations and special offers at some of our favourite hotels below.

Prices are per person include flights, transfers, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

## ROME

### Bernini Bristol \*\*\*\*\*

Opened in 1870, the Bernini Bristol has a great location at the foot of the Via Veneto, right on the Piazza Barberini. The 127 bedrooms are furnished in two contrasting styles – some modern and others classical.

There is an excellent bar and rooftop restaurant with a large terrace, where you can experience wonderful views over the rooftops to St. Peter's.



4 nights for the price of 3 all year  
- price from £996, saving £210

Includes entrance to the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel

## BUDAPEST

### Matild Palace \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

Originally built in 1902, for Maria Clotilde of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, this neo-Baroque Palace is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and forms one half of twin palaces positioned as a gateway to the Elisabeth Bridge. Opening in May 2021 as an extraordinary new hotel, it offers 130 rooms and suites, some with magnificent views of the Danube. Cuisine at the restaurant, Matild Café and rooftop bar will be overseen by Michelin-starred chef Wolfgang Puck.



3 night price from £1,297

Includes a three hour private walking tour with an expert local guide

## COPENHAGEN

### Copenhagen Strand \*\*\*\*

The Strand is located on the harbour promenade just a few minutes' walk from the famous Nyhavn. Originally a warehouse dating back to 1869, the hotel was fully renovated in 2017 – the result is a mixture of exposed brickwork, pale woods, sleek Danish furniture and accents of blue which create a subtle maritime theme.

The 174 rooms are light, simply furnished and include tea/coffee facilities; higher categories of rooms have views to the harbour.



3 night price from £893

## VENICE

### Splendid \*\*\*\* Deluxe

Ideally located between St. Mark's Square and the Rialto Bridge, the Splendid has 165 rooms with comfortable beds, and restaurant 'Le Maschere', which offers a modern take on traditional Venetian recipes.



4 nights for the price of 3 for  
weeknight stays in September &  
October - price from £1,237,  
saving £229

Includes private water taxi transfers and entrance to the Doge's Palace

## BERLIN

### Hotel De Rome \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

The Hotel De Rome is located just off the Unter den Linden. It has 145 bedrooms, an Italian restaurant, a bar, and a roof terrace with excellent views, and the jewel vault has been transformed into an indoor swimming pool.



4 nights for the price of 3 for Sunday  
arrivals in September & October  
- price from £995, saving £191

Includes a 72hr Museum Card

## NICE

### La Pérouse \*\*\*\* Superior

Located a short walk from the Flower Market and Nice's old town, La Pérouse stands in a secluded position one block back from the waterfront, nestling into the rock face above. This most attractive hotel has 63 comfortable bedrooms, a bar, flowered terraces and wonderful views of the town and the Baie des Anges.



4 nights for the price of 3 from 9 - 29 October  
- price from £854, saving £176

Includes a 24hr Museum Card including entrance to the Musée Matisse

## BRUGES

### The Pand \*\*\*\* Deluxe

This beautifully restored 18th century mansion is just two minutes' walk from the Market Square. The Pand has 26 bedrooms, a cosy bar, a stylish lounge and an attractive breakfast room where champagne breakfast is served and hot dishes are prepared on the AGA.



3 nights for the price of 2 for Sunday, Monday  
and Tuesday arrivals until 31 October  
- price from £533, saving £154

Includes a 72hr museum pass

## BOLOGNA

### Novecento \*\*\*\* Superior

Run and owned by our good friends the Orsi family, the Novecento is located on Piazza Galilei, a pretty square near to the Piazza Maggiore and the Basilica di San Petronio. Behind the traditional façade lies a distinctive contemporary interior in Viennese Secession style with a lounge, a bar and just 25 bedrooms. On the same square, the Orsi family also own two self-catered apartments; please ask for more details.



4 nights for the price of 3 all year  
- price from £807, saving £147

Includes a 72hr Bologna Welcome Card

# CLASSIC CITY BREAKS

There are many experiences that await when we can once again escape for a short break away – from al fresco dining in the cafes and restaurants of Nice, Oporto, Naples or Seville, to rediscovering the world-class museums and galleries of Milan, Florence, Madrid and Amsterdam, as well as exploring the perfect mediaeval old towns of Vienna, Bruges, Prague and Stockholm. Whatever you are most looking forward to, and whenever you would like to travel, speak to your independent travel agent today for advice and personal recommendations.

Prices are per person and include flights, private transfers, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

## VIENNA

### König von Ungarn \*\*\*\* Deluxe

The privately-owned Hotel König von Ungarn is located in the centre of mediaeval Vienna. Dating back to the 17th century, the building surrounds a tranquil wood-panelled atrium and has just 33 bedrooms. There is also an atmospheric restaurant in the vaulted cellar where a buffet breakfast is served.



4 nights for the price of 3 in July & August  
- price from £778, saving £160

3 night price from £778 from  
1 September onwards

Includes entrance to the Kunsthistorisches and Leopold Museums

## VENICE

### L'Orologio \*\*\*\* Superior

The stylish, contemporary design of L'Orologio is dedicated to the art of fine watchmaking and offers quite a contrast to the traditional Venetian furnishings typically found in the city. Whilst the style of the 43 bedrooms is minimalist, the quality of furnishings and attention to detail is exceptional. We love the location – on the Riva Del Ogio and just a few steps from the famous Rialto Market.



3 nights for the price of 2 all year  
- price from £969, saving £140

Includes water taxi transfers and entrance to the Doge's Palace

## MADRID

### Emperador \*\*\*\*

Located at the top of the Gran Via, the Emperador is a short walk from Plaza Mayor, Puerto del Sol and Madrid's main shopping streets. The outstanding feature is the 10th floor roof terrace which has a large swimming pool and wonderful views of the city's skyline. Recently renovated, the 232 bedrooms are all well-furnished in a classical style.

3 night price from £582

Includes entrance to the Prado, Thyssen & Reina Sofia Museums

## AMSTERDAM

### Pulitzer \*\*\*\* Deluxe

Overlooking two of the city's most picturesque canals, the Pulitzer consists of 25 fully renovated interconnecting 17th and 18th century houses. There are 225 rooms, a restaurant serving modern cuisine with a Dutch twist and a bar. The garden café is full of light and opens onto the Pulitzer's hidden gem; its spacious and peaceful courtyard garden.

3 nights for the price of 2 until 31 August  
- price from £848, saving £215

Includes entrance to the Rijksmuseum or Van Gogh Museum

## OPORTO

### Infante Sagres \*\*\*\*\*

Almost 70 years after its original opening, this prestigious hotel reopened in 2018 as a member of 'Small Luxury Hotels of the World'. The hotel is in the heart of the city, just around the corner from the imposing Avenida dos Aliados. There are 85 bedrooms, a bar and a restaurant serving cocktails and elegant light dishes in the stylish dining room.

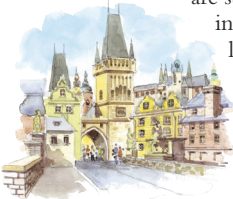
3 night price from £685

Includes entrance to Taylor's Port House

## PRAGUE

### Hotel Paris \*\*\*\*\*

In the heart of the historic Old Town, the Paris is one of Prague's best-known traditional hotels and one of the few where all the public rooms are still in the original Art Nouveau style. These include a magnificent restaurant, a grand staircase, lounge and the famous Café de Paris. There are 86 bedrooms. Ask the Kirker Concierge about tickets for the opera.



3 nights for the price of 2 all year  
- price from £699, saving £188

Includes a 3hr walking tour

## BOLOGNA

### Corona d'Oro \*\*\*\* Superior

Offering style and elegance in the centre of Italy's gastronomic capital, this historic inn dates back to the 13th century and has a beautiful atrium, 15th and 16th century frescoes and a wooden portico outside. It has a bar and 35 bedrooms, and is just a few minutes' walk from some of our favourite local restaurants.



4 nights for the price of 3 during August  
- price from £664, saving £110

Includes a 72hr Bologna Welcome Card

## FLORENCE

### Santa Maria Novella \*\*\*\* Superior

Located five minutes' walk from the Duomo and the prestigious Via Tornabuoni shopping street, the Santa Maria Novella has 71 bedrooms, several comfortable lounges and a small roof terrace overlooking the piazza.

4 nights for the price of 3 all year  
- price from £746, saving £143

Includes entrance to the Uffizi Gallery

## TALLINN

### Schlössle \*\*\*\* Deluxe

In a quiet location in the heart of the old town, this characterful boutique hotel has just 23 rooms. It retains all the charm of the original 16th century buildings, and is beautifully furnished with antiques. The award-winning 'Stenus' restaurant in the atmospheric vaulted cellars has an excellent reputation and a comprehensive wine list.

3 night price from £665

## STOCKHOLM

### Victory \*\*\*\* Deluxe

This beautiful 17th century residence is located in the heart of the Gamla Stan. The owners have a real passion for nautical history and there is a terrific collection on display, including parts of Stockholm's 14th century city wall in the excellent restaurant. There are only 48 bedrooms, and each one has a portrait of a naval captain, one of his wife and a painting of his ship.

3 night price from £828

# COAST & COUNTRYSIDE

For those in search of fresh air and a much-needed change of scenery, whether it is for late summer or autumn 2021, or perhaps spring 2022, we can highly recommend some of our favourite relaxing rural retreats in the most beautiful locations – from the rolling hills of Umbria, the lavender fields of Provence and Mallorca's spectacular Tramuntana Mountains, to the Amalfi Coast or the Italian Lakes – or perhaps a luxurious Mediterranean resort on the Aegean Sea.

Prices are per person and include flights, transfers or car hire, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

## LAKE MAGGIORE

### Grand Hotel Majestic \*\*\*\* Deluxe

The Grand Hotel Majestic is located ten minutes' walk from the centre of Pallanza. The hotel has 80 comfortable bedrooms, many of which overlook the lake, and it is surrounded on three sides by private gardens. There is an **indoor swimming pool** and a small private beach from which you can swim in the lake itself, as well as an excellent restaurant.



7 nights for the price of 6 all year  
- price from £1,298, saving £150

## ANDALUCIA

### La Bobadilla \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

Located in the heart of the Andalusian countryside, 60 kilometres north of Málaga and just two hours from Seville, this fabulous hotel is set in a private 1,700 acre estate. Built in the style of a typical Andalusian pueblo blanco, this unique hotel has courtyards with fountains, tennis courts, and a large **outdoor summer swimming pool**. There are 70 bedrooms and two excellent restaurants.

7 nights for the price of 6 all year for  
bookings confirmed 60 days or more prior  
- price from £1,498, saving £180 during  
summer, and price from £1,098,  
saving £110 in autumn



## MALLORCA

### Belmond La Residencia \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

Located on the outskirts of the village of Deia in the Tramuntana Mountains, this property has been created from two historic manor houses with 71 elegant bedrooms. There are two outdoor swimming pools, an indoor pool and spa and restaurant 'El Olivo', where delicious Mediterranean dishes are served in a 17th century olive mill.



5 nights for the price of 4 from  
27 September - 17 October  
- price from £1,649, saving £300

## BODRUM

### Kempinski Barbaros Bay \*\*\*\*\* Superior

Situated in its own private bay, nine miles from Bodrum city centre, the Kempinski provides a peaceful retreat complete with views of the Aegean Sea. All 173 bedrooms are decorated to give a light and airy feel. Facilities include an outdoor infinity swimming pool and a heated indoor pool, a private beach and an extensive spa. There is a choice of seasonal restaurants.



7 night price from £2,698  
in August, and from £1,769  
in October

## UMBRIA

### Villa Monte Solare (a superior country house hotel)

Located close to Lake Trasimeno, Monte Solare is an ancient patrician villa and farmhouse that sits amongst olive groves, vineyards and woods. The 28 rooms are situated in the villa itself as well as in the outhouses which surround the beautiful



Italian garden. The hotel's restaurant serves excellent cuisine and its cellar has the largest collection of Umbrian wines in the world. There are two **outdoor swimming pools**.

3 night price from £649

## MOUGINS

### Le Mas Candille \*\*\*\* Deluxe

This beautiful hotel and spa, converted from a Provençal farmhouse above Cannes, is set in a tranquil park, with 46 rooms, wonderful views and exceptional cuisine. The Michelin-starred 'Le Candille' serves delicious Provençal dishes in the sumptuous dining room or in the shade of the orangery. There are two outdoor swimming pools.

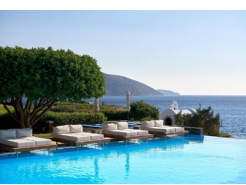


7 nights for the price of 6 all year  
- price from £1,398, saving £180  
3 nights for the price of 2 from  
16-31 October - price from £589,  
saving £105

## CRETE

### St. Nicolas Bay Resort Hotel & Villas \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

Overlooking a sandy cove, close to the picturesque town of Agios Nikolaos and about 1hr from Heraklion airport, this is an ideal destination for those seeking a luxurious summer holiday in the most beautiful of settings. Many of the 54 rooms and 53 suites have private pools and all have ocean view terraces or balconies. There are five



different restaurants, two bars, a private beach, two large **seawater swimming pools** and a children's pool.

7 nights for the price of 6 until 31 October,  
for bookings confirmed by 30 April 2021  
- price from £1,949 per person, saving £345

## POSITANO

### Poseidon \*\*\*\* Superior

Built into the hillside of Positano, the Poseidon is an extremely comfortable and stylish hotel. There is a fabulous terrace with a **swimming pool** overlooking the town and the sea, a spacious bar and lounge, a restaurant and an extensive fitness and beauty centre. This hotel is ideal for families and all 50 air-conditioned rooms have a balcony or terrace and partial sea view.



3 night price from £1,299 in high season,  
and from £849 in low season

# AUTUMN SUNSHINE

Autumn is one of the best times of year to escape for a short break – summer crowds and temperatures both give way to a more relaxed ambience from September and many destinations in the southern Mediterranean offer warm sunshine well into October and November. Now is the perfect time to book to take advantage of excellent early booking offers and we have selected some of our favourite hotels in southern cities such as Seville, Tel Aviv and Luxor, the gateway to Egypt's Valley of the Kings, as well as the Mediterranean islands of Cyprus, Sicily and Sardinia.

Prices are per person and include flights, transfers, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

## SEVILLE

### Corral del Rey (a deluxe bed and breakfast)

This small boutique hotel has 17 bedrooms (11 of which are across the road), and is located in the heart of the old Barrio Alfalfa quarter of the city, just five minutes' walk from the cathedral. It is an original 17th century townhouse that has been meticulously restored and converted into an immaculate small luxury hotel. The architectural highlights are the atrium patio, Roman marble columns and original carved beams combined with striking contemporary features. There is a rooftop patio, plunge pool and terrace, which gives spectacular views of the cathedral.



3 night price from £778

Includes entrance to the Cathedral & Giralda and the Alcazar Palace

## MALTA

### The Phoenicia, Valletta \*\*\*\* Deluxe

Situated at the gateway to Valletta, The Phoenicia has a majestic setting overlooking Marsamxett Harbour. Guests are footsteps away from St. John's Cathedral, with its Caravaggio masterpiece, the Grand Master's Palace and the War Museum. The 136 bedrooms are pleasantly furnished and some have harbour views. The Phoenicia has a wonderful Colonial feel about it with its large domed Palm Court lounge, fine dining restaurant, brasserie and veranda bar overlooking the lush terraced gardens and outdoor heated swimming pool below.



3 nights for the price of 2 until 31 October for bookings confirmed by 30 April 2021  
- price from £769, saving £200

## SARDINIA

### Baglioni Resort \*\*\*\*\* Sardinia

The newest addition to the Baglioni collection is a beautiful resort on the Mediterranean island of Sardinia. Just 20 minutes from Olbia airport, it offers 76 elegant, low-rise villas and suites amid gently undulating dunes overlooking the white sand beach. The crystal clear waters here form part of the Tavolara Marine Protected Area, which is a paradise for snorkelers and divers, whilst the resort itself offers a 25-metre swimming pool (for adults only), as well as two separate kids' pools, and a serene spa. There are two restaurants, including one headed by Michelin-starred chef Claudio Sadler, as well as a pool bar during the day and a terrace bar to enjoy cocktails in the evening.



4 nights for the price of 3 from 5-30 September, for bookings confirmed by 31 May - price from £998 per person, saving £490

## SICILY

### Villa Igiea \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe, Sicily

This extravagant Art Deco villa on the outskirts of Palermo is one of Sicily's most famous hotels, and following a two year refurbishment by Rocco Forte Hotels, it is once again one of the island's most luxurious properties. Due to open its doors on 1 June 2021, the Villa Igiea enjoys a wonderful seafront location, surrounded by lush gardens, yet it is just a short taxi (or complimentary shuttle) from the bustling heart of Palermo, with its Norman Cathedral, historic opera house and wonderful food markets.



3 night price from £1,198 per person in September or October

## EGYPT

### Sofitel Winter Palace \*\*\*\*\*

This Victorian style hotel was built in 1886 and is located in the centre of Luxor on the banks of the Nile, in the heart of lush tropical gardens with a large outdoor swimming pool. The 92 bedrooms in the Palace are decorated in an elegant colonial style which is in keeping with the original architecture of the property, and have views of either the gardens or the Nile. Surrounding the gardens is the separate Pavilion with a further 102 rooms in a more contemporary style with views to the garden. International cuisine is served in the 'Corniche' restaurant, whilst the elegant '1886' restaurant specialises in fine French cooking.



5 night price from £1,396 including private tours of Karnak and the Luxor Museum

## TEL AVIV

### The Norman \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

Reflecting the youthful Bauhaus charm of 1930s Tel Aviv and the sophistication of the modern city, The Norman has been lovingly restored. Two adjacent houses hold 50 elegant rooms with modern comforts and artwork. Attentive personal service gives the feeling of staying in a luxury serviced apartment in the city centre with Rothschild Boulevard and Tel Aviv's cultural highlights within walking distance. The rooftop views over the city towards the sea are enjoyed from the swimming pool, Japanese restaurant and bar. Mediterranean dining, featuring local seafood, can be enjoyed all day in the main dining room or al fresco.



3 night price from £1,898

# RIVER CRUISES

One of the most relaxing ways to explore a destination is from the deck of a river boat as you gently glide between fascinating ports of call, and we have selected six of the best AmaWaterways sailings during autumn 2021 and spring 2022. Highlights include journeys on two of Europe's great rivers, the Danube and Rhine, and itineraries from Paris to Normandy on the Seine, the vineyards of Bordeaux and the bulb fields and art galleries of the Low Countries.

## VINEYARDS OF THE RHINE & MOSELLE

A NINE NIGHT HOLIDAY | 25 OCTOBER 2021

The Rhineland of Western Germany is a wine region of great diversity and depth, which is little-understood when compared with its neighbours in France. This itinerary will start with two days to explore the art galleries of Amsterdam independently, before joining a cruise on the Rhine and Moselle river valleys. Highlights include magnificent Cologne Cathedral, historic Mainz with its Gutenberg Bible Museum and the vineyards of Rudesheim and Bernkastel.



Price from £3,249 per person for a nine night holiday including flights to Amsterdam and back from Luxembourg, two nights' accommodation with breakfast at the 4\* Hotel Anna Van Der Vondel, tickets for the Rijksmuseum, a seven night cruise on board AmaLucia including all meals and excursions as well as most drinks.

## IMPRESSIONS OF THE SEINE & PARIS

A TEN NIGHT HOLIDAY | 20 & 26 OCTOBER 2021

Normandy was where the great Impressionists honed their art *en plein air* - including Monet, Sisley and Pissarro. This gentle cruise between Le Havre and Paris takes in Monet's gardens at Giverny, mediaeval Rouen, and visits to Bayeux and Caen. Boarding your vessel in Paris, you will disembark in Le Havre on the Normandy coast and stay for a further couple of days at a charming converted farmhouse above picturesque Honfleur, before crossing the channel by ferry.



Price from £4,195 per person for a ten night holiday including one night's accommodation with breakfast at the 4\* Hotel Royal St Honore, a two day Paris Museum Pass, a seven night cruise on board AmaDante including all meals and excursions as well as most drinks, two nights' accommodation with breakfast at La Ferme St Siméon in Honfleur and ferry crossing from Caen to Portsmouth. Itinerary reversed on 19 August.

## ROMANTIC DANUBE

AN ELEVEN NIGHT HOLIDAY | 21 & 22 OCTOBER 2021

The Danube is Europe's most majestic and strategically important river, passing from Central Europe as far as the Black Sea and travelling through ten countries and four capital cities. Stay for three nights in Prague before boarding your cruise in Vilshofen in Germany, from where you will cruise through three of the four capital cities: Vienna, Bratislava and Budapest. Highlights of the journey include the Benedictine Abbey at Melk, the Wachau Valley wine region, and the historic cities of Linz, Passau and Salzburg.



Price from £3,662 per person for an eleven night holiday including three nights' accommodation with breakfast at the 5\* Hotel Paris in Prague, a seven night cruise on board AmaVerde or AmaViola, including all meals and excursions as well as most drinks, a one night stay at the 5\* Superior Hotel Parisi Udvar in Budapest and private walking tours with expert Kirker guides in both Prague and Budapest.

## PARIS & NORMANDY

NINE NIGHT HOLIDAYS | 5 OCTOBER 2021

This holiday combines a stay in Paris with a round trip cruise down the Seine and back, travelling as far as Le Havre on the Normandy coast. En route through the countryside of Normandy you will sample the delicious local cuisine, as well as Calvados and cider, and have an opportunity to visit Monet's home and gardens at Giverny and Van Gogh's last home at Auvers-sur-Oise. There will be time to explore mediaeval Rouen and UNESCO-protected Le Havre. You may also choose to spend a day discovering the still visible traces of the British sector of the D-Day landings.



Price from £3,568 for a nine night holiday including Eurostar to Paris, two nights' accommodation with breakfast at the 4\* Hotel Royal St Honore, a two day Paris Museum Pass and a seven night cruise on board AmaDante, including all meals and excursions, as well as most drinks.

## A TASTE OF BORDEAUX

AN EIGHT NIGHT HOLIDAY | 15 MARCH 2022

Wine capital of the world, Bordeaux has returned to the top of many discerning travellers' wish lists in recent years. Positioned on the Garonne River, Bordeaux is surrounded by some of the most famous wine regions in France. Flanking the two rivers, these areas are best explored from the water, and this cruise will take you to Sauternes,



Pauillac, St Emilion and Fronsac, including a number of wine-tastings at highly-regarded vineyards. There will also be opportunities to visit prehistoric caves, charming bastide towns and elegant châteaux.

Price from £4,248 per person for a nine night holiday including flights to Bordeaux, two nights' accommodation with breakfast at the 4\* Hotel De Seze, entrance tickets for the Cité du Vin, a seven night cruise on board AmaDolce including all meals and excursions as well as most drinks.

## SPRING IN THE LOW COUNTRIES

A NINE NIGHT HOLIDAY | 13 MARCH 2022

There is no better time of year to visit the Netherlands and Belgium than the spring, when the famous bulb fields are in full bloom. This itinerary combines spectacular floral displays at the Keukenhof Gardens and Floralia, with visits to the art galleries of Amsterdam. On board your seven night cruise you will also visit Delft, famous for its fine porcelain, and the mediaeval cities of Bruges, Middelburg and Ghent. Finally, end with a two night stay in the heart of Amsterdam's Museum Quarter, where you will enjoy paintings by Rembrandt, Vermeer and Van Gogh - and perhaps a performance at the world-renowned Concertgebouw.



Price from £3,698 per person for a nine night holiday including direct Eurostar or flights to Amsterdam, two nights' accommodation with breakfast at the 4\* Hotel Anna Van Der Vondel, tickets for the Rijksmuseum, a seven night cruise on board AmaCerto including all meals and excursions as well as most drinks.

# VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT-EXPRESS

## TRAVEL IN STYLE ON BOARD THE LEGENDARY LUXURY TRAIN

*For those who have a special occasion which demands a celebration, perhaps a 2020/21 birthday or anniversary which went unmarked, there is no better way to treat yourself than an unforgettable journey on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express.*



There has never been a better time to travel on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, now fully air-conditioned and with three exquisite new Grand Suites, the train transports you back to a bygone era when discerning travellers travelled in elegant style. Guests experience the highest levels of personal service, with delicious cuisine served in the three restaurant cars – see below for details of our new special offer including wines – combined with accommodation in the elegantly restored private sleeper cabins and suites (prices based on twin cabins, supplements for cabin suites and Grand Suites on request). The handsome livery of its sister train, the Belmond British Pullman and the immaculate carriages of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, provide you with a unique and unforgettable experience.



Northbound trains depart from Venice at approximately 11am, arriving into London Victoria the following evening at approximately 6pm.

### SPECIAL OFFER: BOOK NOW FOR SPRING AND SUMMER 2022

**Depart UK: 19, 23 & 29 March; 2 April and 13 & 19 August 2022**

*5 night holiday price from £3,379 per person, saving £100. Price includes flights, private water taxi transfers, 4 nights in a Venice hotel and 1 night in a private cabin on board the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express from Venice to London.*

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- BA flight Heathrow-Venice (or local airport of your choice)
- Private water taxi transfers in Venice
- 4 nights for the price of 3 staying at the 4\* Hotel Monaco & Grand Canal, including breakfast
- 1 night on board the VSOE from Venice to London, staying in a double cabin, including all meals and a bottle of champagne on arrival
- Kirker Guide Notes to Venice's best restaurants and sightseeing
- The services of the Kirker Concierge to book a table for dinner or tickets for the opera at La Fenice
- Complimentary fast-track entrance to the Doge's Palace, Accademia Gallery or Guggenheim Collection

### ISTANBUL TO LONDON ON THE VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT-EXPRESS

A nine night holiday departing 25 August 2021

A unique opportunity to traverse Europe in style, we are delighted to be able to offer a limited number of places on this very special five-night journey from Istanbul to Paris in summer 2021 – combined with a stay in both cities and first-class Eurostar from Paris to London. The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express makes one journey each year across Europe on this historic route – and while places are normally reserved years in advance, recent cancellations mean that there is a rare opportunity to treat yourself to this magnificent travel experience.

Flying from London to Istanbul, you will stay for two nights at the landmark Hotel Pera Palace (5\*), the official hotel for guests on the original Orient-Express journey in the 1920s, and a favourite with Agatha Christie. Step aboard the gleaming blue-and-gold carriages of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express and enjoy dinner and the first night onboard as you travel through Bulgaria and Romania. The second night is spent at a luxury hotel in Bucharest, where there will be time to explore before rejoining the train to travel onwards through Transylvania. You will visit Sinaia and Peleş Castle, then cross into Hungary overnight and spend a day in Budapest. Enjoy a final night on board with a celebratory dinner, before waking to breakfast as the train travels through the Swiss Alps. Arriving after lunch in Paris, you will enjoy two nights in the French capital before returning to London by Eurostar.

*Price per person for the above itinerary: £18,989*

*Price includes flight from London to Istanbul, private car transfers throughout, two nights' accommodation with breakfast at the 5\* Hotel Pera Palace, Istanbul, a half day walking tour with an expert private guide in Istanbul, a five night journey on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express including all meals (two nights are spent in hotels in Bucharest and Budapest and three nights are spent on board the train), two nights' accommodation with breakfast at the 5\* Grand Hotel Powers, Paris, two day Paris Museum Pass, Standard Premier class Eurostar from Paris to London.*



# SELF-DRIVE HOLIDAYS

Self-drive holidays offer the flexibility and convenience of travelling with your own vehicle, and Kirker can arrange a tailor-made holiday to include Channel crossings by ferry or Eurotunnel (including our special rates for the open 'flexi-plus tickets'). Our experts will also provide detailed driving directions and Michelin road maps to make the experience completely hassle-free, and the Kirker concierge can assist with recommended restaurants and day trips, and arrange for wine-tasting, chateaux tours or expert local guides to meet you on the D-Day beaches of Normandy.

Prices are per person and include ferry or Eurotunnel crossing, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

## NORMANDY

### Château La Chenevière \*\*\*\* Deluxe

30 minutes from Caen, the 18th century Château La Chenevière had a major role to play as a forward command post for the German and subsequently British armies in World War II, due to its location on the main road from Bayeux to Arromanches. A hotel since 1988, there are now 29 rooms, a heated outdoor swimming pool in the gardens, the Colonial African styled 'Le Zanzibar' downstairs and various



comfortable lounges with antique marble fireplaces. Ask about one of our expert private guides to meet you on the D-Day Landing beaches.

3 night price from £798

## IRELAND

### Ballymaloe House \*\*\*\* Superior Country House

Located 20 miles from Cork and just 2 hours from Rossaveal harbour, Ballymaloe House is owned and run by the Allen family who have been offering wonderful hospitality for over 40 years. The food at Ballymaloe is renowned; lovingly prepared seasonal dishes are sourced from the best local produce – our rates include breakfast only, supplement for dinner is £75 – a must for at least one night. Set within its own 400 acre farm and gardens, Ballymaloe offers a delightful escape with an outdoor summer swimming pool, five-hole golf course, tennis court, massage and beauty treatments.



3 night price from £744

## THE GRAND TOUR OF SWITZERLAND

This self-drive itinerary takes you from Geneva through some of the most spectacular scenery in Switzerland – the views are dramatic and the roads are immaculate. Fly to Geneva and hire a car, or cross the Channel by Eurotunnel with your own car and take the opportunity to stop for a night en route in the Champagne region (and where better to pick up a bottle or two as a souvenir). Spend one night each in Geneva, the smart mountain village of Gstaad, the elegant lakeside town of Luzern, Zermatt at the foot of the Matterhorn, and Montreux, between vineyards and mountains on Lake Geneva.



Price from £1,468 for a seven night holiday including five nights in Switzerland and two nights in Champagne and Eurotunnel crossing.

Price from £1,398 for a five night holiday including flights to Geneva and car hire.

## ÎLE DE RÉ

### Hotel De Toiras \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

An uncut jewel off the west coast of France, joined to the historic fishing town of La Rochelle by a causeway, the Île de Ré is one of our favourite places to recommend for a civilised short break. La Rochelle can be reached in four hours from Saint-Malo and this former 17th century boat owner's house is located in the island's main town of St. Martin. A member of Relais & Châteaux, it is classically and elegantly furnished and its 20 bedrooms all give a wonderful feeling of space. There is a gastronomic restaurant overlooking a pretty courtyard garden. Guests are free to use the outdoor swimming pool and gardens of its sister hotel, Villa Clarisse.



3 night price from £698

## LA RIOJA

### Eguren Ugarte \*\*\*\* Deluxe

The overnight ferry from Portsmouth to Bilbao is an extremely civilised way to travel to Spain, and just over an hour from the port you will be in foothills of the Sierra Cantabria mountain range. This family-run winery has passed through six generations since its beginnings in 1870, and is one of the most well-respected in La Rioja. The hotel has an unusual exposed brick design complete with a fairytale lookout tower and has a 2,000 metre network of underground cellars. All Kirker clients will receive a



complimentary wine tour (including tastings). Furnished in a modern style, there are 21 spacious rooms and two restaurants, including the gastronomic 'Victorino Eguren'.

3 night price from £685

## LOIRE VALLEY

### Château de Noirieux \*\*\*\* Deluxe

Situated about 2½ hours from Caen in a pretty countryside location, the Château de Noirieux is a lovingly restored castle and manor house dating back to the 15th century. The 19 elegant bedrooms are located in the castle itself, and in the manor house located within the beautifully manicured 19 acres of grounds. A delicious breakfast is served in the glass-covered veranda or on the terrace and fine French cuisine is offered in the hotel's gastronomic restaurant. A heated outdoor swimming pool is available from mid-May to mid-September.



4 nights for the price of 3 all year - price from £540, saving £105



# PRIVATE HIRE

For the ultimate in peace and privacy, private hire of a villa, cottage or even a hotel barge, can provide the ideal solution. We have selected some of our favourite properties which are available for exclusive use – from one bedroom cottages and bungalows, to larger properties which would be perfect for a family or group of friends, perhaps if you have a special occasion to celebrate in 2021, or simply feel that life is too short not to enjoy time away with your loved ones this year. We can recommend a range of options, including full hotel services, private chefs and maid service or completely self-catering – speak to your independent travel agent for advice.

Prices are per person based on two sharing (unless stated otherwise) and include flights, transfers or car hire, accommodation as described and the services of the Kirker Concierge. Prices for larger parties available on request.

## ANDALUCIA – Casitas at Hacienda de San Rafael

One of our favourite hotels in Spain, this charming converted Hacienda, just half an hour south of Seville, offers three separate 'casitas' within its extensive gardens. Each can accommodate a family of four in comfort and guests have use of a private pool not open to other hotel guests. This is the perfect base from which to explore the surrounding Andalusian white villages, visit the spectacular Coto Donana national park, or sample sherry at a bodega in Jerez.



3 night price from £1,588 staying in a one-bedroom Casita

## LUXURY HOTEL BARGE

Combine the exclusivity and privacy of a private villa with the added benefit of gently travelling to a new destination each day as you traverse the picturesque waterways of France. Each vessel accommodates between six and twenty guests in private en-suite bedrooms, and you will have a captain, staff and private chef on board for the six night duration.

Private hire packages start from approximately £5,000 per person based on six passengers sharing a three bedroom barge including all meals, drinks and tailor-made excursions.



## TUSCANY – Casa Earth

A number of our favourite Tuscan hotels offer private accommodation options, and this wonderful apartment is located adjacent to the historic Castello La Leccia, a castle and wine estate dating from the 11th century and overlooking the hills surrounding Siena. There are five en-suite bedrooms and a large open-plan kitchen and dining room, and guests



can enjoy the hotel's extensive grounds and swimming pool, as well as delicious locally-sourced cuisine paired with Chianti wines.

3 night price from £1,286, staying in a private apartment

## SICILY – Verdura Resort \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

Rocco Forte Hotels' luxurious resort on the south coast of Sicily offers spacious and elegantly modern accommodation options in a 230 hectare estate with private beach, just 45 minutes from the Greek temples at Agrigento. The three and four bedroom private villas and villa suites are carefully designed to offer privacy, with private swimming pools and spacious terraces, as well as access to the full facilities of the resort, including its four restaurants, world-class golf and exceptional spa.

Price from £3,799 per person for a 7 night holiday, based on six guests sharing a three bedroom villa suite, departing between 19 Sept - 16 Oct 2021.



## BODRUM – Amanruya \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

On Turkey's Aegean coast, this exclusive and secluded resort offers 35 individual pavilions, each of which has a large private garden and its own heated swimming pool. Guests can enjoy facilities including four restaurants and a wine lounge, a library, yoga studios, tennis courts and a tranquil spa – as well as a 50-metre infinity pool and a private pebble beach. The ancient ruins of Ephesus, Priene, Miletus and Didyma can all be visited on a day trip from here.



4 nights for the price of 3 until 31 October, staying in a one bedroom Pool Suite with private pool & garden - price from £1,728, saving £464

## AUSTRIAN LAKES – Schloss Fuschl \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

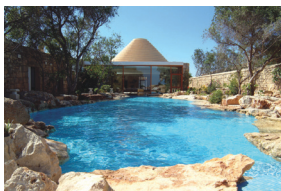
Surrounded by the majestic Austrian Alps, but just half an hour from Salzburg, this grand castle sits on the shores of the Fuschlsee and has six private cottages in its grounds accommodating up to four guests each. Enjoy the extensive private parkland, boating and fishing on the lake or a round of golf at the adjacent 9-hole course, or relax in the opulent spa with indoor swimming pool. The hotel has a fine restaurant and serves delicious cuisine on the lake terrace during the summer months.



3 night price from £2,979, staying in a one bedroom Lake Cottage

## GOZO – Ta Cenc \*\*\*\*

Malta's unspoiled sister island of Gozo is the perfect destination for a spring or summer escape, and the Hotel Ta Cenc offers a collection of unique Trullo Suites – detached suites with their own private terraces, designed in the shape of a traditional round Trullo with beehive-style roof. The resort has two swimming pools, a spa and restaurant, and during the summer you can swim in the sea from the rocks at Mgarr ix-Xini, where the hotel's private beach club and grill restaurant is located.



3 night price from £972, staying in a Trullo Suite

## KERRY – Sheen Falls Lodge \*\*\*\* Deluxe

Situated on the banks of the River Sheen, this elegant hotel has a collection of two to four bedroom thatched cottages in the extensive grounds – each beautiful and well-equipped. You can self-cater, book a private chef, or dine at the hotel's excellent Relais & Chateaux restaurant with views of the falls. Guests can try their hand at falconry, archery, kayaking and horse riding on the estate, or visit the famous Ring of Kerry.



3 night price from £985, staying in a two bedroom Garden Cottage

# CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

2020 was a year to forget for the arts, but 2021 promises an overdue return to live performances and landmark exhibitions. The Kirker Concierge is constantly monitoring the latest news regarding major cultural events, so remember to ask for first-hand advice if you have a particular query about a destination or a favourite museum. There are several events in particular that we are looking forward to, including the return of the Verona Opera Festival, two much-delayed but highly anticipated exhibitions, and the opportunity to return to some of our favourite smaller museums, which need our visits more than ever.

Prices are per person and include flights, transfers, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

## VERONA OPERA FESTIVAL

### VERONA OPERA FESTIVAL

There is no other opera festival which can match the spectacle of Verona, and the 2021 Festival has now been confirmed to operate from 19th June to 4th September. The season will feature all the operas and singers who were scheduled for 2020, including *La traviata*, *Nabucco* and the spectacular *Aida* by Verdi as well as special gala concerts featuring Plácido Domingo and Jonas Kaufmann. Furthermore, each performance will now be given as a brand new production for 2021, making innovative use of technology to make the most of the Arena setting, whilst allowing for the latest rules on social distancing. Tickets are now on sale and peak dates will be sure to sell out so book now to secure your seats.

Price from £726 for a three night short break  
- speak to the Kirker Concierge for opera prices and availability



## EXHIBITIONS

There are sure to be announcements regarding major exhibitions coming soon, as well as openings such as Berlin's much-anticipated Humboldt Forum, and Cairo's new Grand Egyptian Museum, but here are a couple that we are already looking forward to.

### FONDATION LOUIS VUITTON, PARIS

'The Morozov Collection. Icons Of Modern Art'  
from 12 May - 10 October 2021

Originally scheduled to open in autumn 2020, this exhibition presents the collection of French and Russian modern art compiled by the Morozov brothers, great early 20th century Muscovite patrons and collectors. It will feature works by Matisse, Gauguin, Van Gogh, Degas, Monet, Renoir, Cézanne and Chagall, many loaned from The State Hermitage Museum, the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts and the Tretyakov State Gallery.



Price from £598 for a three night short break including exhibition tickets

### GEMÄLDEGALERIE, BERLIN

'Late Gothic - The Birth of Modernity'  
from 1 May - 5 September 2021

Berlin's Gemäldegalerie hosts a rare exhibition on late Gothic art this year, with around 130 objects – including outstanding loans and key works from the collection of the Berlin State Museums. This period, inspired by developments in the Netherlands from the 1430s onwards, brought artistic depictions into the realms of expression, realism, and, with advances in printing techniques, mass distribution.



Price from £649 for a three night short break including exhibition tickets

## PRIVATE HOUSE MUSEUMS

Some of our favourite museums remain the smaller, less well-known establishments formed from private collections in unique settings. Not only is the visitor experience more intimate and personal in these museums, but your visit will also help to support them in a time when funding is desperately needed.

### MUSÉE JACQUEMART-ANDRE, PARIS

This former private home is now a fabulous art gallery with a wonderful collection spanning Mantegna, Bellini and Botticelli, to Canaletto, Tiepolo and the Dutch Masters. The works are displayed in the grand salons of this elegant Haussmann mansion and include not only paintings but also sculpture and objets d'art such as the 14th century mosque lamp brought back from Syria by Nellie Jacquemart.



3 night short breaks from  
£775, staying at the  
4\* deluxe Hotel Castille

### CASA LIRIA, MADRID

Built in the 18th century, the Liria Palace is the official Madrid residence of the House of Alba. Following a restoration project in 2019, the palace now offers guided tours which take in some of the magnificent interiors, an art collection with important works by Goya, Velázquez, Murillo, Zurbarán, El Greco, Ribera, Rubens and Titian (including his portrait of the Duke), and a library which is home to more than 18,000 books, including the first edition of Don Quixote.



3 night short breaks from £669, staying at  
the 4\* Hotel Emperador (10 minutes' walk  
from the Casa Liria)

# CULTURAL TOURS & MUSIC HOLIDAYS

Our escorted Cultural Tours & Music Holidays consist of small exclusive groups in the company of an expert lecturer and are designed for those with an interest in history, art, gardens, architecture and music.

For a copy of our dedicated brochure please speak to your independent travel agent.

Prices are per person based on two people sharing and include flights and transfers (excluding UK holidays), accommodation with breakfast, meals as described, a full programme of sightseeing, entrance fees and gratuities and the services of the Kirker Tour Lecturer.

## THE VINEYARDS OF KENT

A FOUR NIGHT HOLIDAY | 19 OCTOBER 2021

The Garden of England offers a fruitful abundance, and in recent years, viticulture has taken root firmly in the region – from champagne-rivalling sparkling wines, to impressive whites and increasingly well-respected reds. In the company of The Spectator wine editor and author Jonathan Ray, we will meet the county's finest winemakers – and a brewer – and taste the very best that Kent has to offer. Based close to the cathedral city of Canterbury, we shall also take time to



enjoy exquisite gardens, galleries and plenty of the finest local produce.

*Price from £1,558 per person (single supp. £250) for four nights including two lunches, two dinners and three winery visits with tastings.*

## HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND

A NINE NIGHT HOLIDAY | 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

From St Columba to the Lords of the Isles, Bonnie Prince Charlie, Samuel Johnson and beyond, the Highlands and Islands fire the imagination like no other region of Britain. Follow in the footsteps of some of Scotland's most famous characters – and meet some of their descendants – and discover how the Highlands confronted the modern world, and the tragedy and romance that followed. Starting and finishing in Edinburgh, we will explore the Highlands in the company of an expert in the history and culture of the West Highlands.



*Price from £2,996 (single supp. £290) for nine nights including four lunches and three dinners.*

## VILLAS & GARDENS AROUND ROME

A FIVE NIGHT HOLIDAY | 27 SEPTEMBER 2021

The countryside around Rome is home to some of Italy's greatest gardens, from magnificent 16th and 17th century examples in the formal Renaissance style, to captivating romantic gardens created in the early 20th century – including the most enchanting of all at Ninfa. We will visit a range of villas and gardens during the tour, including a day in the city itself where we visit the elegant Villa Borghese and the Villa Torlonia. We stay at the traditional 4\* Park Hotel Villa



Grazioli in Frascati, a charming town surrounded by vineyards, which produce its eponymous wine, only 20 kilometres from Rome.

*Price from £1,785 (single supp. £298) for five nights including three dinners and two lunches.*

## THE THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL IN WORCESTER

FOUR NIGHT HOLIDAYS | 24 JULY 2021 & 28 JULY 2021  
AN EIGHT NIGHT HOLIDAY | 24 JULY 2021

Our annual visit to the Three Choirs Festival, which rotates between the cathedral cities of Hereford, Worcester and Gloucester, is one of our most popular music holidays every summer, so we are delighted to reveal details of our planned return this July. Following the cancellation of the 2020 Festival, the Director has created a new programme for 2021, which tries to keep as many artists and pieces from last year as possible. You can choose one of two four night holidays or stay for the whole festival (eight nights). A full sightseeing programme will be included whichever tour you choose to join, including visits to important local sights.

*Price from £1,209 (24 July, single supp. £260), £1,298 (28 July, single supp. £260) or £2,498 (24 July, 8 nights, single supp. £520) including dinner each day and performance tickets.*

## THE GARDENS OF DORSET & SOMERSET

A FOUR NIGHT HOLIDAY | 12 JULY 2021

Expert horticulturalist and popular Kirker tour leader Kirsty Fergusson will escort this highly anticipated new itinerary 'behind the scenes' of some of the most wonderful gardens in the south-west of England. Based in the picturesque small town of Bridport, close to Dorset's World Heritage Jurassic Coast, we will visit a fascinating range of public and private gardens, many of which will open specially for our visit – including Charles Dowding's kitchen garden, Forde Abbey,



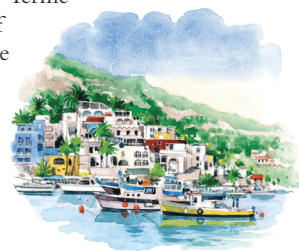
with its beautiful meadow gardens and Abbotsbury sub-tropical gardens.

*Price from £1,340 per person (single supp. £358) for four nights including two lunches and two dinners.*

## THE KIRKER ISCHIA MUSIC FESTIVAL

A SEVEN NIGHT HOLIDAY | 12 OCTOBER 2021

Our annual visit to the beautiful and verdant island of Ischia in the Bay of Naples is a highlight in the Kirker calendar. Each year we travel with a group of distinguished musicians who play in a series of private concerts exclusively for our guests in the music room at La Mortella. This year we will be joined by The Castalian String Quartet, tenor Alessandro Fisher, pianist Ashok Gupta and violist Simon Rowland-Jones. We stay at the privately owned 5\* Terme Manzi Hotel and Spa and include a half day tour of the island, as well as a private guided tour of La Mortella in the company of the gardeners.



*Price from £2,895 (single supp. £398) including seven dinners and six concerts.*

# HOLIDAYS BY RAIL

There has never been a better time to travel by rail – whether you are seeking to reduce your carbon footprint, avoid airports, or simply enjoy the convenience of gliding from city-centre to city-centre with a glass of wine in one hand and your Kirker Guide Notes in the other. Eurostar's gleaming new trains connect London St Pancras not only with Paris and Brussels, but now also Amsterdam direct in less than four hours, and with a change of trains, you can reach a host of European cities the same day.

Prices are per person and include return standard class rail tickets (first class supplements on request), transfers, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

## AMSTERDAM

### Pillows Anna Van den Vondel \*\*\*\* Superior

From November 2020, direct return Eurostar trains have linked London with Amsterdam in less than four hours. This stylish boutique hotel, made from three 19th century townhouses, is located in a quiet residential area just 15 minutes' walk from the Van Gogh Museum and Rijksmuseum via the Vondel Park. The 30 light-filled rooms are decorated in pale fabrics, and guests can enjoy a daily changing table d'hôte dinner prepared in the open kitchen.



3 night price from £739

Includes entrance to the Rijksmuseum or the Van Gogh Museum

## PARIS

### Victor Hugo \*\*\* Superior

A family-run hotel located 10 minutes' walk from the Arc de Triomphe, the Trocadero Gardens and the Champs Elysées, the Victor Hugo has been welcoming Kirker clients for over 30 years. It has a comfortable lounge, a bar and 76 well-furnished, recently renovated bedrooms.



4 nights for the price of 3 from  
11 July - 23 August - price from £698,  
saving £100

Includes a 48hr Museum Pass, Seine cruise and a carnet of metro tickets

## BRUSSELS

### Hotel Amigo \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

This famous property has an unbeatable location just behind the Grand'Place and City Hall. There are 173 beautifully designed and recently renovated modern bedrooms, a bar, a wonderful Italian restaurant and a comfortable lobby lounge.

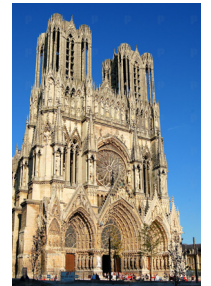


3 nights for the price of 2 in July &  
August - price from £540,  
saving £160

## REIMS

### Grand Hôtel des Templiers \*\*\*\* Superior

Just 45 minutes' connection from Paris, Reims is the gateway to Champagne. Once a 19th century residence, the Grand Hôtel des Templiers is now a charming hotel located in the centre of Reims, just a short walk from the cathedral. It is tastefully decorated throughout with antiques, ornate ceilings and hand-carved woodwork which all help to create a homely atmosphere. There are 17 bedrooms a lounge bar and an indoor swimming pool with sauna and hammam.



3 night price from £593

## BARCELONA

### España \*\*\*\* Superior

Change in Paris and a high-speed TGV will whisk you all the way to the Catalan capital in just over six hours. The España is located in a narrow, semi-pedestrianised street just off the 'Ramblas', around the corner from the famous Liceu Opera House. The Gothic cathedral, Plaza Real, Boqueria covered market and the revitalised harbour are all just a few steps away. There are 82 bedrooms, a cocktail bar, a restaurant, and a roof-top terrace with bar and small summer plunge pool.



3 night price from £967

Includes entrance to the Sagrada Família

## MILAN

### De La Ville \*\*\*\*

Daily trains connect Paris with Milan in around 7 hours, making it within reach for a short break. With its position midway between the Duomo and La Scala, the Hotel De La Ville has the perfect location. The 108 bedrooms, lobby and bar have been fully renovated and the restaurant serves Mediterranean cuisine. The top floor heated swimming pool with its transparent dome offers views of the cathedral's spires.



3 night price from £892

Includes entrance to the Brera Gallery

## COLOGNE

### Excelsior Hotel Ernst \*\*\*\*\*

Just four hours from London via Brussels, the Excelsior Ernst is perfectly situated in the heart of Cologne, in the tall shadow of the iconic cathedral and opposite the train station. All 140 bedrooms are individually decorated and some overlook the cathedral. There are two restaurants, including the Michelin starred 'Taku', an intimate piano bar, a health spa, a beauty salon and a fitness room.



3 night price from £773

## THE HAGUE

### Hotel Des Indes \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

The new Eurostar service to Amsterdam stops first at Rotterdam, just 30 minutes from The Hague. Located on a leafy square in the heart of the city, this famous hotel was built in 1858 for King William III's personal advisor. There are 92 bedrooms, a lounge bar and restaurant, and a spa with an indoor swimming pool.



3 night price from £669

Includes entrance to the Mauritshuis

# UK & IRELAND

For those in search of a short break closer to home this year, we can create a tailor-made holiday to include some of our favourite destinations in the British Isles – from the south of Ireland to the north of Scotland. Speak to your independent travel agent about a tailor-made itinerary, perhaps including domestic flights, self-drive and ferry crossings, or sleeper trains to and from Scotland. See page 11 for some of our upcoming UK-based Music Holidays.

Prices are per person and include flights, transfers or car hire, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

## DUBLIN & CORK

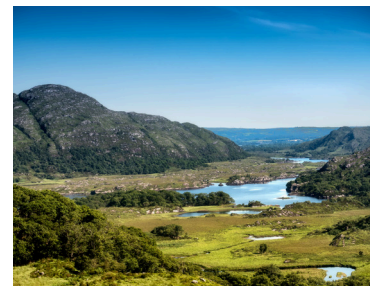
Enjoy two of Ireland's best luxury hotels with this itinerary combining the two great cities. Spend the first three nights at the Hotel Merrion in the Irish capital, where you can explore Trinity College and the National Museum of Ireland, the literary and music pubs of Temple Bar, and the elegant Georgian squares and terraces. Then head south to the 'Rebel City' of Cork, located on one of the world's largest natural harbours. It was at nearby Cobh that the Titanic made its final passenger stop before the doomed Atlantic voyage, and the excellent museum here is worth a visit. Stay in Cork itself at the impeccable Hayfield Manor and visit the famous English Market, with its tempting array of local produce.



Price from £1,299 for 5 nights  
(3 nights at the Merrion and 2 nights  
at Hayfield Manor)

## IRELAND'S WILD SOUTH WEST

Riven with dramatic cliffs interspersed with golden beaches and charming fishing villages, the south-west coast of Ireland, including the famous Ring of Kerry, is one of the world's most scenic drives. The gateway to the south is Cork, a lively university town with a growing gastronomic reputation. Enjoy delicious local cuisine at Ballymaloe, just outside the city before driving the coast road as far as the Ring of Kerry, Killarney National Park, and the spectacular Dingle Peninsula, staying at our favourite country house hotel, where you will receive the warmest of welcomes and delicious local cuisine.



Price from £967 for 5 nights  
(2 nights at Ballymaloe and  
3 nights at Carrig Country  
House)

## THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

### Thirlestane Castle (a historic private castle)

Located just half an hour south of Edinburgh, Thirlestane is an impressive 16th century castle. The estate has remained in the possession of the Maitland family since 1260 and current residents, Edward Maitland-Carew and his wife Sarah, have recently refurbished the South Wing in great style to accommodate guests. The eight elegantly-furnished apartments are decorated with portraits and furniture from the castle collections and offer views of the parkland and estate – and guests can either self-cater or enjoy chef-prepared meals delivered to the door, perhaps with a bottle of wine from the castle cellar.



3 night price from £674  
Ask for tailor-made prices for  
self-drive or rail from Euston to  
Edinburgh

## PERTSHIRE

### Gleneagles \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

Opened in 1924, Gleneagles has been a landmark destination for almost a century with its unique combination of superb service, luxurious accommodation and outstanding facilities. Located just over an hour's drive from both Edinburgh and Glasgow, the hotel is set in 850 acres of spectacular countryside, including three Championship Golf Courses, and it offers an impressive array of outdoor sports. For those in search of relaxation, The Spa offers 20 treatment rooms, sauna and steam rooms, and there are outdoor and indoor swimming pools. There are several restaurants, including fine-dining at Andrew Fairlie, Scotland's only two-star Michelin restaurant.

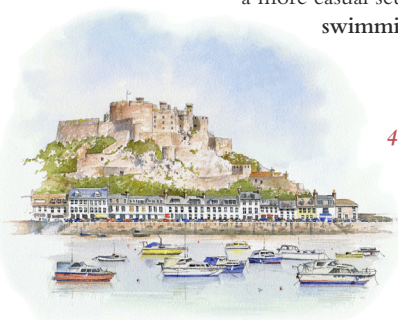


3 night price from £1,265  
Ask for tailor-made prices for  
self-drive or rail from Euston to  
Gleneagles

## JERSEY

### L'Horizon Beach Hotel & Spa \*\*\*\* Superior

Overlooking the sandy beach of St. Brelade's Bay, L'Horizon has 106 rooms, the majority of which have private balconies and panoramic views of the bay. The 'Grill' fine dining restaurant is renowned for its seafood and the lounge bar and 'Atlantic' room serve lighter meals in a more casual setting. The spa has an indoor swimming pool.



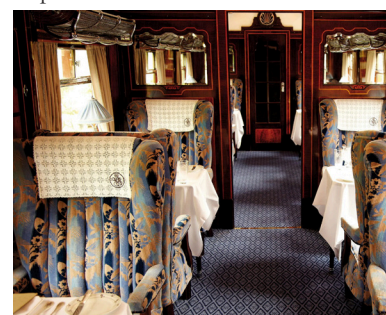
4 nights for the price of 3 from  
1 September - 31 October  
- price from £599,  
saving £100

## LUXURY RAIL

### London & The British Pullman

For those in search of a truly memorable and unique experience a little closer to home this year, the British Pullman luxury train offers a range of round trips through the Kent countryside from London. Combine a long weekend in London with a day out on the Pullman, which includes a champagne reception and a delicious five-course lunch on board.

Price from £1,196 for a  
three night holiday including  
accommodation with breakfast  
at Brown's Hotel in London,  
a £50 credit to spend at the  
hotel and a day trip on the  
British Pullman, including  
champagne and lunch served  
with wine on board.



# FURTHER AFIELD

*If your wanderlust requires a more exotic remedy, remember that Kirker's team of long haul specialists can help with tailor-made holidays to far flung destinations from Southern Africa to India, Sri Lanka and the Middle-East, the Maldives in the Indian Ocean, and Cuba – all with the usual Kirker service, carefully-selected hotels, resorts and lodges, and welcoming local guides. We have selected some ideas to inspire your next journey below, but it is crucial to discuss your travel ambitions with your independent travel agent.*

## SRI LANKA – TRINCOMALEE & THE CULTURAL TRIANGLE

In the summer months, Sri Lanka's untouched north-east coastline enjoys its warm, dry season, and this is the perfect time to enjoy some of the island's most glorious sandy beaches. Explore the ancient city of Trincomalee, which has been an important trading settlement on the Indian Ocean for more than two thousand years, as well as the ancient sites of Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura, and then enjoy time to relax on the sandy beaches of the northeast coast.



*Price from £3,955 per person for a fourteen night holiday including flights, all transfers with an English-speaking driver-guide, and accommodation for two nights in Kandy, three nights in Sigiriya, seven nights in Trincomalee and one night in Negombo.*

## SOUTH AFRICA – THE EASTERN CAPE: KWAZULU NATAL

This circular exploration of KwaZulu-Natal takes in the best of the south-east, from Durban and the 'Dolphin Coast', to the Drakensberg Mountains and the Boer War Battlefields. Enjoy walking and horse riding in the foothills of the Drakensberg, learn about the Zulu and Boer Wars at Rorke's Drift and Isandlwana, and then seek out the 'Big 5' from the comfort of a tented lodge at Thanda Private Game Reserve.

*Price from £4,679 per person for a thirteen night holiday including flights, car hire and accommodation for four nights at the Oyster Box, three nights at Hartford House, three nights at Fugitives Drift and three nights at Thanda's tented camp.*



## THE MALDIVES

### Anantara Dhigu \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

The Maldives offer idyllic island escapes at any time of year but we recommend visiting for late winter sunshine during spring. Lying within the South Malé Atoll, Dhigu is just 35 minutes from the airport and offers luxurious beach villas on a private white sand beach – some with private swimming pools – as well as over-water villas with their own sun decks and open-air infinity bath tubs. For those who can muster the energy to leave the comfort of the accommodation, you can choose from a day out on the catamaran, diving, surfing, sailing or deep-sea fishing – or relax in the Elemis spa.



*Price from £4,198 per person for a seven night holiday including direct flights, speedboat transfers and accommodation on a half board basis in a Sunrise Beach Villa.*

## OMAN'S ARABIAN SEA COAST

Probably the destination with the most fascinating history and culture in the Middle-East, Oman offers the perfect combination of guaranteed sunshine, exceptional hotels and astonishing landscapes. This tailor-made itinerary includes four nights in Muscat to enjoy one of the best sandy beaches in the region, as well as the new Royal Opera House and the winding alleys of the atmospheric Muttrah Souq. Heading out of the city, you will follow the Arabian Sea as far as the historic maritime city of Sur, where Oman's traditional wooden dhows are constructed. You will then stay for two nights at the Turtle Beach Reserve in Ras Al Jinz, one of the only places in the world which is home to nesting sites for three species of endangered turtle.

*Price from £2,898 per person for six nights, including flights, accommodation with breakfast (4 nights at the 5\* deluxe Shangri-la Al Bandar Muscat, 2 nights at the 4\* Turtle Beach Reserve), private transfers and the services of an expert Kirker driver-guide throughout.*



## CUBA

Cuba is an astonishing travel experience and, for those who have not yet had the good fortune to visit, you have a rare treat in store. The only advice we must offer is to book now to avoid disappointment! Start in Havana, where we recommend the 5\* superior Hotel Saratoga, a stylish contemporary hotel that first opened in the 1930s and has become an Art Deco icon. After exploring the art, architecture, ballet and music of the capital, relax with a mojito on the white sand beaches of Varadero, bathed in Caribbean sunshine.



*Price from £2,698 per person for a seven night holiday including flights, transfers, accommodation with breakfast staying for four nights at the Saratoga in Havana and three nights at the Melia Las Americas in Varadero, a Cuban tourist visa and a half day private Havana walking tour.*

## INDIA

Now is the perfect time to plan an autumn or winter 2021 holiday to India. For first time visitors to India, we would recommend an itinerary to 'The Golden Triangle', including the classical Rajput city of Jaipur, the magnificent splendour of the Taj Mahal in Agra and Edward Luyten's New Delhi. For those who have a little longer to spend or are perhaps returning to the subcontinent, continue on through Rajasthan to the blue city of Jodhpur and the stunning lake city of Udaipur.

*Price from £1,890 per person for a seven night Golden Triangle itinerary including flights, private transfers and 4\* hotel accommodation – ask for a tailor-made quotation.*



# 2022 DESTINATIONS

*There is no time like the present to plan your 2022 holiday, especially if you have a special birthday or anniversary on the horizon. Bookings for some destinations are at record levels for 2022, as travellers who have been recently thwarted plan ahead for a trip to remember next year. Special travel experiences such as river cruises and scenic rail journeys, which have limited capacity, are best booked in advance, and these are some of our top suggestions for 2022.*

*Prices are per person and include flights, transfers, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.*

## ST. PETERSBURG & MOSCOW

To understand Russia as a whole it is essential to visit both St Petersburg, Peter the Great's window on the West, and Moscow, the ancient and modern capital, taking in both the Winter Palace and the Kremlin, the Hermitage and the Tretyakov, and perhaps a performance at the Mariinsky and the Bolshoi. Whilst the Tsar's retinue took around four weeks to complete the journey, it is now possible in just four hours on an efficient high-speed train, with Kirker's private transfers and expert local guides to smooth the way.



*Price from £2,458 per person for a seven night holiday including 4 nights in St Petersburg and 3 nights in Moscow, high-speed rail between each city and Russian visa service.*

## THE GLACIER EXPRESS

One of Switzerland's most iconic rail journeys, the Glacier Express crosses the Alps from St. Moritz to Zermatt in just over seven hours, traversing 291 bridges, passing through 91 tunnels and climbing to over 2,000 metres. Take in this unique journey with a tailor-made holiday, starting at Waldhaus Sils where you will stay for two nights in the picturesque Engadin Valley, before boarding the Glacier Express at St. Moritz. Enjoy spectacular views through the panoramic windows and a three-course meal served at your seat, before arriving in Zermatt, where you will then stay for two nights.



*Price from £1,688 per person for a four night holiday including 2 nights at the Waldhaus Sils near St Moritz and 2 nights at the Parchotel Beau Site in Zermatt.*

## VIENNA ON THE VENICE-SIMPLON-ORIENT-EXPRESS

The legendary Venice Simplon-Orient-Express makes a couple of special journeys every year, and for 2022 it will be travelling from London, via Paris, to Vienna and Budapest. The departures are on 4 May and 8 June, and cabins are strictly limited on these dates so it is essential to book ahead. Whether you choose to disembark in Vienna and enjoy a few days in the great city of music, or to continue to Budapest, the glorious Hungarian capital on the banks of the Danube, we would be delighted to create a tailor-made itinerary including the train, a stay in a Kirker hotel, tickets for an opera or concert, and flights home.



*Price from £3,498 for a three night holiday including one night on board the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express from London to Vienna, two nights in Vienna, private Kirker transfers and a one-way flight Vienna to London.*

## CRUISE THE NORWEGIAN FJORDS

The fjords of the Norwegian coast offer some of the world's most spectacular natural scenery, with dramatic cliffs, cascading waterfalls and picturesque villages. There really is no better way to experience the fjords than from the water itself, and we can create a tailor-made itinerary which includes a cruise on board Hurtigruten's fleet of working vessels which journey north and south calling at a new port each day. One of the most scenic parts of the route is the section between Bergen and Trondheim, which you can link up with a stay in Oslo with a panoramic train journey.



*Price from £1,598 per person for a seven night holiday including flights, two nights in Oslo, one night in Bergen and a four night sailing from Bergen to Trondheim.*

## LA BELLA VITA

### A Boutique Venetian River Cruise

Enjoy a taste of 'la bella vita' on board this charming small river boat which glides between Venice and Mantua on the Venetian lagoon, the Canal Bianco and the River Po. On board you will enjoy fine Italian cuisine and delicious regional wines, as well as visits to historic towns including Chioggia, Ferrara and the elegant Renaissance city of Mantua. Departs Venice every Sunday in summer and autumn



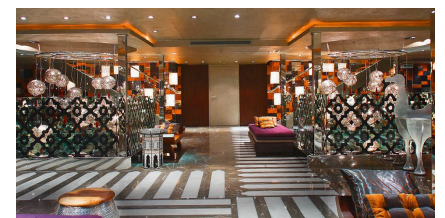
2021 and April to October 2022 – call for a tailor-made quotation including flights and a stay in Venice.

*Price from £3,785 for an eight night holiday including flights to Venice, six nights on board La Bella Vita and two nights in Venice.*

## NILE CRUISE

### Aswan to Cairo

The 7,000 year history of Egyptian civilisation is inextricably linked to the Nile and there is no better way to experience this than from the deck of a stylish river boat. The Movenpick MS Darakum is a comfortable modern vessel with 44 en-suite cabins and 8 suites, all with panoramic views. It offers the relatively rare opportunity to cruise from the ancient capital of Thebes, modern Luxor and downriver to Cairo in a ten day itinerary, including a visit to Amarna, the city of Akhenaten and Nefertiti.



*Price from £3,984 for a ten night holiday including flights from Heathrow, nine nights on board MS Darakum and one night in Luxor.*

## TIME OUT WITH TED



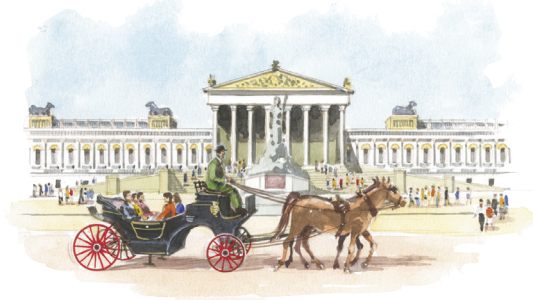
After a year of being trapped at home, the idea of a precious few days away is a mouth-watering proposition – and, I don't know about you, but, whilst it is certainly a privilege to be able to travel, I feel family Wake deserves a carefully-planned short break where every minute counts. That doesn't mean that every moment needs to be scheduled, indeed the best short breaks include time to reflect – a relaxed lunch with a glass of wine, followed by a well-deserved siesta, can be the most sublime interlude after a busy morning's sightseeing – and the perfect precursor to an evening concert, ballet or opera. 'Down-time' is particularly crucial on multi-generational trips where the itinerary needs to be tailor-made to ensure younger members of the party have time for a mid-morning sugar-fix (I can certainly recommend the café at the Prado Museum, where our charming guide, Carmen, managed to continue the discussion on Velasquez and El Greco so that our children could now almost be mistaken for enthusiastic experts...) not to mention gin for Granny at 6pm (sharp) so that the evening flows seamlessly in a way that only the older generation knows best.

So, where to next? For me it will have to be Vienna, staying at either the charming 4\* Deluxe Konig von Ungarn or the stylish 5\* Deluxe Sacher. Vienna has something for everyone, with world-class music and opera at either Staatsoper or Volksoper, extraordinary art from modern masters such as Klimt and Schiele to Old Masters including Dürer and Bruegel at four of the finest museums in Western culture: Kunsthistorisches, Leopold, Belvedere and Albertina.

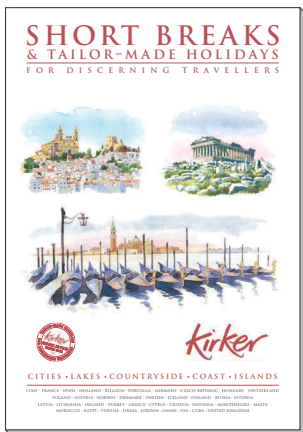
A stroll along the Ringstrasse must include a stop at Palais Ephrussi, which featured prominently in the best-seller 'The Hare with the Amber Eyes' by Edmund de Waal. We will need to make certain that the Kirker Concierge books tickets for the Spanish Riding School, not to mention the Vienna Boys' Choir and of course a private guide for a walking tour – with a stop for Sachertorte and coffee – and why not a lunch reservation at a carefully-selected local restaurant where we can reflect over a delicious glass of Austrian white and debate Grüner Veltliner vs Riesling?

I really can't wait to get going.

Ted



### BROCHURES



Whilst our normal paper Short Breaks brochure is a work in progress as we await more comprehensive clarification of the new travel rules for 2021 and updates from each of our hotel partners, our full range of destinations and hotels can be found on the Kirker website, including pictures, descriptions and the latest special offers. Nonetheless, if you would like further details by post, or first-hand advice, please speak to your independent travel agent who would be delighted to send something to you.

### TRAVEL IN STYLE

Escaping the madding crowd has never been more appealing, and to help you get away in style and comfort we have negotiated some exceptional value for money special upgrade fares with our key partners including British Airways and Eurostar. Ask for the latest upgrade prices for **British Airways' Club Europe** including fast-track check-in, airport lounge access, priority boarding and more spacious seating on board – as a couple you can choose to sit in a pair of seats with no other passengers adjacent – or **BA Club**

**World** for long haul flights including lie-flat beds. When travelling by Eurostar we highly recommend upgrading to **Standard Premier**, from as little as £50 per person, which offers spacious dedicated carriages with the option to reserve a table for two by the window.



*"Florence was great! We had lovely weather and it was quiet... we had all the time we wanted to admire "David" at the Accademia and were the only people for the first half an hour or so at the Museum San Marco. The restaurants were great... the hotel was lovely, we were upgraded to a junior suite and didn't have to check out until 4.30pm when the car came. All in all, a lovely trip, so nice to get away, a real tonic and brilliantly organised. Thank you!"*

Mrs J, travelled to Florence in autumn 2020

*This is just a small selection from the wide range of special offers available, speak to your independent travel agent for more information.*

Agents details:



44 Somers Park Avenue, Malvern, WR14 1SD  
01684 562406 malvernworldtravel@hotmail.co.uk



# Kirker

FOR DISCERNING TRAVELLERS

All prices shown include special offers as applicable and are subject to availability. Prices are correct at time of publication: April 2021. For booking conditions please see [www.kirkerholidays.com](http://www.kirkerholidays.com) \*\* Please note that swimming pools are weather dependent (unless specified), please call for further details \*\*