

# 5 BEST *Seaside Retreats*

Enjoy the last days of summer at these ocean-fronting oases, recommends **Yvonne Gordon**.



## FRANCE

### CASSIS, PROVENCE

With beaches, a fishing village and a sheltered bay on the French Riviera, Cassis, just 20 minutes from Marseille, has been one of Provence's best-kept secrets - until now. Beach-lovers will take up residence on the pebbly Grande Mer, while foodies can tuck into the day's catch

at the quayside restaurants and watch the colourful boats bobbing in the harbour. For a picnic outing to the coves of the rocky Calanques inlets, stock up on breads, sun-dried tomatoes, olives and other treats at the twice-weekly market (Wednesdays and Fridays) in Place Baragnon.



**Aer Lingus** flies from Dublin to **Marseille** three times per week.



**CROATIA**

## ROVINJ, ISTRIA

With water temperatures topping 20°C during summer, an average of 10 hours of sunshine a day, an archipelago of islands, an old town, plus gorgeous seafood and wine, what's not to love about a seaside break in Rovinj? The only

difficult part about spending time on this part of the Istrian coast is which beach to choose - a sandy bay, a rocky shore or even a wild beach in a bird reserve. Our advice? Try them all first and then pick a favourite.



**Aer Lingus** flies from Dublin to **Pula** three times per week.



**UK**

## MARGATE, KENT

Gone are the donkey rides and the old-fashioned deck chairs - in recent times, Margate has become one of the coolest spots to be seen west of the Costa Brava, thanks in part to the shiny new Turner Contemporary gallery, a revamp of the Dreamland theme park and renovation of the Victorian mansions. A busy seaside resort for many years, accessibility to London and the recent regeneration attracts the coffee and laptop-loving set to Margate Sands, but traditionalists can still tuck into fish and chips, ice cream and cream teas.



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**IRELAND**

# GLANDORE, CO CORK

Set on a beautiful inlet in West Cork, on the Wild Atlantic Way, the sheltered waters of Glandore Harbour and the colourful seaside village of the same name have made it a popular sailing haven, with a yacht club that buzzes in summer. There's plenty for non-mariners too, with scenic walking paths, picnic and fishing spots – or, in fine weather, just watch all the action from one of the harbour-front pubs.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MELANIE MULLAN



**USA**

# MALIBU, CALIFORNIA

Golden sands, big waves, celebrity homes, lifeguards and sunshine. If you can tick all these boxes, it must be California. This iconic stretch of movie-set-ready sand at Malibu Beach, famed for its stars, surf and sunsets, is actually made up of a number of beaches running for nearly 50 kilometres along the coast. Surfrider Beach near the pier is the one for catching waves; Zuma Beach is popular with families and don't miss El Matador for unusual (and photogenic) sea caves and rock formations.



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