Where the Chic Vacation: A Guide to Three Fashionable Summer Destinations

Three fashion insiders share notes on their favorite late-summer getaways: where to stay, eat, shop, and, of course, what to pack.

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By DONNA BULSECO and LAUREN INGRAM
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Virginie Courtin-Clarin
Global Communications and Brand Development Director, Mugler

Destination: St. Tropez, France

Reason to go: Heading to this Riviera resort town is an annual event for the fashion executive. Some 30 years ago, her grandparents bought the family house where she and husband, Ludovic Cesari, stay. “It’s where I learned to swim,” she said.

Where to stay: The
charming Le Manoir (from $200 a night; hotel-lemanoirporterces.com) sits in the middle of the Port-Cros nature and marine preserve (3). “We go by boat and have lunch,” she said. Order salade Niçoise on the ocean-view terrace, and don’t be surprised by the wild life: “There are donkeys!”

What to do: Along with swimming and snorkeling, Ms. Courtin-Clarins plays tennis every morning and takes a steam in their at-home hammam late in the day. She plans to read a biography of Louis XIV (her favorite is Max Gallo’s “The Sun King”).

Where to eat: On a hidden side street in town, sample Thai and Vietnamese dishes at the popular Le BanH-Hoi (banh-hoi.com)

Where to shop: Rondini, the only-in-St. Tropez boutique that sells les tropéziennes sandals (rondini.fr).

Beth Bugdaycay
Creative Director & Co-founder, Foundrae

Destination: Charleston, S.C.

Reason to go: The jewelry designer loves American history, and this popular southern city "has so many stories to explore," she said. First up: going with her husband, Murat, son Gem, 12, and daughter, Ayla, 5, to see the French Huguenot Church.

Where to stay: They bed down at a house on Sullivan’s Island, taking the Water Taxi (charlestonwatertaxi.com) into town. Recommended: the two-bedroom homes at the Cottages on Charleston Harbor (from $459 a night; thecottagesoncharlestonharbor.com).
**What to do:** The Magnolia Plantation and Gardens (magnoliaplantation.com) may be set in a lush landscape, but the slave cabins are a sobering reminder of what went before.

**Where to eat:** Sample “high-end Southern” at restaurants like Husk (huskrestaurant.com)—try the Shrimp and Edisto Grits (2)—and Hominy Grill (hominygrill.com). On Sullivan’s Island, Ms. Budgacay hits the Obstinate Daughter to pick up lunch for the beach (theobstinatedaughter.com).

**Where to shop:** She finds inspiration at Curiosity (2) (curiosityvintage.myshopify.com) and Croghan’s Jewel Box (croghansjewelbox.com).

**What to pack:** Inside her Rimowa: a Norma Kamali swimsuit (4) ($150, normakamali.com); a Fontana Milano tote (5) ($4,100, barneys.com); a Casey Casey shirtdres (1) ($1,030, farfetch.com) and her own jewelry (6) ($2,730, and $2,650, foundrae.com).

Chad Buri  
**Co-founder and COO, Sleepy Jones**

**Destination:** Del Mar, Calif.

**Reason to go:** For those old-soul California vibes and lazy days spent splashing in the Pacific Ocean. “Del Mar (2) is a nice spot to slow down and reconnect with family,” said Mr. Buri.

**Where to stay:** L’Auberge Del Mar (from $334 a night, laubergedelmar.com) was once a retreat for Old Hollywood stars, like Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz. (It was called Hotel del Mar then.) The since-renovated resort sits right in the heart of the town’s beachside community.

**What to do:** Stop by the Del Mar Racetrack (2) to see the weekend horse races. Mr. Buri recommends bringing the family early to watch the pre-race workouts while enjoying breakfast at the club (dmtec.com).
Where to eat: Roberto's, a roadside taco shop for fish tacos served with a view (robertos-sd.com).

Where to shop: Even if you don’t surf, drop into the nearly 50-year-old Mitch’s Surf Shop to check out the cool boards, caps and tees. And be sure to go inland for the “incredible sweet corn and tomatoes” at Chino Farm.

What to wear: Pack light with the North Face’s backpack duffel (4) ($135, thenorthface.com). For long days at the beach, Mr. Buri wears Birdwell boardshorts (3) ($79, birdwell.com) and, for “shirts and shoes required” locales, he throws on Sleepy Jones’ cotton tees (2) ($48, sleepyjones.com).