



BIARRITZ

This seaside resort has long been the jet set's summer playground. There's plenty to enjoy even if you don't have much time.

the path of Rocher de la Vierge and

view the sea, the surfers and the Franco-Spanish coastline.

in the best Biarotte ice

cream at Jerome. Don't miss the Neige du Sahara-lime, ginger and orange (8, avenue de Verdun).

the Musée de la Mer and marvel at the fish, sharks and seals (Esplanade du Rocher de la Vierge).

DESIGN

your own Basque espadrilles at

Les Sandales d'Eugenie, a family-run business since 1935 (18, rue Mazagran).

cocktails at the Bar Imperial of the Hotel du Palais, built by Napoleon III for his wife, Eugenie, in 1855. A favorite hangout of Charlie Chaplin and Hemingway (1, avenue de l'impératrice).

-AMBER HAQ

Bottom's up:

bathes skin with

Aqua Dessa

antioxidants



ELEGANT: Chicago's Art Effect (above), Wendy Stevens handbag

cians and diplomats-including a Kennedy or two-who can't find their favorite European designers anywhere. Jaffe, originally from Finland, specializes in introducing up-and-comers-including Germans Rundholtz and Gesine Moritz, and the Parisbased Japanese designer Ken Okada. Hot this season are Wendy Stevens handbags, creatively mixing metal and leather, retailing between \$200 and \$750.

Down a little side street in London's Knightsbridge neighborhood, Egg blends art and fashion. Dresses and

trousers by Italian Daniela Gregis (under the label OK*AM) hang on the walls like paintings. Her cotton Coulisse skirt sells for £480, and her knitted jumpers in red, white and blue are £450.

Rome's sophisticated Irene Versace boutique-no relation to that other label-may be off the beaten path but is worth the schlep: it stocks billowy cashmere knits by Iranianborn, London-based Eskandar (starting at 680), dresses by the British design team of

Shirin Guild (starting at about €400) and American-based minimalist designer Zoran's sleek pieces.

In Prague, the Art and Fashion Gallery is a charming little surprise along the Ungelt Courtyard. The windows of this airy boutique will draw you in with their exquisite display of hand-dyed silk scarves, sumptuous jackets and distinctive Dalibor Nes-

nidal crystal and bronze sculptures (€280). But the fantastic selection of dresses, jumpers and objets d'art will keep you rummaging for more.

Once you're bitten by the boutique bug, you won't be able to stop.

Three more fab shops to check out on your travels: Chicago's elegant Art Effect (arteffectchicago.com), Melbourne's Vis-à-Vis (visavis boutique.com.au) and Prey in Bath (preyuk.com).



Bath Basics

products made with these novel ingredients:

bath syrup (\$48; www.nougatbodytohome.co.uk).

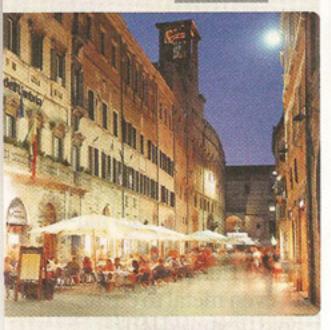
Relax With hints of help you sleep





Good Life

HOURS IN...



PERUGIA

Set in the green and tranquil heart of Italy, the capital of Umbria offers stunning landscapes, fine dining and a taste of la dolce vita. Don't miss out:

the Palazzo dei Priori, Perugia's finest example of Renaissance architecture, and admire the late-15th-century frescoes by Pietro Vannucci-a.k.a. Perugino.

savor a slice of the local specialty, torciglione—almond and honey cake shaped like a snake—at Pasticceria Sandri (www.pasticceriasandri.it)

the ancient streets of the centro, ending up in Via dei Priori at the Oratory of San Bernandino, an architectural and sculptural Renaissance jewel.

a glass of Sagrantino
di Montefalco while
admiring the sunset over the
Umbrian hills from Porta Sole,
the former site of a 14th-century
papal fortress.

-AMBER HAQ



bejeweled evening bags nest nicely around the wrist thanks to satin handles. The handmade bags are head-turning pieces that say, "I'm elegant, I'm original and I don't need to carry a wallet." The Lolita is shaped like a small turnip and accommodates rows of vibrant red feathers perfectly matched with red and gray beads and a gray satin handle. The Maharlika contrasts black feathers with opaque aquamarine drops, smoky quartz briolettes and turquoise beads for a bag with a slightly Turkish feel (from \$2,000; beavaldes.com).

With its woven leather and tortoiseshell-frame top featur-



Cash and carry: The Dior Samourai 1947 bag (left), Stevens's steel Polar Purse (center), Fendi's Shearling Shopping Chef bag

ing rings and serpents, Dior's Samourai 1947 woven frame bag, in fuchsia or green, is destined to become one of the "it" bags this fall. The bold color, elaborate woven pattern and distinct twisted knots on the shoulder strap demand attention, but politely. As an added attraction, it comes with a tiny Louis XVI picture frame hanging from one of the straps (\$4,000; neiman marcus.com).

For those who prefer ultrasoft textures, Fendi's Shearling Shopping Chef bag offers plenty of comfort. Made of ivory knit, it has long shearling details and an elegant dark brown leather trim. It will hit shops October, in time for winter (\$5,040; bergdorfgoodman.com).

For ultimate durability, opt for one of artist Wendy Stevens's handmade stainlesssteel bags. The semicircular Polar Purse with black leather panels has tiny perforated dots on the steel plates, creating a radiating pattern (\$645; guild.com). Her Penne and Rigatoni purses are named for their pastalike shapes, with red leather filling the sides like sauce (from \$320; guild.com). At least there's no worry about stains.

