

# Perfect Summer

*Ten surefire hits, from market trawling in Palermo to wreck diving off Malta*

## 1. Sun, surf and fireworks

We all know about the French Riviera, but more of us would do well to follow in the wake of surfers, Coco Chanel and Winston Churchill and discover the delights of France's southernmost Atlantic coast. Biarritz used to be a jet-set town – a Saint-Tropez before Saint-Tropez became Saint-Tropez. It is still a city for aging millionaires and their families, but to a lesser extent since board-riding bohemians started muddying the waters and that makes for an interesting mix of characters. If the weather plays ball, the Côte des Basques is a must for its fine sand and sparkling turquoise water. Just south of town is Hendaye, where Churchill recuperated after the Second World War. It doesn't have the same pull as Biarritz, being neither as flamboyant nor bohemian, but the hotels are cheaper and its sandy beaches seemingly go on forever.

KLAS EKMAN

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DANIEL MÅNSSON