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## Elizabeth II A LIFE IN PICTURES



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The Princess of Wales met troops from Australia, Canada and New Zealand at Pirbright barracks in Surrey. Some will join the funeral procession on Monday. Pages 8-9

### King's fears over rising cost of living

Valentine Low  
Ben Clatworthy Transport Correspondent  
Henry Zeffman

The King has expressed concerns over the cost of living crisis and promised to protect religious diversity in a signal of some of his priorities.

He told faith leaders yesterday that his responsibility as sovereign was to defend the practising of all "religions, cultures, traditions and beliefs".

Mark Drakeford, the Welsh first minister, revealed the King's worries about the economic crisis and how people will get through the winter in an interview with Talk TV.

The King's comments came as mourners wishing to pay their respects to the Queen were warned of 24-hour queues, with the capital braced for its busiest weekend ever. Millions of people are expected to arrive in London, with transport bosses saying that this weekend will be "arguably more challenging" to manage than the 2012 Olympics.

Members of the public wanting to join the queue to see the Queen's coffin were told to temporarily stay away yesterday morning after it reached capacity. Some continued to join despite the government saying that it would be closed for at least six hours. **Continued on page 3, col 4**

# Silence speaks volumes

Queen's children stand vigil at her coffin in emotional end to week of national mourning

Quentin Letts



Three sharp taps came from the duty officer's stick at the lying in state. Shortly before eight o'clock a quartet in uniform entered

Westminster Hall and approached the coffin in diamond formation. The late Queen's four children were taking their places for a silent vigil as daylight faded on an emotionally exhausting week.

They mounted the catafalque, turned, bowed their heads and stood guard for all the world to see. The stream of public mourners

continued, flowing past, gawping in respectful wonder.

The King's face was deep-lined. The Princess Royal, in two-pointed hat with red feather, looked rueful. The Duke of York, uniformed perhaps one last time, dropped his chin towards his chest. The Earl of Wessex stood so still he could have been carved like the griffins that adorn the Norman hall.

The vigil was watched from a balcony by members of the wider family, among them the Duke of Kent, Princesses Alexandra, Beatrice and Eugenie, the Gloucesters, the Michaels of Kent, and those two bright little button Tindall girls, granddaughters of Princess Anne.

Who knows, perhaps this night of searing sadness will become their first memories. Peter Phillips leant down

to talk to one of his own children. It allowed him to remove something that most inexplicably had caught in his eye.

Beside the four royal siblings stood the Yeomen of the Guard and bearskin-hatted members of the Welsh Guards. The four high altar candles at each corner of the catafalque burnt strongly. In the vast hall, under its hammerbeam roof, an awed silence reigned. And all this time the ordinary British man and woman filed past, bowing to the coffin, curtsying to the lost sovereign, making signs of the cross and blinking a bit at the presence of living royalty.

The vigil lasted fifteen minutes, perhaps not long but enough for a lifetime of private memories. Another tap of the stick. The King and his

siblings stirred, marched and departed. Another extraordinary moment in this most unforgettable of times.

The mood was brighter earlier when the King travelled to Cardiff to visit Llandaff Cathedral and at the Welsh parliament, or Senedd.

The order of service at Llandaff was hefty, the size of a menu at a Michelin-starred restaurant. The Queen Consort studied it closely, as though searching for the sole Veronique.

With the hymns including *Cwm Rhondda*, the Carmarthenshire Caruso struck again. One refers to Sir Robert Buckland, the secretary of state for Wales. It cannot be long before he releases a duet with Sir Bryn Terfel. Buckland's neighbour, Liz Truss, must by the end have been

deafened by his operatic gusto. As the King left he signed the visitors' book. He used his own fountain pen.

At the Senedd, in a bilingual speech, he mentioned that his son William was succeeding him as Prince of Wales. When Charles became Tywysog Cymru in 1969 there was angry pushback from Welsh nationalists. To become Prince of Wales must be a grand thing, though it would involve a lot of harp music. It tinkled through the Senedd as in a **Continued on page 3, col 2**



A pool at Château de Bagnols in Beaujolais



## Europe's 26 best vineyard stays

From wineries with rooms in Rioja to a Burgundy château, these hideaways let you sip fine wines then sleep among the vines. Santé! says **Alicia Miller**

**W**ines taste best at their source. It's not only the retsina effect — in which the rosé-tinted glasses of holiday mode make even €5 local bottles seem award-winning. Rather, it's the heightened drinking experience that comes with seeing how and where a wine comes to be. After treading vineyard soils and seeing grapes ripening, that merlot becomes more than just a Wednesday night relaxant. It becomes a vibrant, natural thing: a piece of bottled landscape.

Now imagine not only tasting a wine where it was made, but doing so between bites of Michelin-starred food, soporific

spa visits and refreshing pool dips. And not just to "taste", but to tip as far into bacchanalian excess as you fancy, with no thought to designated drivers, spittoons or pricey taxi rides home.

And therein lies the appeal of a vineyard hotel. After draining that bottle of chardonnay, made using vines three feet away, the only thing you need to navigate is the corridor to your suite.

Naturally the big names in European winemaking — France, Spain and Italy — do these hotels very well. In some regions, including Tuscany, vineyard stays are so prolific that it's hardly even a selling point. So properties plump up their offering with

on-site wineries, gourmet wizardry and fabulous design (though sometimes it's the other way around — world-class wineries adding accommodation).

However, there are also many vineyard hotels outside the "obvious" destinations. With their wine credentials stratospherically on the rise, Croatia and Slovenia should not be overlooked. And there is great value (and delicious wines) to be found in Hungary and Romania too.

Unsurprisingly peak season at most vineyard hotels is harvest time. There's a thrill not only in



A room at Finca Malvasia in Lanzarote

Vineyard stays next page

The pool at Coquillade, Luberon



### Casal de Arman

Ribeiro, Spain

#### For a medieval minibreak

With its variable climate and cracking white wines made from albariño and godello, Galicia defies the classic ray-drenched image of Spain. Six-room Casal de Arman thrusts you right into the hilly, verdant core of the country's Atlantic northwest, in an 18th-century home with exposed stone walls, honey-hued wood floors and quirky antiques. When you've had your fill of tasting the estate's Ribeiro wines and gazing out at the view — green hills carpeted with vines — the nearby medieval town of Ribadavia is a worthwhile outing.

**Details** B&B doubles from €63 (casaldearman.net). Fly to Santiago de Compostela

### Mastinell

Penedes, Spain

**For a Gaudi-esque room with a view** Another Spanish architectural corker, this time in the Catalan region of Penedes, famed for its production of sparkling cava. Giant porthole-style windows and an undulating roof bring to mind not only the local starchitect Gaudi, but (and this is no accident) a giant rack of ageing vino. Sleek doubles keep furnishings to a minimum so the focus is on the view, with beds just steps from the glass overlooking the vines. Visit during harvest and you can get involved in the picking — and treading — of the grapes.

**Details** B&B doubles from £209 (mastinell.com). Fly or take the train to Barcelona

### Domeniile Panciu

Vrancea, Romania

#### For award-winning value

Romania had a long, glorious winemaking tradition before communism prioritised quantity over quality. The country has been busy rebuilding its vinous reputation and is now making its name in value. The award-winning winery with rooms Domeniile Panciu, tucked into the Carpathian peaks of Vrancea, is fine example. Granny-chic bedrooms with floral wallpaper, beams and chandeliers meet a restaurant with trendy Josper grills. Hire bikes to explore the surroundings — which include the domain's 120 hectares of vines and an ornate monastery — or hit the tennis court and sauna.

**Details** B&B doubles from €45 (domeniilepanciuresort.ro). Fly to Bucharest or Bacau

### Masseria Amastuola

Puglia, Italy

#### For Puglian cool

If you've been to Puglia you will know all about its chic white architectural aesthetic. Amastuola channels the alabaster look in an 18th-century farmhouse perched on a hill. Long lunches with olive oil from the estate's knobby century-old trees and its own organic vino will kick you into holiday gear from the get-go. Bird's-eye perspectives over the vineyards and olive



A bedroom at Les Sources de Caudalie in Bordeaux

groves will catch your attention from the pristine rooms. Dressed in cream and pastel hues, you'll want to be careful not to spill a glass of full-bodied Puglian red. **Details** B&B doubles from £133 (amastuola.it). Fly to Bari

### Quinta Santa Luzia

Madeira, Portugal

#### For all the family

This historic estate has been in the Blandy family (of Blandy's Madeira fame) for seven successive generations, and has the throwback charm to prove it. There are two parts: a six-bedroom B&B (Quinta das Malvas) and a self-catering property sleeping up to 17 (Villa Quinta de Santa Luzia).

You'll get adjoining vineyards and gardens filled with flowers, herbs, bananas and aloe vera. Polished wood floors, soft lighting and shuttered windows add a homely, relaxed vibe. Despite the proximity of downtown Funchal, on quiet sunny mornings it can feel a million miles away.

**Details** B&B doubles from €40 (quintasantaluzia.com). Fly to Funchal

### Gehlen Cornelius

Mosel Valley, Germany

#### For minimalist style

Steep green slopes, a snaking river, historic towns with towering church steeples — even if it didn't make the world's best age-worthy riesling,

the Mosel would be worth a visit for its good looks. Amid the time warp in Brauneberg, the winery and hotel Gehlen Cornelius delivers something unexpected: minimalist contemporary vibes that wouldn't look out of place in Berlin or London. Though that's not the only way this vineyard stay surprises — despite producing a number of stellar whites, the wine they're most proud of is their blackberry-noted syrah.

**Details** B&B doubles from €108 (gehlen-cornelius.de). Fly or take the train to Frankfurt

### Locanda Sandi

Prosecco, Italy

#### For a traditional feel

Pop the corks — here's a cosy stay in one of Italy's most popular wine regions that won't cost the earth. The seven rooms, set in an early 1900s house, feel just like nonna would have left them, with beamed ceilings, iron bedframes and lacy linens. The restaurant, Cucina, is a no-holds-barred Venetian affair, with a hint of refinement (meat eaters won't want to miss the daily grill cooked on the open fireplace). And the wines? You're in good hands: Villa Sandi, the owner, is one of prosecco's most established producers.

**Details** B&B doubles from €100 (locandasandi.it). Fly or take the train to Venice

### Castle Hotel Grof Degenfeld

Tokaj, Hungary

#### For Hungarian opulence

If you thought that you had to go to France for a château stay, think again. With one of the greatest sweet wines — Tokaji aszu — comes opulent castle-style accommodation in northeastern Hungary. Grof Degenfeld, founded in 1857 to make syrupy tipples, has organic vineyards, a refurbished chapel and regal rooms (silk fabrics and parquet are standard). The restaurant serves top-notch regional wine pairings for every dish, from dry furmint to accompany citrus cassis to ultra-sweet Tokaji aszu with venison stew.

**Details** B&B doubles from €102 (grofdegenfeld.com). Fly to Debrecen

### Royal Champagne Hotel & Spa

Champagne, France

#### For a blow-the-budget break

A grand cream-faced façade, Michelin-starred restaurant, decadent anti-ageing spa — this place is bling all round, but then would you expect anything less from Champagne? It only opened in 2018, but already this hotel reigns supreme for a contemporary stay in the world's best-known fizz region. For gourmands, heaven is spending an afternoon sipping bubbly at the alfresco Le Bellevue restaurant then rolling into a dinner of sole with caviar — and more wine — under the gold-painted ceiling of Le Royal.

**Details** B&B doubles from €537 (royalchampagne.com). Take the train to Epernay

### Château de Besseuil

Burgundy, France

#### For fun with the children

Here's a rarity — a bargain château right in the heart of Burgundy. It is also — unlike many classic vineyard hotels — openly welcoming of children, featuring multiple family suites with private ►



Barrels at Masseria Amastuola, Puglia