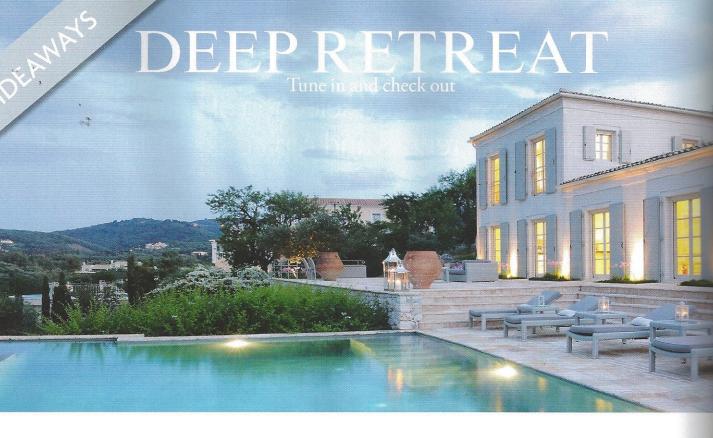


Wouldn't it be completely awesome if somebody just whipped together a list of the prettiest, loveliest, smartest, coolest houses to rent, all over the world? From the ones you need at your fingertips right now (the British weekender cottages and the villas in the Med) to the ones you don't even know you want yet, but you will (a little Goan colonial number or a Canadian heli-skiing whopper). So here it is. Ta-dah! The most unbelievably helpful feature you will read this month – in fact, probably this year. These are the crash pads that will actually make your holiday feel like a holiday. Please cut it out and keep it, every page. Pin it to the fridge. Staple it to your son's forehead. Tattoo it up your arm. Hiring a house can be a gamble, so we've taken away the risk and tried the very best, you lucky, lucky people...

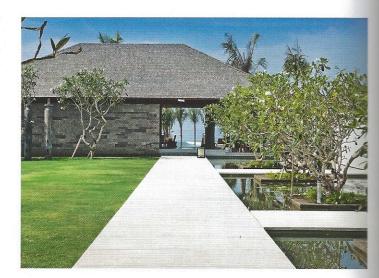


## AGRANGE

## RANSCHHOEK, SOUTH AFRICA

You can drink yourself silly in Franschhoek – there's more wine han you can shake a stick at and vineyards aplenty. But it's errifically pretty too, so do try to keep the wheels on. Just a few blocks away from the restaurant-filled main street sits three-bedroomed La Grange, a deliciously cute villa overlooking a blum orchard and fields of those ever-present grape vines. There's a pool surrounded by clipped lime-green grass, and terraces for unny breakfasts and early-evening sundowners. Double beds are turned down at night and sunbeds are turned down in the morning – what joy. And another perk is Luke, all the way from Norfolk, who can turn up at the drop of a hat to cook you supper. Sieeps Six Book it Africa Travel offers seven nights from £8,680 (africatravel.co.uk or 020 7843 3587).





## JIVA PURI

## BALI, INDONESIA

A fantastically zen place to stay, Jiva Puri is designed for downtime, for unwinding, for not having to bother to lift a finger. The staff, all 16 of them, are local and utterly delightful, and will bend over backwards to keep you horizontal. The most taxing assignment of the day is to choose between basking in the sun or cycling through the paddy fields. You see, it's that relaxing. The house is made up of five sleek bedroom pavilions and a vast open-sided bale, all facing out to the Indian Ocean. There are lotus ponds galore, walled gardens, beds full of herbs for the kitchen and great draping frangipani trees. Architecturally, it's all about scale - everything is tall and wide and deep, to compete with that phenomenal view. The sofa could seat giants, the dining table could host a banquet (the chef, Lowther, whips up an insanely good seafood salad with lemongrass and shallot dressing, followed by creamy black-rice pudding) and the pool is 30 metres long for serious laps. Sleeps 10 Book it Cleveland Collection offers seven nights from £26,000 (clevelandcollection.co.uk or 020 7843 3531).