



Dancing has left me in constant pain

MICHAEL FLATLEY INTERVIEW

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DETAILS PAGE 21

Tánaiste's vow as Government begins talks with Army to accommodate 100,000 fleeing warzone

VARADKAR: I'LL TAKE IN UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

TÁNAISTE Leo Varadkar and his partner Matt Harney have applied to take in a family fleeing the brutal war in Ukraine.

The Fine Gael leader, who recently moved into a house in Dublin with Mr Harney, last night confirmed the couple have registered with the Irish Red Cross to make a room in their home available to refugees.

By John Lee, John Duggan, and Colin McGinn

The move came amid growing concern over the Government's ability to provide accommodation for up to 100,000 Ukrainians expected to arrive here. The Taoiseach said almost 10,000 refu-

gees have already arrived in the country and that the Government is in talks with the Defence Forces about providing more accommodation for them.

Mr Varadkar said: "At the moment, we're relying very much on joint and light accommodation around the country, but

Turn to Page 6



Grieving Liz Hurley prepares for Warne's funeral

SEE PAGE 16

All roads lead to Italy in the hunt for la dolce vita

» From Page 103

is part of the Lungarno Collection by renowned hoteliers the Ferragamo family.

The hotel has transformed one of Europe's oldest seminaries, dating from 1564, and additions include a wellness centre, restaurants and a shopping arcade.

Rooms cost from £672 per night (lungarnocollection.com).

Piacenza, south of Milan, is fre-

quently overlooked by tourists. Its latest opening, Novo Osteria, may soon change that.

Owner Gianni Maini has taken inspiration from the building's heritage as a 12th Century convent, later an inn and, in the post-war years, where actors and dancers from the nearby Capitol theatre used to stay – thus becoming a symbol for Piacenza's rich 'dolce vita' culture.

Just seven rooms are served by

BOUTIQUE:

The villas at San Corrado di Noto are in Sicily's World Heritage Site

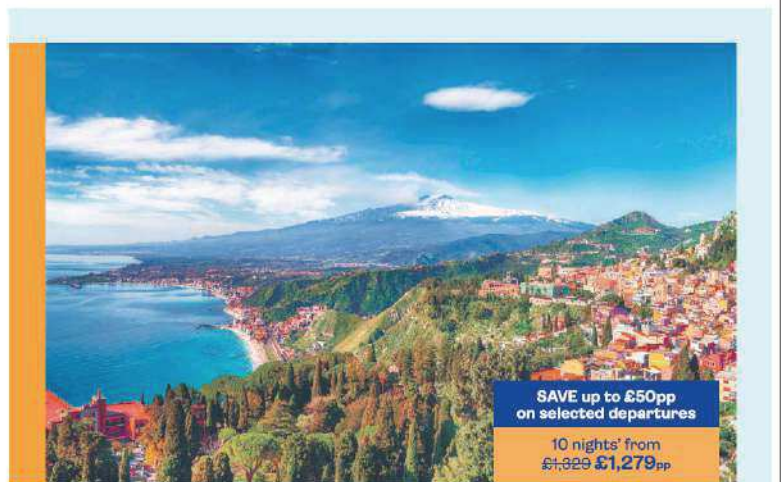
a stellar restaurant with dishes from the Emilia-Romagna region.

Rooms cost from £100 for two per night (novo-osteria.it).

Rosewood Castiglione del Bosco, a sprawling country estate in



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Montalcino, in the heart of Tuscany, is another property founded by the Ferragamo family. The resort, on a wine estate, recently reopened after a renovation which includes 19 new suites with pools.

Suites cost from £588 per night (rosewoodhotels.com).

Since 1994, the Bolza family have been restoring the Reschio Estate in the Umbrian hills to its former glory. At its heart is a 1,000-year-old castle that has been transformed into the 36-room Hotel Castello di Reschio.

A selection of restaurants, including one in a clocktower, champion a farm-to-fork ethos, with most produce sourced from the estate's organic kitchen garden, vineyards and beehives.

Rooms cost from £638 for two per night (reschio.com).

Rome is abuzz with new openings, including W Rome, which brings some fun to the Eternal City with a secret garden, dedicated pastry restaurant and a chill-out rooftop bar with pool.

Rooms cost from £467 per night (w-rome.com).

If you prefer bold and colourful designs, check out Mama Shelter Roma from the French boho hotel brand. Expect great views from the rooftop restaurant overlooking Vatican City (mamashelter.com).

Rooms cost from £108 per night (mamashelter.com).

Opening in the autumn is the much anticipated Six Senses Rome, close to the Trevi Fountain. It is carved out of an 18th Century palazzo. The big draw here is the first-floor spa with botanical-themed therapies.

Room rates to be announced (sixsenses.com).

For some of the most impressive ocean views in Italy, you can't beat the cliffside Borgo Sant'Andrea, which perches some 300ft above the sea in the fishing village of Conca dei Marini on the Amalfi Coast. Throw in a private beach and three restaurants and you've got a pretty special summer escape. Rooms cost from £800 per night (borgosantandrea.it).

Oetker Collection is the name behind some of the most legendary hotels in the world – including the five-star Lanesborough in London – and it has now set its sights on Italy.

Hotel La Palma, opening in April,

was Capri's first-ever hotel, built in 1822, and in its transformation no expense has been spared.

But factor in a beach club, spa, boutiques and dining – including the rooftop restaurant Bianca run by famous Italian chef Gennaro Esposito – and Hotel La Palma is a love letter to Capri.

Rooms cost from £714 per night (oetkercollection.com).

Over in Porto Cervo in Sardinia, 7Pines Resort opens its doors in July, surrounded by a nature reserve.

As well as a beach club, private yachts for guests and three restaurants, the hotel will offer organic spa treatments. Rooms cost from £336 per night (7pines.com).

NOT to be outdone, Italy's largest island, Sicily, welcomes three knock-out hotels.

Boutique Il San Corrado di Noto opens in April with just 26 suites and eight villas and is the first of its kind in Val di Noto, Sicily's Unesco World Heritage Site.

Rooms cost from £495 per night (ilsancorradodinoto.com).

At Rocco Forte's new resort in Palermo, Villa Ignea captures the essence of France's prosperous inter-war years known as Belle Epoque.

The 19th Century mansion was originally a private villa, and was later transformed into the island's most famous grand hotel. After a two-year refurb, chef Fulvio Pierangelini heads up three restaurants with simple, authentic Sicilian delicacies. Rooms cost from £385 per night (roccofortehotels.com).

For another historic gem look to Taormina and the San Domenico Palace, a Four Seasons Hotel. This 14th Century Dominican convent became a hotel in 1856, with a guest-book littered with famous regulars including Oscar Wilde, Audrey Hepburn and Sophia Loren.

After its two-year makeover, guests can expect immaculately restored architectural details, a clifftop infinity pool and lush gardens. It's also set to be a culinary hotspot, and dining with Mount Etna in sight doesn't get more dramatic – or Italian – than that.

Rooms cost from £678 per night, (fourseasons.com/taormina).



LAKESIDE LUXURY:

The new Passalacqua hotel, on the edges of Lake Como, is based in an 18th Century villa that once welcomed Napoleon Bonaparte