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ESCAPE Extra News | Deals | Round-ups

For... PALMARIA In what's been hailed as the 'biggest rescue operation ever attempted in Italy', animal lovers have begun the process of removing stray goats from this idyllic north-western Italian island. Cute and dinky, the beasts are available for adoption.

For... SOUTH KOREA

Online travel agent eDreams.co.uk reported a 31 per cent increase in UK flights to South Korea for the Winter Olympics. Great Britain had the third largest number of tourists heading to Seoul and then Pyeongchang with France topping the list.





For... DANIEL CRISTIAN SERRANO This 24-year-old from Jaén, southern Spain, will have to pay a €480 (£427) fine after being found guilty of an 'offence against religious sentiment'. His crime? Photoshopping his own face on to the Christ Disrobed statue via Instagram.

For... LUFTHANSA

The German airline's new livery, updated from yellow to blue, has earned mixed reviews. Aviation writer Enrique Perrella called it 'bland and pointless', while industrial designer Clemens Weisshaar declared it a 'design belly flop'.

Explore Italy's biggest island with two celeb chefs on a new cycling tour. By **Richard Mellor**

ANCY a cycling holiday around Sicily? Why not try a foodie cycling holiday? Better yet, let's

make it a foodie cycling holiday led by celebrity chefs. That's the premise of Italian hiking and biking specialist Tourissimo's newest offering. Leading its seven-night trip are Traci Des Jardins, a two-time winner of America's James Beard award and owner of six Californian restaurants, and her best pal, Mary Sue Milliken, who

has written five cookbooks and starred on Bravo's Top Chef Masters show. Departing on May 5, this is

a Chef Bike Tour, a special version of a standard Tourissimo holiday that shows how the local territory can be understood through its produce and plates. Both veteran Sicily-goers, Des Jardins and Milliken will prepare two dinners for the group and hold informal evening Q&A sessions.

The gastro fun doesn't stop there. Participants will learn Sicilian-style market-to-table cooking from a local chef, taste wines at an estate used by Carluccio's, share picnics with locals and try traditional cannoli in its spiritual home, Piana degli Albanesi. Meanwhile, the two leaders aim to prod you towards other local specialities.

'Sicily has the most phenomenal sun-dried tomatoes,' enthuses



Milliken. 'I also love the bottarga they make from smoked, dried and salted mullet roe, and the amazing sea urchins. In fact, a lot of seafood there is incredible.'

Look out, too, for lemons, almonds, apricots and arancini balls, which all rank among the world's best.

Away from food, the itinerary aspires to show travellers a 'lesser

travelled, bucolic Sicily' - think rolling hills, vine-shrouded valleys and sleepy town squares.

Cultural stops include Selinunte, a village whose Ancient Greek temples are Unesco-protected, and the magnificent Norman-Byzantine cathedral at Monreale. You'll swim around the Egadi Islands and delve into Palermo's famous markets.

As for the pedalling, you'll ride between 213 and 267 miles across five days using Bianchi carbon road bikes, with one rest day. By the sounds of all that food, you'll be needing a little exercise.

From £3,315pp full board, including all local transport, bike hire, activities and alcohol, tourissimo.travel

LATE DEAL OF THE WEEK SOUK UP SOME SUN



SICK of the cold? That'll be all of us. Unsurprisingly, it's far warmer in Marrakech but that's not the only reason to make for Morocco. Another is Destinology's savings on a week at the fancy Four Seasons Resort, plumly positioned in the leafy Palmeraie suburb. And another reason still is the hotel's facility list: an adults-only pool and spa, multiple restaurants and a

weekend rooftop bar. It's three miles in a bargain-priced 'petittaxi' to the city centre's souks and snake-charmers. Save up to £475 per person on a seven-night suite stay, B&B, including return Easyjet flights from Gatwick and private transfers. Valid for travel between tomorrow and March 22, book by March 15 From £1,699 per person,

destinology.co.uk

