

4 HOURS IN...



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.

CLIMB

the path of **Rocher de la Vierge** and view the sea, the surfers and the Franco-Spanish coastline.

INDULGE

in the best Biarrotte ice cream at **Jerome**. Don't miss the **Neige du Sahara**—lime, ginger and orange (8, avenue de Verdun).

VISIT

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).

SIP

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 HAO



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 Paris-based 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 Coulissee 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 Iranian-born, 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 Nesnidal 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 (visavisboutique.com.au) and Prey in Bath (preyuk.com).

BEAUTY

Bath Basics

To wash your cares away, soak in bath using products made with these novel ingredients:

Clay: For centuries, people ate clay to remove toxins from the body. Nougat found an easier recipe with its clay bath syrup (\$48; www.nougatbodytohome.co.uk).

Oil: The Moroccan cedarwood in Jo Wood Organics Usiku Bath Oil is liquid gold for insomniacs (\$125; www.jowoodorganics.com).

Wine: Your skin will relish the fruit of the vine with Aqua Dessa's cabernet Wine Bath (\$36; aquadessa.com).

—SANA BUTLER



Bottom's up: Aqua Dessa bathes skin with antioxidants



Relax With hints of cedarwood, Jo Wood Organics bath oil will help you sleep



4 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:

VISIT 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)

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

SIP 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; neimanmarcus.com).

For those who prefer ultra-soft 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 stainless-steel 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.

DREAM HOME



OLD MILL FARM, GREENWICH, CT
This 1,474-square-meter Tudor mansion on 31 hectares includes 15 bedrooms, 18 bathrooms and a 12-meter cathedral ceiling—plus a pool, pond and gardens with a maze (\$39.5 million; sothebyshomes.com).