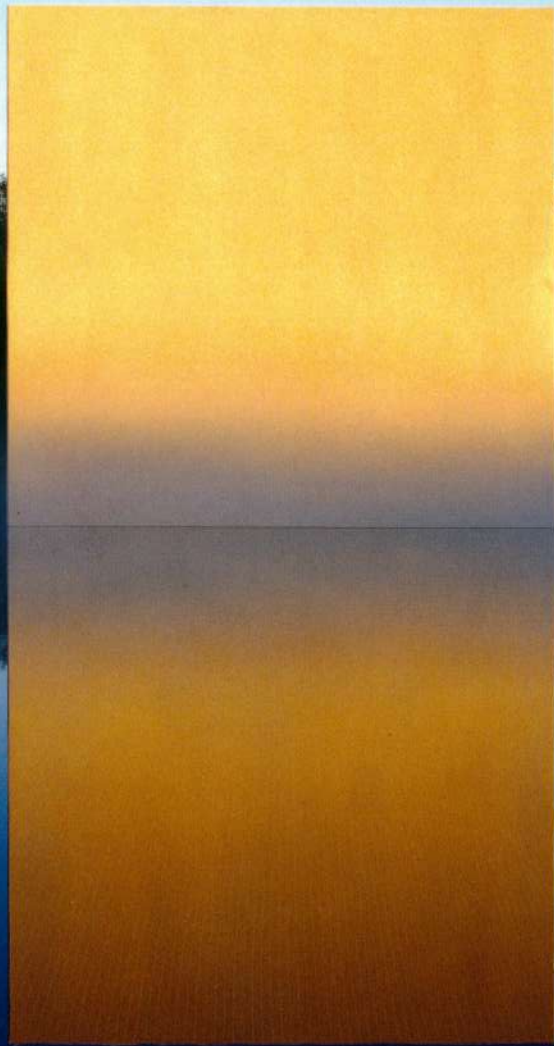


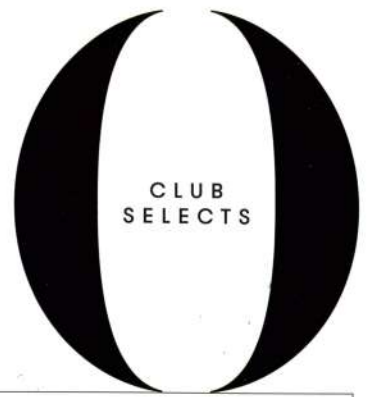
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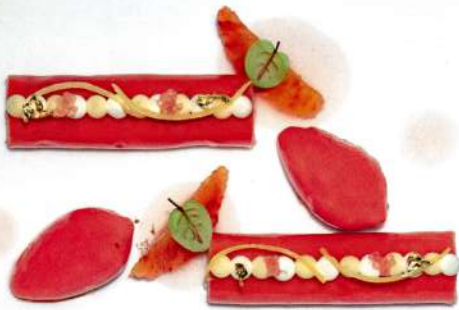
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The openings

UNMISSABLE EVENTS AND OPENINGS IN PROVENCE,
MILAN AND CHAMPAGNE



ROYAL CHAMPAGNE HOTEL

When the Royal Champagne Hotel & Spa opened in the heart of Epernay last summer, visitors to the region finally had a five-star base. Arguably Champagne's first contemporary luxury hotel, the property boasts a 16,000-sq-ft, supremely well-appointed spa, similarly expansive pool and terrace, and destination restaurant (awarded a Michelin star within six months).

That culinary experience has now been expanded to take in not just the produce but the location of the area's most famous export. The Royal's signature five-course menu will now 'tour' local Champagne houses, where it will be served alongside cuvées from that month's chosen house. Guests will savour such dishes as crab with kaffir lime, turbot with seaweed butter and seasonal vegetables, and a reimagined mandarin baba with lemon sorbet and rosé Champagne strawberry sorbet (pictured above), all served with cuvées selected to complement the flavours.

The first two houses chosen to launch the initiative this summer are Maison Charles Heidsieck and Champagne Deutz.

Rooms from €485 per night
royalchampagne.com



GRAND HÔTEL DU CAP-FERRAT

It's been the epitome of Mediterranean chic for more than a century, occupying a palatial perch on the Côte d'Azur and welcoming everyone from Winston Churchill to Elizabeth Taylor. Now the Grand Hôtel du Cap-Ferrat is branching out from its ocean vistas to take in the Provence vineyards that lie within easy striking distance to the north – if you have the right transport, that is.

Throughout the summer, guests will be able to fly by helicopter from the Four Seasons property for a private visit to Château de Selle, one of three estates within the bosom of the storied, Louis Roederer-owned Provençal producer Domaines Ott. There, expect to enjoy a tasting and tour – and if the time is right, to lend a quick hand with the harvest – before settling down to a picnic prepared by the hotel's Michelin-starred chef, Yoric Tièche. The only downside? You'll have to slum it on the return journey, swapping the chopper for a chauffeur-driven Mercedes – but at least you'll have one of Château de Selle's limited-edition red or rosé cuvées to hand.

Rooms from €580 per night
fourseasons.com/capferrat

BACCARAT

When you're a 250-year-old crystal house steeped in the design and creation of intricate stemware, it makes sense that you should have a place to enjoy a glass or two. After the debut of the Baccarat Bar & Lounge at its hotel in New York, which has become something of a go-to spot for Manhattan socialites, French cristallerie Baccarat has opened a BBar & Lounge in Milan, marked out by a signature red chandelier above its entrance.

As you might expect, the interiors of the 2,000-sq-ft space – in a secluded courtyard adjacent to the Baccarat boutique on the chic Via Montenapoleone – are no less sumptuous, with Baccarat tableware, velvet upholstery and a backdrop of muted frescoes by artist Alexandre-Benjamin Navet. The Art de la Table menu spans breakfast, lunch and tea, and aperitifs and cocktails are available.

The bar's opening was held during Milan's annual Design Week to coincide with the launch of the brand's first complete home furniture collection.

uk.baccarat.com/en/boutique-milan-baccarat

