

# GRAZIA GETAWAYS

## THE LOWDOWN

### ANTWERP

Proudly dubbed Belgium's new capital of cool, Antwerp is a hot pot of creativity. Avant-garde street style graces cobbled streets, period townhouses exude elegance and the city's long history with diamonds has sophistication wafting through the air.

## → 48 HOURS in... Antwerp

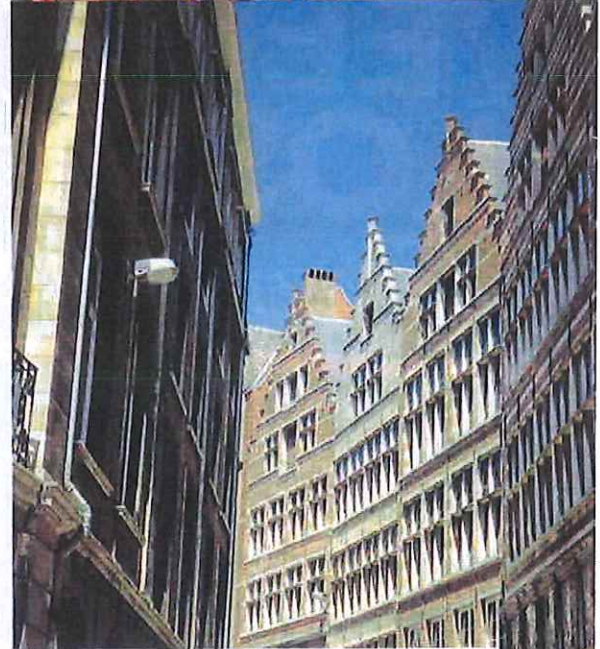
Start your weekend of culture with a visit to **The Rubens House**, the home of the Flemish master painter, before fast-forwarding through the years to appreciate the more modern masterpieces of the Antwerp Six at **MODE Museum**. Head to the top of **MAS Museum** for some of the best views of the city, and if you're in the market for sky-high fine dining, there's the two Michelin-starred restaurant **'t Zilte**. Those with a sweet tooth shouldn't miss **Désiré de Lille**, for proper Belgian waffles with decadent toppings. Stay at **JVR108** (see jvr108.be), a breathtakingly beautiful three-bedroom guesthouse with hand-painted wallpapers and elegant lounges. Book a trip before Christmas, as **Antwerp's festive markets** run until 27 December and spread festive joy, plus the smell of mulled wine, through the city.

## → 72 HOURS in... Seville

As soon as you arrive in Seville, head to **El Rinconcillo**, the oldest tavern in the city, which dates back to 1670. Enjoy a plate of prawns and some calamari, along with a glass of sherry. Time for a spot of sightseeing, so up the **Giralda Tower** you go. The view from the top is stunning, with pretty terracotta roofs stretching for miles. Your quads get a workout on the way



Left: the terrace of 't Zilte restaurant. Below: Antwerp's traditional architecture



### SEVILLE

The best thing about a city that runs on tapas is that it's always time to eat. Never have these words been spoken truer than in Seville, which is the ultimate foodie weekender.

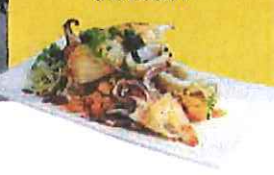
### PUNTA CANA

Despite the myriad of luxury all-inclusive resorts, with 32km of beaches here, you won't struggle to find a quiet spot where it's just you, your book, and the ocean.

back down, what with the 34-storey slope, so on reaching the bottom you're hungry again. **La Brunilda** is another great tapas spot – so much so you'll struggle to get a table. Join the crowd standing outside to enjoy plates of grilled octopus, cheese risotto, and tenderloin beef. Come bedtime, drift off in one of 13 sumptuous rooms at **Corral Del Rey** (mrandmrsmith.com), a 300-year-old luxury casa that's full of beauty and traditional character.

## → NEVER coming home from... Punta Cana

Craving some winter sun? The Dominican Republic has plenty. Punta Cana on the eastern tip of the island is all about the chill factor – you'll want to drink the all-inclusive cocktail bar dry. But if you do eventually want to get up from reclining by those soft sands and glistening seas, you can trot up and down the beach on horseback, take a snorkelling trip, and loiter in the local restaurants – **Solo Pollo** is our favourite. It's a simple Caribbean eatery, which only serves seasoned baked chicken. Stay at the **Club Med** (clubmed.co.uk) – all sumptuous rooms, beach bars and fine dining in the open air; by no means just for families. We could spend a week in the newly launched **Zen Oasis** alone, a blissful terrace area (read: suntrap), with daybeds, a wellness bar and a pool, all enclosed by tropical gardens. Bliss.



Words: Alice Tate. Photos: Getty Images, Alamy

Clockwise from above: Seville's Plaza de España; the Giralda Tower; tapas delights. Far right: the tourist shops and paradise beaches of Punta Cana