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(see page 26)

**2009
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35
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ST. BART'S
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THAILAND**

MARCH 2009 | \$4.50

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\$4.50



Taking in the view from a waterfront room at the Kyrimai Hotel, in Greece. Right: The hotel's pool.



EUROPE

\$228 CROATIA On the Pelješac Peninsula in the center of Croatia's wine country, the **Hotel Indijan** (2 Škvar; 385-20/714-555; hotellindijan.com) adds a modern edge to the ancient village of Orebic. The clear blue Adriatic is always in sight from the 19 bright rooms, the palm-shaded terrace restaurant, and the lounge chairs on the pebbly beach. **DON'T MISS** A glass of Plavac Mali at the neighboring **Grgich Winery** (78 Trstenik; 385-20/748-090), an outpost of a Napa establishment.

\$180 FRANCE Bidart, on France's southwestern coast, is a charmed place: on the coastal highway between Bordeaux and San Sebastián, but off the beaten path; it's tiny enough to know in a day, but filled with chic linen shops and some of the region's best restaurants. It's also home to **Villa L'Arche** (Chemin Camboenea; 33-5/59-51-65-95; villalarche.com), a half-timbered Basque hotel with eight suites done up in crimson and cobalt blue. All of the rooms look out on the wide caramel-sand beach, which is flanked by the Beaux-Arts villas of the families who summer here. **DON'T MISS** Sunset cocktails at **Blue Cargo** (Ave. Ilbarritz; 33-5/59-23-54-87), a popular club just up the beach.

\$151 GREECE The rugged Mani Peninsula, in Greece's southern Peloponnese, is known for its stone-turreted fortresses, once used to fend off Turks, Venetians, and pirates. One such outpost is the **Kyrimai Hotel** (Gerolimenas, Mani; 877/790-0067 or 30-273/305-9330; kyrimai.gr), on the shore of a private bay. Athenians make the 3½-hour drive to this castle by the sea, drawn by the oceanfront pool and unparalleled views of the Mediterranean sunset from the terrace. The rooms are charming, with exposed stone walls and working fireplaces. **DON'T MISS** A swim on the beach at nearby Cape Tenaro, which has ruins of a temple to Poseidon.

\$244 ITALY Built in 1907 for a sea captain, the **Villa Rosmarino** (38 Via Figari, Camogli; 39-0185/771-580; villarosmarino.com) lies 12 miles northwest of Portofino, on the Ligurian coast. The six rooms—all with views of towering Mount Portofino—are a mix of crisp white linens, vintage Scandinavian furniture, and original features such as floral-patterned inlaid marble floors. It's a 10-minute stroll to the gray-and-white-pebbled beach at Golfo Paradiso. **DON'T MISS** The shale beach at San Fruttuoso Abbey, a 1,000-year-old monastery restored by FAI, Italy's national heritage fund; it's a 15-minute ferry ride away.