

THE BEST IN INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AND DECORATION

# HOUSE & GARDEN®

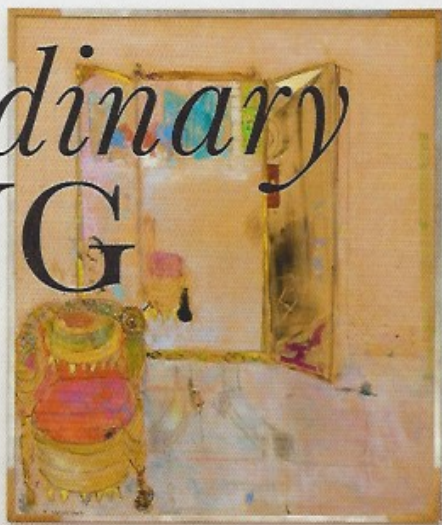
April  
2015  
£4.20

## *Extraordinary* LIVING

FROM HOUSES WITH  
INTRIGUING  
HISTORIES TO BOLD  
ARCHITECTURAL  
STATEMENTS

29

BRILLIANT  
STORAGE  
SOLUTIONS



**BUYING THE BEST**  
HOW TO PICK THE PERFECT SOFA  
MODERN TABLEWARE  
THE NEW FABRIC COLLECTIONS



DUBROVNIK • SUFFOLK • GREEK ISLANDS



**F**lims has a lot to offer. This picturesque town in the Swiss canton of Graubünden boasts a reputation as one of the most snow-sure places in the Alps during winter and is home to a vast array of outdoor activities in summer, all set against a year-round backdrop of Alpine vistas. Family ski specialist Powder Byrne has added a new string to its bow in the form of its Mountain Academy summer programme; a five-day, adrenaline-fuelled course for children aged eight and over. While energetic youngsters enjoy swinging along a forest high-ropes course, downhill mountain scooter riding and white-water rafting, parents can explore the clear-water lakes and surrounding woodland or relax in one of the spas. *Prices start from £1,146pp sharing a self-catered luxury apartment for a seven-night stay. The PB Mountain Academy runs during selected dates in August and costs £500 per child. [www.powderbyrne.com](http://www.powderbyrne.com)*

## FAMILY TRAVEL

Combining child-friendly hotels, inspiring kids' clubs and outdoor activities worldwide, this dedicated section features innovative ideas for families



## • THE FAMILY LINE •

The scenic landscape and rich cultural heritage of Dubrovnik provide a bounty of activities for a family of three generations

Set against the azure of the Adriatic Sea, amongst rocky coves and pine-fringed beaches, the UNESCO World Heritage Site listed Old Town of Dubrovnik is a beguiling place. Imbued with a rich and varied history, the town anchors the bustling tourist industry of modern-day Croatia, with visitors flocking during summer months to walk the two-kilometre length of the city walls, swim in the clear, blue water and sample regional delicacies, including tasty local wine.

Just 11 kilometres outside the city sits Sun Gardens, a 54-acre destination resort on the Dubrovnik Riviera. It's big – with 201 rooms and 207 residences in the five-star Radisson Blu Resort & Spa – and is set amid mature gardens of olive, pine and citrus trees and oleander bushes. From a central promenade that links the hotel with the residences, and boasts panoramic views of the Adriatic and Elafiti islands, guests can access most of the resort's extensive facilities. The Market features fresh food from around the world, including Asian, American and Arabic, while other family friendly facilities include a spa, three outdoor swimming pools (there is also an indoor pool in the spa), and a sports centre complete with a gym, tennis courts, squash courts, a climbing wall and a new Scott Dunn Explorers Children's Club.

I was confident that my 15-month-old daughter, Poppy, would enjoy her time at the Explorers Club, but what I hadn't anticipated was how much I, and my mother who was travelling with us, would appreciate it. The staff are qualified childcare experts and it shows. Poppy settled in quickly on her first day, entertained with toys and tempted by a plate of Fiona Faulkner-devised food. Peeking in from outside, I was initially miffed that I had been replaced so quickly by a plate of spaghetti 'squashanaise', but I consoled myself with an afternoon in the spa. Regular texts from her primary carer kept any niggling anxieties



ABOVE FROM LEFT Old Town of Dubrovnik. The view from the residences at Sun Gardens (top). Children at the Explorers Club (bottom). A Deluxe Room. INSET Poppy and Louisa

**GETTING THERE**  
Scott Dunn (020-8682 5040; [www.scottdunn.com](http://www.scottdunn.com)) offers seven nights, B&B, in a two-bedroom, sea-view residence from £1,460pp, including flights and transfers. Six days at the Explorers Club (the club is closed on Saturdays) is priced at £300 for children aged two or under, and £252 for children aged three and over.

at bay and the hours passed in a happy blur of swimming, snoozing and slurping on freshly squeezed juices.

With Poppy happily enrolled in the Globetrotters programme (suitable for children from four months to two years of age), my mother and I were able to explore the hotel and its surrounding area. I will forever cherish the image of mum laughing joyously as our speedboat driver whizzed us over to the idyllic island of Šipan for lunch at Hotel Šipan – well worth a visit. I loved listening to stories of her adventures, backpacking around Europe with my aunt in the Seventies, while we enjoyed a guided tour of the Old Town. Poring over intricate lace souvenirs, sipping cups of coffee and people watching felt particularly spoiling after months of sleepless nights endured since my daughter arrived. Every day we returned from our adventures excited about reuniting with Poppy to enjoy a sunset stroll or a visit to the playground. At the end of our stay we were presented with a diary – including photographs and drawings – of Poppy's time in Dubrovnik. Combine this with the pictures we took of our days exploring and the result is a treasured family album of happy memories.

### SMART SWIMWEAR

Stylish and practical, Sunuva's extensive range of sun-protective swimwear is a must for beach-bound young travellers. Sunuva has been awarded the British Skin Foundation's stamp of approval, a first for any children's swimwear brand. Made from UPF 50+ fabric, products block out more than 97 per cent of the sun's harmful rays. **Pictured** 'Girl's Sunglasses Rash Vest', from £39. [www.sunuva.com](http://www.sunuva.com).

