



# YOLO

JOURNAL

# MENORCA

Photographs by Matt Hranek

Words by Yolanda Edwards

My friend Luis Laplace has been talking up Menorca ever since we first met years ago. “It’s the kind of place where you’ll have the best meal of your life, yet you’ll be sitting in a red plastic chair,” he said. Coming from one of the most notable architects/interior designers in the world today, that’s telling. And I knew right then that I would love it.

Born and raised in Buenos Aires, Luis lived in New York before moving to Paris in 2015. He and his partner in life and work, Christophe Comoy, have an incredible aesthetic, and attract a certain discerning clientele, the kind that prefer to remain anonymous. I met them years ago and we became fast friends—we all share a passion for collecting that causes us to stop in any flea market we pass.

For years, Luis has been visiting Menorca to renovate his 19th-century farmhouse, Santa Magdalena, and also to create a new outpost for Hauser & Wirth galleries, which opened this summer on Isla del Rey, a former hospital site just five minutes by boat from the port of Mahon. Its arrival is a huge deal for

Menorca, putting it on the international art map with exhibits by influential artists such as American Mark Bradford, whose inspiring show of abstract paintings and globe sculptures was already drawing crowds when we visited right after its opening in July.

We stayed at Luis and Christophe’s farmhouse in the countryside near Alaior. They had just finished it, and we were blown away. There’s an honesty to the design of both their home and the gallery, an appreciation for timeless, simple things. The gallery’s restaurant, Cantina, feels like something you would find in a Spanish fishing village. The garden, created by Dutch landscape designer Piet Oudolf, who primarily uses native plants, looks like it’s been there forever, as do all of the sun-bleached stone buildings. Luis’ renovation of their country home has a similar effect: pots and cutting boards hang from ropes on hooks in the kitchen, turn-of-the-century olive oil terracotta pots are scattered all over the garden—everything looking like it has been here for eons, exactly as it is.















## MENORCA FAVORITES

I was only on the island for a long weekend, so there is much more I need to see and experience — but I was given an amazing list that Luis and the Hauser & Wirth team put together, and here is my edit of that. The island is about 45 minutes' drive from one end (Mahon) to the other (Ciutadella), so bear that in mind when you're planning where to stay. Also, even though it's an island, many of the most beautiful properties aren't close to the sea, so if that's important, make sure you check the exact location. Lastly, I have to say I was so impressed with the level of sophistication, but in a laid-back cool way, of the hotels and restaurants — completely understated and exactly what I'm always looking for, but rarely find.

### MAHON AREA

#### STAY

Hevresac

Cristine Bedfor Hotel

Jardí De Ses Bruixes

Hotel Boutique Casa Ládico

Ca N'albertí 1740

#### FOOD

El Raïs *has a great harbor view and is known for its rice dishes.*

El Bistro Can Vermut: *on the harbor and very casual*

Cap Roig *is on the sea and known for its lobster.*

Quitapena: *casual beach restaurant outside of town*

Sa Pedrera d'es Pujol: *great rice, fish and meat dishes in an old sandstone quarry.*

#### TO DO

Teatre Principal *is the oldest opera house in Spain, built in 1829 on the ruins of the wall that once surrounded Mahon.*

Es Grau *is a small fisherman's village within the Albufera des Grau park.*

### CENTER OF THE ISLAND

#### STAY

Menorca Experimental

Torre Vella

Santa Ponsa

Binigaus Vell

Torrallenc

#### FOOD

Sa Llagosta: *A landmark in Fornells to eat caldereta de llagosta, traditional lobster stew.*

Es Bruc

El Gallo: *Near Ferreries, it's a 200-year-old house that's known for its steak with Menorcan cheese sauce.*

Isabella Beach Club

#### TO DO

Visit the lighthouse on Cavalleria Cape.

Pregonda Beach, *which is ccessible by car and a short walk*

Camí de Cavalls *is an ancient path surrounding the island (185km route which follows the coastline), great for hiking and biking.*

Antics Antigüedades *is filled with old treasures from the island and beyond.*

### CIUTADELLA

Don't miss this historic capital with its beautiful cathedral, palaces, charming tiny streets and a beautiful harbor.

#### STAY

Hotel Can Araya

Hotel Tres Sants

Can Faustino

#### FOOD

Cafè Balear: *one of the oldest restaurants in the port; go for the fish.*

S'Amarador

Es Tast de na Silvia: *Slow food certified and zero km local*

Ulisses *for great cocktails and tapas*

#### TO DO

Mercat des Peix: *A lively 19th-century fish market*

Algaiarens Beaches *(also called La Vall) are white sandy beaches with that gorgeous blue sea.*

Naveta de Tudons *is the oldest intact structure in the country, a communal tomb from 1000 BC.*

#### BRING HOME

The local gins and vermouths  
Tins of olives stuffed with anchovies: *great garnishes for martinis!*

The jamon Iberico, *of course.*