





he Spanish islands set the blueprint for European beach holidays decades ago. There are more than 60 cast off the coast of the mainland, and while many of the big hitters – Ibiza, Mallorca, Lanzarote – have well-worn reputations, they are constantly reinventing themselves. In recent years, many have gained prominence for sustainability, stargazing and smart stays. These are our 10 favourite Spanish isles – plus our top recommendations for where to bed down once you arrive.

MALLORCA

This is the classic holiday spot. When people set off in search of a slice of sun-soaked island life, this is what they are picturing – miles and miles of immaculate beaches and soaring mountains dotted with quiet hamlets and villages. In the past decade, the capital Palma has become one of the Mediterranean's most interesting cities. A handful of restaurants have been awarded Michelin stars – we recommend Dins Santi Taura for an intimate chef's-table experience – and there are a couple of slick hotels to check into, such as **Can Bordoy Grand House**, a discreet stay with a brilliant rooftop sundeck. Plus, you don't have to look far for lively beach clubs (book Purobeach for a splashy afternoon or Assaona for a more boho vibe). Away from Palma, conservation and restoration are Mallorca's driving force, with a tangible shift towards sustainable tourism via zero-waste restaurants, natural winemakers and eco-thinking hoteliers.