



Imaret

Kavala, Greece

Discovery
of the year

Grand and elegant, Imaret is a hotel but feels like a stage show. Originally a pilgrims' hostel, it was built in 1817 by Mohamed Ali Pasha, the sultan's viceroy. Anna Missirian, more curator than hotelier, has spent seven years rescuing the ruins. The restoration is spectacular: east meets west in dramatic style with long, vaulted passages, stone walls and citrus-scented courtyards. Rooms have domed ceilings; the suites have big baths. Strawberries arrive on a silver platter. Get scrubbed in the hammam by a gorgeous man in a loincloth. **Website** imaret.gr. **UK reservations** Your Greece (tel: 00 30 210 664 0077). Fly with Olympic (tel: 0870 6060 460). **Rates** Double, from £150.



The Inn at Palmetto Bluff

South Carolina, USA

If you want old-fashioned Deep South romance, this is Southern hospitality at its finest. After a 10-minute drive off the beaten track, down a grove of oak trees dripping with Spanish moss, you arrive at the Inn. Rooms are set in whitewashed clapboard cottages. In summer there are whirring ceiling fans and screened porches overlooking the marshy wetlands of the May River; in winter it's steam showers and roaring log fires. There's a spa with a *Gone with the Wind* staircase and balconies with rolltop baths filled with oils scented with lemon and jasmine. The entertainment – from a trip to the local gospel churches to a fix of voodoo folklore in nearby Savannah – will suit all tastes. A hideaway with good pedigree. **Tel** 001 843 706 6500. **Website** palmettobluffresort.com. **Rates** Double, from £242.

Inn of the Anasazi

Santa Fe, USA

Santa Fe is New Age groovy but indulgent. This inn is just inches from the historic downtown, the only place to be. Crazy-comfy rooms have fireplaces and big beds. The cultural mix down



here (native American, Hispanic and Anglo) is fab and the inn reflects it. Huge, hand-carved doors, sandstone walls and an inside waterfall reflect the extraordinary Anasazi cliff dwellings at nearby Bandelier. The service here is exemplary and the food – in a region famous for it – is truly innovative: Navajo flatbread and steak dusted with chilli and cinnamon. **Tel** 001 505 988 3030. **Website** innofttheanasazi.com. Fly British Airways (tel: 0870 850 9850). **Rates** Double, from £112.

Islington Hotel

Hobart, Tasmania

Sydneysiders say Australia's southernmost state has become to Sydney what Napa is to San Francisco. And Hobart is having a hotel moment. No trash – just arse-kickingly cool places like the Islington. A Regency house with views of Mount Wellington, it has 11 bedrooms, giant tubs and a library with a collection of heirloom books. Add some 21st-century zip (a soaring glass conservatory) and the house morphs into Tasmania's most devilishly smart hotel. Time to check out those long-nosed Potoroos and wombats. **Website** islingtonhotel.com. **UK reservations** Abercrombie & Kent (tel: 0845 070 0615). **Rates** Double, from £202, including breakfast. □