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Decoration directions

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PERFECT GETAWAYS

In this special travel section, we round up noteworthy events and destinations around Europe, encompassing cities, rural escapes and beach resorts. We also hear from Martin Hulbert, an interior designer, who describes his own short-haul adventures and reveals a passion for the continent's cosmopolitan capitals



■ THE LUCK OF THE IRISH

Ballyfin, a hotel in County Laois (90 minutes from Dublin airport), opens in May. The lavish late-Georgian pile, has 15 bedrooms and is brimming with history and romance. Doubles cost from £710. Call 00-35-35 7875 5866; www.ballyfin.com

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PROMOTIONS

BALLYFIN, COUNTY LAOIS,
IRELAND. SEE PAGE 161