

Clockwise from top left: by the pool, beach and sea, and a room view, at Eagles Palace; British charm and cool room style at The Chequers; Parisian opulence at La Réserve



## EAGLES PALACE GREECE

Expect long, easy days at this resort. Lapped by the Aegean Sea, it perches on the Athos peninsula close to Halkidiki. The drive from Thessaloniki airport will take in vineyards and pine forests. Fresh interiors will catch your glance on arrival: crisp whites against ikat fabric and artworks. Later, explore the saltwater pool with its swim-up bar, and the stretch of golden beach. The bungalows are our pick of its 170 residences for the privacy they afford. Sitting slightly above the hotel, surrounded by palms and fragrant frangipani, they provide balconies overlooking the ocean. In terms of food, ingredients are sourced from local farms and growers. On the beach, Armyra is a dreamy lunchtime spot: order specialities such as fried feta with sweet tomato sauce, souvlaki, fresh-as-can-be Greek salads and grilled seafood. Fine-dining Kamares has an outdoor area for romantic evenings. Save a day to experience a speedboat trip, taking in a neighbouring island for a picnic in the blazing sun. *BG. Doubles from £252. 00 30 23770 31070, eaglespalace.gr*



## Gourmet bolthole THE CHEQUERS, MARLOW

You'll find The Chequers kissing the banks of the Thames amid boutique shops and restaurants in the Georgian market town of Marlow. Evoking rustic charm and quintessentially British atmosphere, it suits its locale. The building dates back to the 16th century, and its history is tangible in the exposed original beams and old-school wood panelling.

Nowadays, the nine en-suite bedrooms mix contemporary furnishings and a heritage palette with vibrant colour and parquet-style wall art. The result is cosy and inviting.

The buzz from the well-frequented bar carries through to the dining room, where you can order choice cuts of their speciality 100-day aged Australian beef straight from the butcher's block. It arrives glazed in a secret marinade with triple-cooked chips and your choice of sauce. For a lighter bite, opt for a beetroot salad with orange and feta. Save room for the decadent sticky-toffee pudding. *CI. Doubles from £90. 01628 482 053, thechequersmarlow.co.uk*

to stay

in Goa, escape the crowds of the Champs Elysées, enjoy a delightfully rustic stay by the Thames



## LA RESERVE FRANCE

Once home to Pierre Cardin, this boutique hotel is ideally located down a boulevard just far enough from the crowds of the Champs Elysées. No expense seems to have been spared decking out its 40 rooms. Expect silk wallpaper, thick velvet drapes, ornate ceilings and chaises longues in black, ruby and emerald. Not-so-mini bars are stocked with top-end wines and liqueurs in crystal decanters, while Restaurant Le Gabriel, with chef Jérôme Banctel at its helm, has joined the circle of two-star Michelin establishments in the city. *RR. Doubles from £960. lareserve-paris.com*

