

The Telegraph

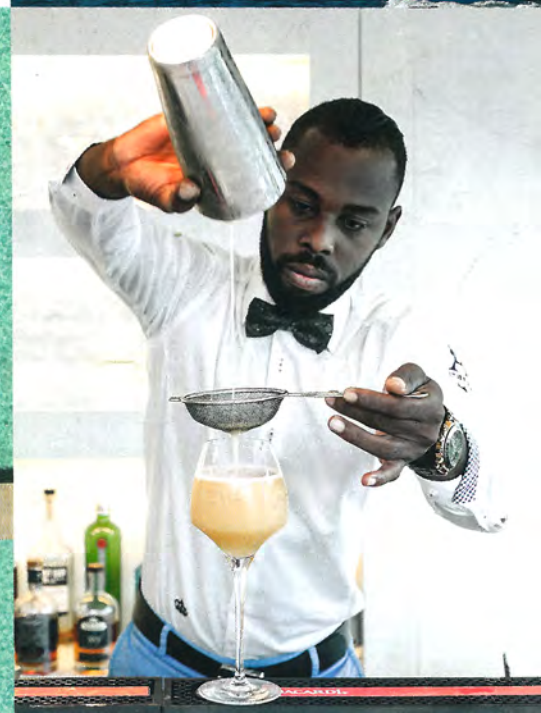
# ultratravel



SPECIAL ISSUE

## OUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S HOT IN 2017

From luxury lodges and beautiful beaches to sybaritic spas and splendid castles, we reveal the most fabulous places to visit next year





### THE ITALIAN CASTLE

#### **Castello di Ugento, Puglia**

There are few buildings in Europe in which guests can stay above a Norman keep, dine beneath 17th-century Baroque frescoes and wander around a garden in which Bronze Age artefacts have been found. In April, on the southern heel of Italy, the (rather wonderfully named) d'Amore family will open their restored thousand-year-old **Castello di Ugento** to paying guests for the first time. Visitors can relax within walled gardens, in which more than 100 medicinal and aromatic plants are grown for the kitchen and spa; admire the frescoes painted in 1694 to portray the noble family's history; sample local wines in an ancient cistern-turned-cellar; and take cookery lessons in a wing turned by the Culinary Institute of America into its first European school. A maximum of 18 guests will sleep in stone-walled rooms with high, star-vaulted ceilings and views over Ugento's rooftops, and they will feast on Puglian favourites cooked by Milanese chef Odette Fada, whose refined cuisine at the renowned Rex Il Ristorante in Los Angeles and San Domenico NY made her name as one of America's finest Italian chefs. The nearest beaches are two miles away and Baroque towns such as Lecce are a short drive from the castle.

*Doubles from £260; [castellodiugento.com](http://castellodiugento.com)*

