THE IRISH TIMES
SCENT-SATIONAL

**Barcelona**
Master Perfumista, Jimmy Boyd, was chosen to capture the essence for the new Almanac hotel, Barcelona (below). The Jasmine hue wafts through the hotel and permeates their candles, soaps and cosmetics. almanachotels.com

NEWS

**Covering Africa**
With the Ivory Coast finally opening to tourists. Explore Beyond has launched a new trip exploring the remote villages of the west African gin. Spend 13 days uncovering the hidden ceremonies in the hill villages Yakaba, meet the chiefs of the Doko people and explore the rainforests, me to baboons and birdlife. Depart November 25th, 2017, from €216 per person including return flights to London, 12 nights’ accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis, return, and the services of an explore leader, driver, and local guide. explore.co.uk

**Up and Away**
Emirates has introduced an additional daily year-round service between Abu Dhabi (above) and Dublin, increasing frequency to 14 flights a week. Business and leisure travellers will be able to enjoy double daily connections via Abu Dhabi to key destinations, including Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Mumbai, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur. etihad.com

**G-Whizz**
The InterContinental Dublin’s 24hr Tea is a gin-infused menu of treats. Gin cocktails served in a glass teapot, a Tanqueray infused Earl Grey Tea, and savoury bites will have afternoon tea connoisseurs wowed. From €30pp, served daily. intercontinentaldublin.ie

TECH-NO STAY

Ballymaloe House serves as the serene setting to a Digital Detox this Sunday May 7th. Arrive at the 300-acre farm in East Cork at 2pm to talk about the benefits of putting away those devices and some helpful tips on detaching technology at home. After that, there’s a ban on all digital devices for about 24 hours while you enjoy off-line activities, including storytelling, mindfulness, yoga, Ener-Chi Rebalancing, Gong baths, nature walks, foraging, and much more. The special digital detox package includes dinner, B&B and all activities. ballymaloe.ie

GET 'APPY

**As You Stay**: This new app allows guests to choose what time they check in and out of hotels. Choose from more than 50 properties in New York City, Miami, Chicago and San Francisco. asyoustay.com

DEALS

**Sorrento**: the Hotel Bristol, April 30 or May 7, one-week half-board, return from Dublin, €699pp; tofiftyftight, 01-2401772.

**May Bank Holiday**: choose from Turkey, Spain, Italy, Canary Islands, Majorca, prices from €279 - €349 for a week with flights, accommodation and bagage; sunway.ie, 01-2321800.

**Kenya**: chill out in Mombasa at the beachfront Pinewood Resort and Spa. A week half board in June from €949pps, book by April 30th; tropicsky.ie, (01) 8649999. Joan Scales

TRAVEL GEAR

1. Portable Toolbox BBQ
   The old school toolbox design suddenly seems like a savvy fit when you see this Portable BBQ from Suck UK. The metal drawers step open to access the main stainless steel grill, with warming racks to the side. While a section underneath unfolds offering storage for rongs, forks and the tools of the BBQ trade. One neat touch is the way the handles pivot under to lift it off any BBQ unfriendly surfaces. A vent helps control the burn temperature (of course, you’ll burn the food anyway) and it’s all in appropriate fire engine red. €105 from suck.uk.com

2. iTrip Clip
   Liberates your ears from the tyranny of cables with Griffin Technology’s iTrip Clip. Basically, it turns any headphones wireless – just plug them in and Bluetooth pairs it with your player. It doesn’t just channel the audio, though, you can also use a built-in mic for hands-free calling or if you want to summon your voice-activated digital assistant from its slumber. Meanwhile, simple buttons let you control play, track skipping and volume. And of course, it clips, so you can stick it anywhere for fingertip control. €30 griffintechnology.com

3. Maplin HD Camping and Caravaning Satellite
   If your idea of getting away from it all into the great outdoors needs a diet of your favourite shows or live sports, you could consider adding this. It’s got all the hardware you might need: a 39cm satellite dish, HD receiver, cables, connectors and a selection of mounts. Oh and an instruction manual, because it’s not quite point and squirt easy to get tuned in. But find that sweet spot, and a couple of hundred channels including HD are there for the watching. €150 from maplin.ie

Tom Kelly @tomtkelly