



**WOOLLY THINKING**  
HRH The Prince of Wales on a fabric fit for a Windsor

**MELLOW FRUITFULNESS**  
Rose Prince's tastes of autumn

**STARMAKER**  
The theatre that taught Daniel Craig how to act

# THE BODY AT 52

Elle Macpherson – the supermodel with staying power

# Three of the best

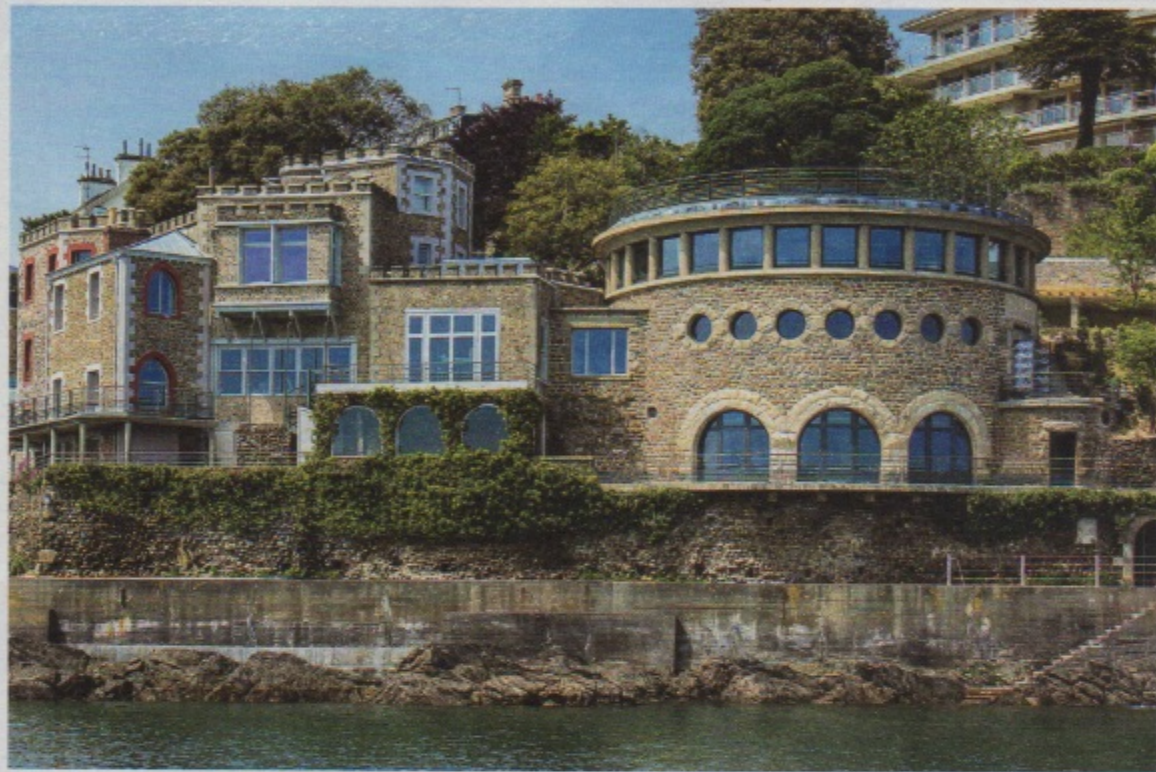
Francesca Syz visits Brittany for a breath of sea air, à la Française

**D**inard, in Brittany, has a very British feel. Littered with belle-époque villas built by rich English people in the 19th century, it has its British Film Festival and a statue of Alfred Hitchcock on the beach. But the place is still gloriously French.

Within an hour of checking into Castelbrac, a 25-room waterfront hotel in one such villa, we are hopping aboard its motorboat for sundowners in the bay. We kick off our shoes to sip champagne and tuck into great hunks of bread and duck paté. Back at Castelbrac, which is like a tastefully grand seaside home with quirky vintage touches and aquatic motifs, few rooms are alike. This is because the 'villa' is three different buildings, teetering above the lovely Clair de Lune promenade.

Built by an Englishman, William Faber, in 1872, with castellations and Arts and Crafts features added later, the villa was further extended in the 1930s when it became a marine research centre and aquarium. The last scientist left in 2002, and a young entrepreneur with a passion for the town seized the opportunity to turn it into a hotel.

Our room's terrace looks out over the sailboats in Rance Estuary to the ramparts of St Malo, a 15-minute ferry ride away. In the intimate restaurant, Le Pourquoi Pas, we tuck into dishes made from the freshest Breton



**Castelbrac Dinard**  
Superior Doubles from  
£258 (00332 99 803000;  
castelbrac.com).

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ingredients. I start with spider crab in green-pea gazpacho, followed by the most delicious caper-seasoned blue lobster; my husband has delicate slices of raw seabass, then pork cooked three ways. We're both obsessed with the butter – two types, one salted, one infused with lemon and olive oil – served with fresh local bread. Next door in the round-windowed bar, once the aquarium, the martinis are shaken with aplomb.

We bob for hours in a long, slim outdoor lap pool carved into the

cliff. Occasionally we leave the hotel for a stroll through the pretty town, to watch people playing boules on the beach or to hop on the ferry for St Malo. We also hit Dinard's Tuesday market, where locals pick up everything from baguettes to bedspreads.

There's a quiet terrace at the hotel for less formal lunches, an experience we save for our last day. Over a bottle of chilled local white, we opt for succulent entrecôte and fish and chips – a fittingly Franglais combination.

## Château de Penprat

Finistère

Set within 250 acres of forested parkland on the Odet Estuary, 10 minutes from the sea, this B&B in southern Brittany was built in 1859 as a hunting lodge. Today it is owned by the utterly delightful Barbora Kairyte and Patrick Viossat, who run it as an elegantly vintage guest house. Expect delicious home-made breakfasts served in the dining room or garden, four-course dinners between October and May, and swimming in the river. You're also close to medieval Quimper. Doubles from about £82 (penprat.fr).



## Le Lodge Kerisper

La Trinité-sur-Mer

Built as a farmhouse in the 19th century, this family-friendly whitewashed hotel in the seaside town of La Trinité-sur-Mer has 20 rooms and a distinctly beachy feel. While there's no restaurant, there is a dining area where you can enjoy the most amazing breakfast buffet, a bar and a heated pool. There's also a library with board games, a wellness centre for massages and bikes for hire. Bistros and the beach are a short stroll away. Doubles from £99 (smithandfamily.co.uk).

