



IL SAN PIETRO DI POSITANO

Amalfi, Italy

After 55 years, Il San Pietro remains one of the most intensely cinematic places to stay in the world. Just ask Dua Lipa and Callum Turner, who enjoyed a romantic sojourn here this year. And its views? There's nothing quite as heavenly, except perhaps its signature Sgroppino cocktail, a rhapsodic celebration of the lemons that grow along the coast here. This hotel takes your breath away, especially when you emerge into a bean field – the sky blue, the sun blazing – and walk down the 400 or so steps through cascading gardens to its spectacular waterside tennis courts. (If you're heading to the beach, you can take the lift from reception: carved into the rocks, it's an extraordinary engineering feat, and takes just 45 seconds.) Here, the hardsuit surface is the colour of the fibbed mist gelato that's served at the next-door beachside restaurant, Carlini. The whole place is like one long love letter to a rarefied world of old-school Italian hospitality. You see this in the finesse of the white-jacketed staff who serve margherita pizza from silver trays. Named after Saint Peter, whose key to the pearly gates of heaven features on the hotel logo (don't miss the chapel dedicated to him at the hotel entrance), this earthly paradise is all just too divine. Double from £720 ilсанпiетро.com.



Courty
LOVE

Not really. Rally round these ace establishments for a gentle hit, lesson or competitive game of tennis, padel or pickleball

Il San Pietro di Positano has the green grass of an ace hotel tennis court on the rocky outcrop of this gem.

Enter one for the beach of tennis balls among the pool of Vesuvius: beach balls at Hotel Cipriani, A Belmond Hotel



HOTEL CIPRIANI, A BELMOND HOTEL

Venice, Italy

Break points and Bellini, anyone? The red clay courts at the Cipriani are a stay-serve distance from the Venetian Lagoon, tucked away on the main that is Giudecca Island. This place might be famous for its A-list clientele – where else would you catch Lady Gaga having a pow-wow with Selma Hayek and the Clooney? – but the tennis courts are an hidden asset. Located in the Casanova Gardens, disturbed by nothing more than the sight of boats drifting past on the water, the courts offer both private games and practice sessions. Should your match turn out to be an epic warble of the film festival, there's a courtyard drinks and snacks service available, so you can indulge in the establishment's signature cocktail. Having just hosted guests for Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sanchez's wedding, the Cipriani is offering a new set of notes. American architect Peter Marino has redesigned the lobby, lending a modern flair to the "big glamour" of a hotel that was beloved by James Bond himself. Double from £1,483, including breakfast belmond.com.

Probably the best looking for tennis in the world: the red-clay courts at Sugar Beach, A Viceroy Resort

GLENEAGLES Perthshire, UK

Set in the rolling hills of Perthshire, The Glorious Plymouth – as it is widely known – is one of Britain's best loved, top-end destinations and now it's hit the ring with the addition of the Glorious Sporting Club. Already famous for its golf courses and outdoor opportunities – among them five tennis courts – there's now a lot more under cover. As well as another two courts for floodlit tennis, the club houses three new ones for padel, so if you fancy trying the latter in the Highlands, now might be the time to book a weekend and have a go. (While rackets manager Richard Watkins is on hand to take you through the more complex 'wall-to-wall' strokes, the vibe is fun and relaxed, with a playlist blaring and a selection of energy drinks to power you through.) After a strenuous workout, head to the spa for a massage or swim. Later, dinner in The Seraphines restaurant will be old-school love with a menu to match, while late-night cocktails in The American Bar are sure to be missed. All in all, a winning weekend with vintage games, set and match. Double from £650 including breakfast gleneagles.com.



Chamber and indoor tennis courts, plus three padel courts, make the resort for racket players of the new Glorious Sporting Club

SUGAR BEACH, A VICEROY RESORT

Soufriere, St Lucia

The Sugar Beach resort has it all: Insta-perfect, pastel-hued gingerbread architecture; breathtaking views over the Pitons, tropical rainforest, and white sandy beaches, where you can order an local rum cocktail topped by a paper umbrella to be delivered to your lounge while you look in the sun. There's a contemporary art collection to die for as well as a deeply luxurious on-site spa where you can treat yourself to a Tata Harper facial accompanied by a chorus of chirping frogs; a kids' club that will have the grown-ups wanting to sign up; and every water sport you could dream of. And if you're still looking for something to do, there's a mado when you can learn to make fine chocolate. The resort has now opened a tennis club, which boasts not only a traditional court but also another for padel – and not one but two for pickleball. Without doubt, it's one of the most beautiful spots in the world to play. Book the nine-bedroom Spice of Life Villa, a stone's throw from the action, and you'll have a charming buffer and chauffeur to ferry you about. Especially useful when you're sure not allow your daily game of tennis. Double from £650 viceroystlucia.com. £3

