MUSTANG MONUMENT

The crazy beautiful brainchild of glamorous philanthropist Madeleine Pickens, Mustang Monument is every horse-lover or wanna-be cowboy's idea of heaven. Originally dreamt up as a sanctuary for 650 wild horses destined for slaughter, it's now an ultra-smart working ranch. Under Pickens's watchful eye Mustang is brought to life by a team of highly charismatic men and women, and during its short opening season of June to September, it's likely she will host guests at her ranch. A good two-and-a-half hour drive from Salt Lake City, it's in the real herself. A good two-and-a-half hour drive from Salt Lake City, it's in the real herself. A good two-and-a-half hour drive from Salt Lake City, it's in the real herself. A good two-and-a-half hour drive from Salt Lake City, it's in the real.

FRANCE

LA RESERVE HOTEL, PARIS

It's hard to hate La Reserve because she's beautiful. Actually, go ahead and hate her as much as you want. Futile! She'll charm the panteonos you in a heartbeat. This latest addition to the La Reserve portfolio is a celebration of colour, texture and the Paris of Napoleon III and the belle époque. It's impeccably done – just 14 rooms and 26 suites arranged around a central courtyard. The larger suites, facing the Eiffel Tower, are magnificent. Even the smallest rooms are sweetly sumptuous, swathed in silk and velvets. The key note is a no-tassels-barred opulence, heavy classical motifs, overgrown with floral flourishes. The exception is the sky high terrace – a La Reserve speciality. All in all, it's a pageant of flair and wit, courtesy of interiors superhero Jacques Garcia, who also did the cheeky La Reserve flagship in Geneva. He has imbued the Paris hotel with a winning combination of grandeur, cosiness and respect for the past. Has also given this hautly Parisian beauty a sense of humour and a sense of place. Nothing. But it's not nearly as nice as the hotel.

FLASH POINT

Under £150

PORTUGAL

HOTEL VALVERDE, LISBON

Right on Avenida da Liberdade, Lisbon's grandest boulevard, the Valverde rises up six floors behind its handsomely preserved, narrow façade. From the sumptuous, top-floor Valverde Suite to the cosy, classic bedrooms beneath, all 25 rooms bear the signature charm of interior designers Bastir (of the acclaimed Bairro Alto Hotel in Lisbon). Here, 1950s furniture has been mixed in with antique prints and abstract art from luminaries such as Vieira da Silva. Fabrics are heavy, often with brocade piping, and rugs tend to the geometric. Bathrooms favour black and white, from the honeycomb floor tiles to the standalone, cast-iron tubs and black-marble basin surrounds. Many trimmings and trappings draw on local talent, such as the Lacoste uniforms, a nod to the brand's Portuguese creative director, Felipe Oliveira Baptista. There's a pretty, flower-filled sitting room and, one floor down, a movie room and a large, leafy courtyard with a heated swimming pool – a rarity in the city centre. In the Sítio Restaurant dishes are down-home rather than haute, and include much-loved codfish pasty and a good range of Portuguese wines. FLASH POINT

Under £120