

EUROPE

## 30 best cultural mini-breaks

From opera in Verona to art in Bilbao — plus Europe's coolest festivals and exhibitions

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May 26 2018, 12:01am,  
The Times

Tourism

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Isola del Garda, Italy  
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The Machines of the Island in Nantes  
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### 13 Art festival in Nantes

On the Loire River, Nantes has quietly become France's coolest city. That's a lot to do with its summer-long arts festival, Le Voyage à Nantes (until November 4, [levoyageanantes.fr](http://levoyageanantes.fr)), in which DJs, designers, gardeners and graffiti artists all do their thing along a green-lined trail, which stays open all year. Among its permanent works are 200m-long dragons. Also key was 2017's reopening of the Musée d'Arts de Nantes ([museedartsdenantes.nantesmetropole.fr](http://museedartsdenantes.nantesmetropole.fr)); from June 1 to September 2, it hosts installations by James Turrell.

**Where to stay** La Perouse's slanted, boxy exterior has deservedly earned architectural awards. Inside is a cognac bar and arty rooms boasting Rietveld zigzag chairs. B&B doubles cost from £120, including Musée d'Arts admission (00 33 240 89 75 00, [hotel-laperouse.fr](http://hotel-laperouse.fr))