

STAY

4 BEST LOVE NESTS



Ballynahinch Castle, Co Galway

Tucked away in Connemara, Ballynahinch is the perfect retreat for city slickers. Each room offers stunning views of the picturesque surroundings, while dining here provides its own magical experience. And for couples who play together to stay together: activities include fishing, clay-pigeon shooting and cycling, against the most tranquil of backdrops. B&B from €155pp. ballynahinch-castle.com



Regina Hotel, Paris

It's not a trip to the "City of Love" if you don't see the Eiffel Tower in all its glory, and the luxurious Regina offers views, without the queues, from the windows of its *magnifique* rooms. Nestled in the heart of Paris, it boasts a suitably swoony location for a romantic city break, being within walking distance of many of the city's splendours. Rooms from €231. leshotelsbaverez.com



Portrait Roma, Rome

If you're looking for an intimate getaway, then this 14-suite boutique bolthole should stir your loins in no time. With super-stylish suites, terrace breakfasts, guests-only rooftop bar and discreet service, you only have to leave to dine in the recommended nearby restaurants, cafés and bars around the Spanish Steps. Rooms from €432. portraitroma.com



40 Winks, London

This "micro boutique hotel" in hip Mile End is the delightful lovechild of the interior designer David Carter and a smorgasbord of influences, from Victoriana to Gothic to Italian Renaissance to right-now. It has only two guest rooms but, if whispering sweet nothings starts to get tiresome, go mingle at one of the townhouse's new "Supernatural" immersive theatre soirees. Rooms from £120. 40winks.org



ART

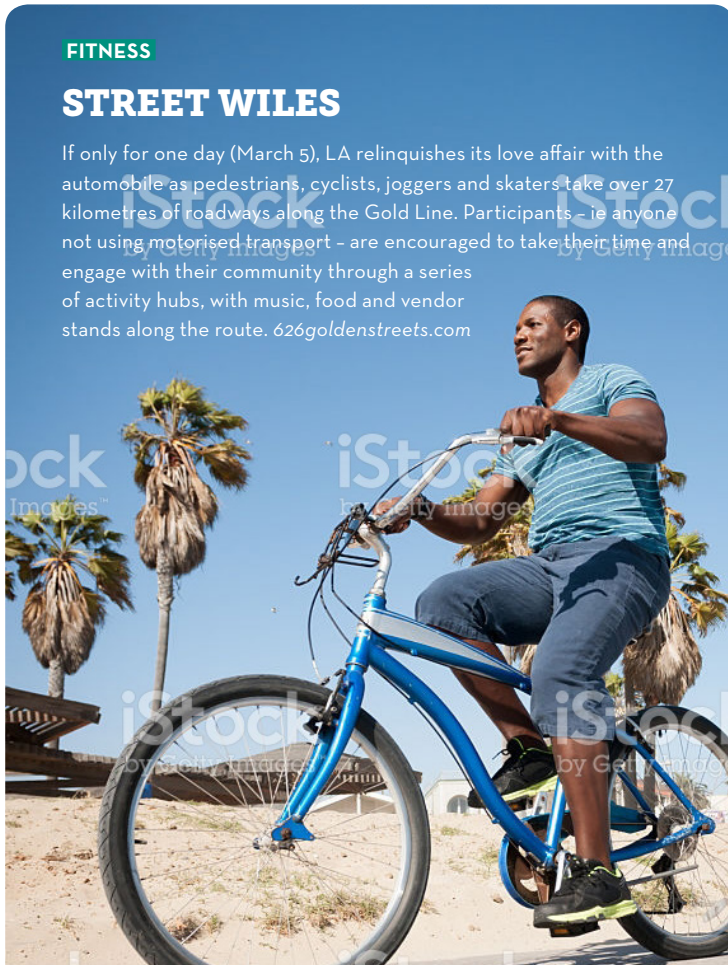
Yorkshire Mores

Brighten a grey day by experiencing the vibrant warmth of **David Hockney** at London's Tate Britain from February 9 to May 29. This eponymous retrospective will display an unprecedented six decades of the Bradford man's art, much of which was created in California, where he has lived on and off since the 1960s. Many of his notable series will once again be reunited, while never-before-seen work will be unveiled, such as a new take on his classic work *Hollywood Hills House* 1980. tate.org.uk

FITNESS

STREET WILES

If only for one day (March 5), LA relinquishes its love affair with the automobile as pedestrians, cyclists, joggers and skaters take over 27 kilometres of roadways along the Gold Line. Participants – ie anyone not using motorised transport – are encouraged to take their time and engage with their community through a series of activity hubs, with music, food and vendor stands along the route. 626goldenstreets.com





CULTURE

OF A FASHION

One of the world's most innovative and critically acclaimed contemporary fashion designers, Derry's Jonathan W Anderson, will showcase his latest exhibition, *Disobedient Bodies*, at the The Hepworth Wakefield this March 18 until June 18. A series of sculptures (Barbara Hepworth, Henry Moore, Sarah Lucas, Louise Bourgeois) will feature alongside notable fashion pieces (Issey Miyake, Helmut Lang, as well as his own), to explore how artists and designers play with notions of gender and identity, both of which are an ongoing part of Anderson's creative practice. Free admission.



LITERARY

BROUGHT TO BOOK

Running in various locations around Dun Laoghaire from March 22-26, this year's **Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival** features readings by authors and poets of international renown – among them Joanna Trollope, Mohsin Hamid, Michael Longley, Fanny Howe and Judith Kerr. And Ryan Tubridy. mountainstosea.ie

PAINTING THE TOWN Irish artist David Uda, aka Duda, has been given a massive 465 square metres to prepare work for the *Streets to Tower: Life in New York City* show at 4 World Trade Center. Duda also has a solo exhibition at the adjacent World Trade Gallery, open until February 24. duda.ie

PUB

Bar Wars

No bona fide pub lover can afford to miss **McGrory's of Cudaff** – a truly magical spot in the Co Donegal wilds of the Inishowen peninsula which hosts quality trad sessions as well as visiting international artists from Townes Van Zandt, Kathryn Williams and Arlo Guthrie to Nile Rodgers' gang, who once played a Halloween gig. If that's not enough to propel you as far northwards as you can get on this island, picture stepping out for a smoke and happening upon a flash of the Northern Lights. With excellent grub and rooms as well as beats, it's no wonder

this spot holds such a very special place in the hearts (and minds) of the Star Wars crew who partied here after recent filming wrapped.

The Coach House and Olde Bar, aka Wright's, in Glaslough village, Co Monaghan is off the beaten track (unless you're lucky enough to be staying a stone's throw away at Castle Leslie) but well merits a detour. It's that rare beast – an unscathed time capsule with real heart. Saturday nights are absolutely jammers – sometimes so many locals wedge themselves in for a dance that they have to seal the doors



at ten. That said, when there's no band playing, there's no more chilled place for a quiet pint of perfectly pulled black stuff.

Probably the very best reason to stop between Dublin and the West, **Morrissey's** of Abbeylax, Co Laois is old school perfection. On a sunny day there's a thick dusty haze

filling the spaces between memorabilia and patrons; on a rainy day, red-hot, cast-iron stoves and hot whiskeys warm the soul (paired with toasted ham sangers and packets of Tayto, of course) and a faint hint of steam rises from customers' drying woollens (or maybe their nostalgia). John Hinde would



HEAD FIRST

Marie Galvin swapped Ireland for Boston, USA, nearly 20 years ago, carving a name for herself as a master milliner. Self-taught – previously, she worked in retail sales and marketing in the fashion eyewear industry – she has furnished the crania of Cher, Alicia Keys, Claire Danes and Taye Diggs, crafting fine, architecturally inspired headwear out of her studio in Boston's hip South End. mariegalvinmillinery.com

How would you describe your work? Organic structures inspired by architecture and the natural world using choreography-inspired assembly techniques. It's all about movement, or the perception of movement.

How much of an impact does a celebrity endorsement have on business, and which famous head would you love to get your hands on for a bespoke piece?

More than exposure, celebrity endorsement adds significant credibility to the brand. I would love to create a piece for actress Eva Green – her portrayal of Vanessa Ives in the TV series *Penny Dreadful* embodies the image of the ladies I often envision wearing my designs.

Is there a specific period in history that provides limitless inspiration?

It's ever evolving. I'm a tad obsessed with pre-Bolshevik Russia ... think *Doctor Zhivago* and Tolstoy heroines. Pre-war Americana and Art Deco also definitely float my boat. The Chrysler Building on a sunny day – now that's inspiration.

Why Boston? It was as far as my plane ticket would take me. But seriously, it's very much a cosmopolitan city with an amazing music scene and plenty of craic and culture. Summer in Boston is tremendous fun and you can't beat the weather.

What was the biggest culture shock when first moving from Ireland to America? The initial horror: I was underage. Coming from the west of Ireland, the drinking age was always, "If you're this tall, you can drink in this bar". The second shock was, unlike Ireland when you're offered a cup of tea and refuse, you don't get asked twice. How rude, I thought.

In Ireland it's compulsory to refuse multiple times before you feign grudging acceptance. "Ahhh go on, go on, go on".



Only the Irish could turn the cup of tea routine into a mini series.

What is your neighbourhood like? We live in a converted loft in Fort Point Channel, part of the fast growing Seaport District. I'm lucky to live on Boston's waterfront, with its wonderful venues, vistas and eateries – I love evening walks with our canine companion, Maxx, along the harbour. Envoy Hotel's rooftop bar (theenvoyhotel.com) is great for sunsets with a glass of prosecco, and Pastoral Kitchen (pastoralfortpoint.com) for chef Todd's amazing pizzas, creative dishes and super-friendly bar staff.

Your studio/showroom is in South End. Where are your après hotspots? My wintertime favourite is Barcelona (barcelonawinebar.com) for delicious tapas washed down with their amazing wine selection. My summertime favourite is the outdoor bar at Cinquecento (cinquecentoboston.com). Very European atmosphere.

You've spent almost two decades in the USA and are in the process of applying for naturalisation.

What is the most Irish thing about you after all this time? My sense of humour is wickedly Irish and drenched with sarcasm.

Likewise, what is the most Bostonian thing about you? My driving skills – excellent parallel-parker coupled with the ability to hurl descriptive adjectives when necessary. A typical Boston driver.

How often do you visit Ireland per year and after seeing loved ones, where are your first ports of call?

Christmas is my favourite time to go, made all the more fun with my young nieces and nephew. Belleek Castle (belleekcastle.com) in Co Mayo is a must-visit for a hike in the woods followed by afternoon tea. Or a night at the Ice House Hotel (icehousehotel.ie) right on the River Moy. Spa treatments and a soak in their outdoor Jacuzzi, drinking champagne in the rain with an incredible view of the river ... need I say more?





ART

ART V LIFE

After a stormy year in American politics, the “individual’s place in a turbulent society” is among the themes explored at the **2017 Whitney Biennial** in New York. The highly regarded examination of the state of modern art opens on March 17, with contributions from 63 artists whose work ranges from painting and sculpture to performance and video game design. whitney.org



THEATRE

THEATRE

In a bold statement of intent, the new directorial regime at the Abbey is running two consecutive plays by **Enda Walsh** (he of David Bowie/Lazarus fame) with each production backed by a world-class team of costume, set and lighting designers. The curtain rises on *Arlington* on February 10, followed by *Ballyturk* from March 3. Both works have had successful outings elsewhere: *Arlington* was a highlight of last year’s Galway International Arts Festival, while *Ballyturk* debuted at the same event in 2014 before its move to London, where it was ranked in *The Guardian*’s Top 10 Theatre Shows of the Year. abbeytheatre.ie

DANCE

Stepping Out

Blurring the boundaries between the traditional and hyper-modern, **This is an Irish Dance** arrives in Ireland after sell-out success in the US. Choreographed by former Riverdance star Jean Butler and composed by Belfast-born cellist Neil Martin, the duet explores the interplay between dancer and musician. In Dublin, February 8-11, projectartscentre.ie; Limerick, February 17, limetreetheatre.ie; Bray, March 2, mermaidartscentre.ie



FOOD

BEST OF THE WEST

On February 3-4, Chamila Manawatta from Mayo’s **Mulranny Park** Hotel hosts a cookery demonstration and special dinner menu in the **Strand Hotel**, Limerick. The following weekend roles are reversed, with the Strand’s Tom Flavin visiting Mulranny – all part of an innovative exchange scheme allowing each chef to discuss and showcase the best of their neighbour’s produce. Elsewhere, Westport’s **Knockranny House** and its multi-award winning chef Seamus Commons host a pescatarian weekend (February 10-11) with a special tasting menu focusing on seafood and vegetables. strandhotellimerick.com



THAI SOCIETY Ten years ago, Rosa’s was a humble Brick Lane street food operation, though it’s now bringing its lively take on Thai cuisine to Brixton – its eighth branch in London. The micro-chain’s promise to use local produce wherever possible extends to the drinks menu, with Brixton Beers Atlantic APA and Electric IPA available exclusively at the new