

THE SUNDAY TIMES
TRIPS OF THE YEAR
100 BEST HOLIDAYS
OF 2015



66 **EL TEL'S PLACE, SPAIN**

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The former Chelsea midfielder, recording artiste and England football manager Terry Venables is now running a luxury hotel in southeast Spain. We were expecting La Escondida to be the usual footballer-turned-mine-host disaster zone, but we were wrong. The 10-room property — set in 500 acres of olive groves, 30 minutes from Alicante — is a boutique delight, with whitewashed walls, uneven floors and rough-hewn beams. There's a pool, a spa and a restaurant specialising in Valencian cuisine. It's all because El Tel took the wise managerial decision to bring in Katy McCann — formerly one of the team at Mr & Mrs Smith — as a consultant. Result: the hotel's a winner. Doubles start at £98 a night, B&B (00 34 965 513046, hotellaescondida.com). Fly to Alicante with easyJet.