## Weekend Travel



## The ceád míle fáilte goes global

From a B&B in Naples to chic châteaus in France, Irish owners have spread their wings to open some amazing places to stay overseas.
Jillian Bolger has 20 of the best...

Château Capitoul, Narbonne, France
With three magnificent châteaus across the South of France,
Dubliners Anita and Karl O'Hanlon have created a chic and
cool hospitality brand underpinned by discrete luxury. Château
Capitoul (above) is the third in the collection, a historic wine estate
on the Massif de la Clape, minutes from the Mediterranean. The
original neo-Gothic château offers eight glamorous bedrooms, or
guests can stay in one of the 44 luxury villas in the hamlet on the
estate. Add in a swanky spa, two excellent restaurants, pools with
a view, great wines and vistas across the Languedoc and you've got
one idyllic, family-friendly hideaway. €€€€; chateaucapitoul.com

Priorat Aparthotel, Sitges, Spain

John and Joan Gallagher moved with their family from Boyle in Co Roscommon to Sitges in 2001. Twenty years on, they opened Priorat Aparthotel in Falset after four years of renovations (not to mention a pandemic). A boutique hotel with five studios and a penthouse, contemporary Irish and Spanish art hangs on the walls. It's popular with walkers and wine lovers, and Falset is the capital of the Priorat wine region, one of only two DOQ — designated wine regions — in Spain where majestic cliffs meet steep hillsides. The Gallaghers are keen walkers and produced their first vintage last year from their recently recovered abandoned vineyard. Producing 3,000 -bottles, they planted 8,000 new vines, and the newly renovated masia (country house) on the estate will be ready for holiday rental this summer. €€; priorataparthotel.com

Brooks Guesthouse, Bristol, England

'People like to glamp in an urban setting!' So says Dubliner
Carla Brook, who opened two UK properties after moving from Ireland during the recession of 2007 and 2008. Brooks
Guesthouse Bristol was originally a pub that was badly bombed
in World War II. Rebuilt as offices and then as a hostel, she took
over the derelict building in 2010, carrying out a six-month renovation. A smart guesthouse, and sister property to Brooks Guesthouse in Bath, her most popular Bristol rooms are on the roof.
Here, four sleek, aluminium Rocket caravans are kitted out as
unusual guest rooms (hence the glamping). 'We are popular with
Irish guests too, who we love having [to stay], especially during
Cheltenham and for football and rugby matches,' Brook says. €€€;
brooksguesthousebristol.com

The Condor, Loury, France
This Irish-owned 300-acre estate features a restored 17th-century château and 18-hole golf course. Available for exclusive hire only, it can accommodate up to 18 guests across nine bedrooms, while a second château, Chesnaye, has a further II bedrooms that can be used as overflow accommodation. Along with Irish CEO Niall Carroll, a full-time team of 22 includes Donegal executive chef Gary O'Hanlon, a butler, concierge and security team. Manicured gardens and a championship-stand-ard golf course are matched by multiple dining and bar areas, an indoor swimming pool, gym, spa facilities, bikes and a padel tennis court. EEEEE; the-condor.com