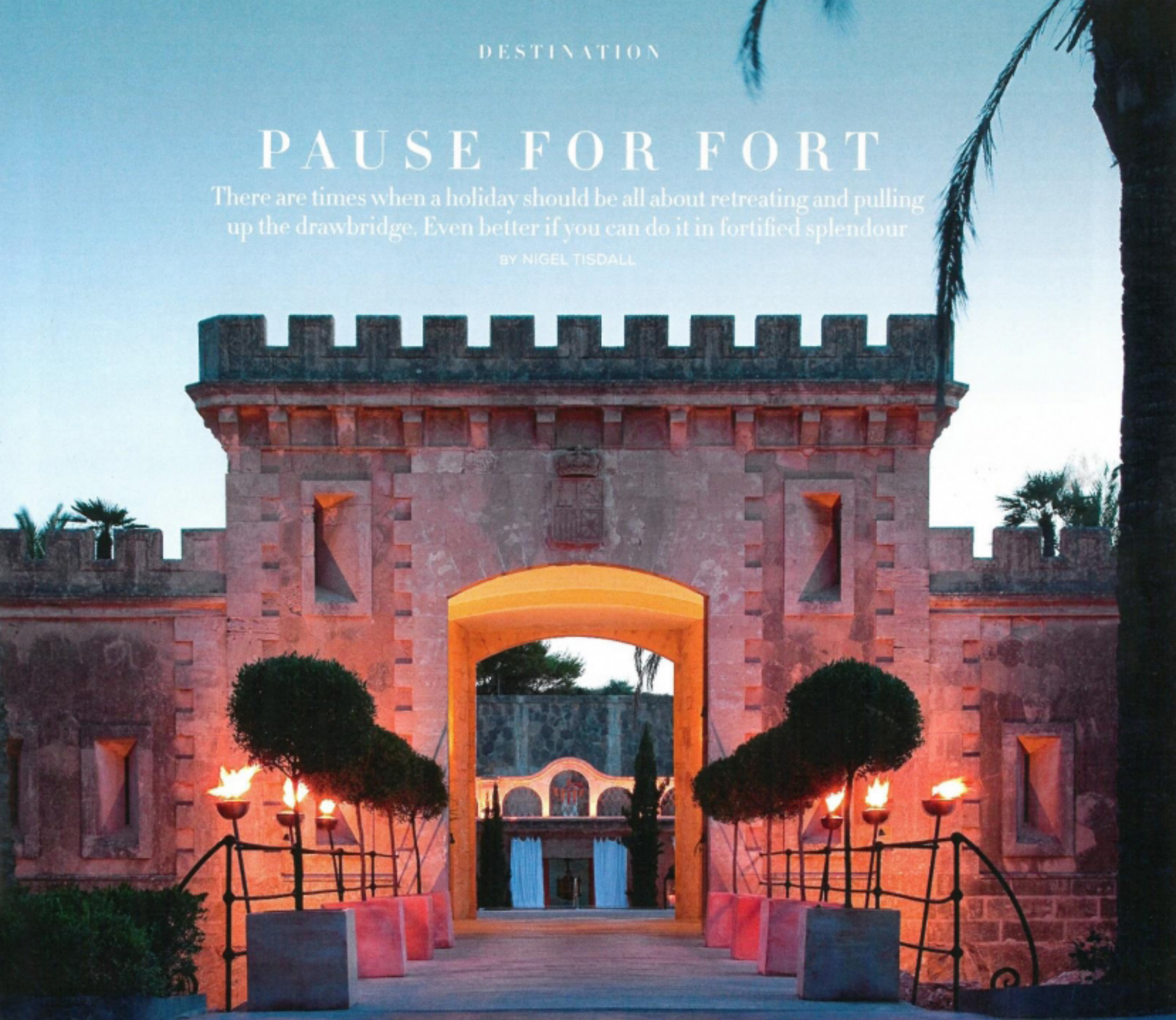


PAUSE FOR FORT

There are times when a holiday should be all about retreating and pulling up the drawbridge. Even better if you can do it in fortified splendour

BY NIGEL TISDALL



CAP ROCAT *Mallorca, Spain*

The military is adept at nabbing prime locations, and this cliff-top fortress is no exception. Dating from 1898, Cap Rocat – now a child-free hideaway hotel created by local designer-to-the-stars Antonio Obrador – faces west over the yacht-studded Bay of Palma. Thankfully, there's no sunrise "Reveille" to awaken guests, but the hotel's past is recalled throughout: door handles are made from bullets; the 25 suites are deftly inserted into former arsenals; gun emplacements have become restful rooftop patios with four-poster day beds; and an infinity pool nestles in the ramparts. Cap Rocat guests enjoy a small private beach, a spa cabana

and two restaurants – including the chic Sea Club, which serves flambéd Mallorcan prawns under the stars. In summer 2015, three new suites, the Sentinels, opened in former surveillance caves; all have a pool, tiered terrace, tremendous views and utter privacy. If you're prepared to stick your head above the parapet, you can cycle into Palma using the hotel's complimentary bikes. Alternatively, a classic 1960s Austin Healey can be rented for a day's touring in the Serra de Tramuntana. **From €900 per night for the Sentinels suites and €450 per night for a double room, two sharing on a B&B basis; caprocat.com** ►