

THE SUNDAY TIMES  
**travel**  
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# The Value For Money Awards

They're here – the VFMs 2012! From affordable airlines to budget cities, keenly priced hotels to accessible spas, join us in celebrating the best bangs for your buck worldwide



## BEST-VALUE EUROPEAN RURAL HOTEL

### Winner: **Hostal Sa Rascassa, Begur, Spain**

Runner-up: **Château de la Volonière, Loire Valley, France**  
Runner-up: **Old Phoenix, Finikas, Crete**

Spain's **Hostal Sa Rascassa** (00 34 972 622845, www.hostalsaras.cassa.com; doubles from €75, B&B) 'hides in a pine grove on a tiny cove in the most beautiful corner of the Costa Brava'; with its open-air restaurant, it's 'a stylish secret treasure'. In France, **Château de la Volonière** (00 33 2 4379 6816, http://chateaudelavoloniere.free.fr;

doubles from €58, B&B) is 'a Medieval abbey in the Loire Valley run by the charming Claude Becquelin, who welcomes each guest like an old friend'. It's 'a mythical and magical place, ideal for families'. Speaking of myths, remember when you could stay in a seaside taverna for under €30 a night? Crete's **Old Phoenix** (above; 00 30 282 509 1257, www.old-phoenix.com; doubles from €29, room only) is that place – 'with its own beach just steps from your room, a lovely restaurant and starry skies at night'.

(A general hotel swipe: beware the great European breakfast-buffet trap – all you want is toast and coffee, but when you ask the

waiter, he tells you to help yourself to it at the buffet. At check-out, you discover you were being charged €20pp per day for €2 worth of food.)

## BEST OF THE REST

At Germany's **Schlosshotel Münchhausen** (00 49 5 154 70600, www.schlosshotel-muenchhausen.com; doubles from €116, room only), you can 'live like a deluded baron at bourgeois prices'. Ibiza's **Can Gall** (00 34 971 337031, www.agrocangall.com; doubles from €157, B&B) 'isn't cheap, but it's so much better value than the island's über-trendy hotels', and features 'random servings of tapas delivered by owner Santi'. For an

Asian-style retreat at Euro-break prices, **Dionysos Estate** (020 8605 3500, www.exclusivescapes.co.uk; doubles from €600pp a week, B&B, including flights) on Turkey's Bozburun Peninsula is, quite simply, a steal. Expect an 'Aman resorts-worthy location', a private beach and organic cuisine.



**We love:** 'The Polish coast from Kolobrzeg east towards Leba: it's astonishingly beautiful, with white sands, a buzzy beach culture and superb-value hotels.'



**We hate:** 'Hotels that still charge for wi-fi. They should be ashamed of themselves. It's like charging for hot water.'