



7



8



9

[7] **TOUR ST THERESE, FRANCE** Step back in time as you enter this 14th-century tower, part of a medieval house in the heart of a rural village in the Charente region. Surrounded by wooded valleys and beautiful countryside, this romantic retreat makes an ideal base for peaceful walks, exploring the beautiful scenery and nearby villages with a charming soundtrack of cuckoos, frogs and owls. It has two bedrooms and a generous living area downstairs with a roaring fire, perfect for relaxing over a bottle of local wine. From £738 a week. oliverstravels.com

[8] **MASSERIA COSTANZA, ITALY** This painstakingly restored farmhouse set among lemon groves in the south of Sicily is an enchanting setting for a tranquil holiday steeped in history. Original features are complemented by subtle furnishings which leave the focus on views out to the sea, groves and lawned gardens in each direction. With several alfresco sitting areas dotted around the gardens and by the pool, there are plenty of spots to claim your own as you while away the afternoon. From £10,414 a week, sleeping 14. thethinkingtraveller.com

[9] **VINELLA ESTATE, CROATIA** This lovingly restored 15th-century farmhouse on a large private estate in Istria provides a characterful base from which to enjoy one of Croatia's most delightful regions. The main house has four ensuite bedrooms and there is a separate studio, with interiors featuring antique oak beams and reclaimed stone floors lending a warm country feel. From the large infinity pool, enjoy uninterrupted views to the forested Mirna Valley and the medieval hilltop town of Motovun nearby. From €5,500 a week. scottwilliams.co.uk