



**Simple
steps
to save
€5,000
in 2024**

Free inside



**52 best
weekends
away**

Weekend

**Interview with
Graham Norton**

Weekend



Conman who got half of widow's will now chased for €185,000 debt

Retired accountant pursues cash he says
is owed from ruling on failed land deals

● A Criminal Assets Bureau target who was at the centre of a dispute over a widow's will is now being pursued over a €185,000 debt amid claims of fraud.

Peter O'Toole, who has convictions for forgery and deception, was the main beneficiary of the will of distant relative Margaret

Hernon, who died in 2017, leaving an estate valued at up to €9m. He ended up receiving half of the estate after a High Court settlement.

Now in a separate case, Mr O'Toole, of Moycullen, Co Galway, is being pursued by a retired accountant over a ruling arising from failed land deals. **Pages 2-3**

I quit 'Operation Transformation' after row over weight-loss drugs – dietitian



● A dietitian has revealed she quit RTÉ show 'Operation Transformation' after she was not allowed to share information about weight-loss drugs with participants. Aoife Hearne (above) announced in December 2022 she was leaving after nine years with the popular show. *Photo: Patrick Browne. See Review*

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52

weekends away



52 weekends



Francesco Della Femina and his Irish wife Barbie Ryan. It's set in a 17th-century palazzo. rentitalia.com; pilotnotes.eu; arcadiazaragon.com — POC

May

May 3-5

Smell the roses in Morocco

May brings temperatures of around 22C to the Atlas Mountains, with unique birdlife including the atlas flycatcher. It also sees the Rose Festival in Kelaa M'Gouna, a town in the Dadès Valley (check dates; it is usually held in late April or early May). It focuses on the blooming of the local Damask roses, which cast the valley in a sea of pink, and celebrations include parades, music and a crowning of a Rose Queen, but you'll also find lots of perfumes made from rose petal distillations, rose water used in cooking and pastries and so on. Kelaa M'Gouna is about a five-hour drive from Marrakech, which Ryanair flies to direct from Dublin. visitmorocco.com — POC

May 11-13

Snoop around Lisbon

If you're the kind of person who loves

stalking estate-agent windows on holiday, you'll love Open House Lisbon. Just like the Dublin event, interesting buildings all around the city open their doors for nosy nannies, offering everything from architect-led tours of structures of note, to self-guided visits to tiny apartments in tile-covered buildings. It's a snooper's paradise. Keep the theme going with a stay in the new CoolRooms hotel, opening at some stage in 2024 and set in the Patriarchate of Lisbon, which it's restoring and rehabilitating to create a super-luxe, architecturally fascinating property. Already open is the Hyatt Regency's new rooftop bar.

trienaldelisboa.com; coolrooms.com; iconrooftop.com — NB

May 18-20

Slow eating in The Burren

The Burren Slow Food Festival is well-timed, because the dramatic karst landscape never looks better than it does in the late spring when the flora and fauna we all learned about in school are starting to come into their own, with the orchids and gentians, bumblebees and butterflies providing a masterclass in biodiversity. Gregan's Castle is the stylish, low-key place to stay, and provides an opportunity to check out what new chef Jonathan Farrell is doing with the produce from the hotel's kitchen garden and the abundance

of the local larder. Former Gregan's chef Robbie McCauley and his French wife, Sophie, now have their own restaurant, Homestead Cottage, in Doolin — book in while you are in the area. burrenecopark.ie; gregans.ie; homesteadcottagefordlin.com — KMcG

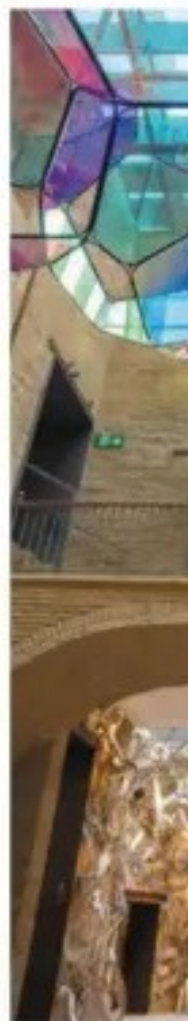
June

May 31-June 3

Spring in Valencia

Spain's third-largest city provides the perfect bank holiday weekend break — with inspiring cultural sights, fabulous cuisine, a vibrant nightlife and the peachiest of beaches. This year, it is the European Green Capital, in recognition of its green open spaces and commitment to sustainability. The new Hortensia Herrero Art Centre features contemporary works against the backdrop of an old palace. The Mercado del Grao, Valencia's oldest food market, is looking fresh after a five-year closure for renovation and there's a slew of just-opened hotels and restaurants, too, including Tatel — owned by Rafael Nadal and Cristiano Ronaldo — housed in the old stock exchange. visitvalencia.com; tatelrestaurants.com — EOR

Clockwise from left: Bebelplatz in Mitte, Germany; Hortensia Herrero Arts Centre in Valencia; the Lavender Festival in Hvar, Croatia; Hotel du Couvent, Nice; and the Jungfrau gondola, Switzerland



May 24-26

An easy view of the Eiger

Switzerland's Jungfrau Region recently installed a cable gondola, whisking visitors from the Alpine village Grindelwald to glacier station in 15 minutes. In 2024, it's following with the Eiger Walk of Fame, a two-and-a-half-hour walking circuit with super views of the mountain's legendary north face (the 3.8km route does not require any mountaineering skill). Aer Lingus flies to Zurich, a two-hour drive or less than three-hour train ride away (Geneva is a slightly longer transfer). A sweet stay for your little black book here is the relatively new Bergwelt Grindelwald, a member of the Small Luxury Hotels collection. Some of the rooms have views of the Eiger's north face. jungfrau.ch; bergwelt-grindelwald.com — POC

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