



Decadence

Mediterranean clubs come in all sizes and guises, from the blue and white stripes of 55 to the 10,000 capacity open-air 'Via Notte' in Corsica. The clubs that lure the beautiful people from their yachts are as beguiling as the destinations themselves – from Ritual's fantasy cave in the Costa Smeralda cliffs, to the underground techno heat of Capri's Red. It really doesn't matter whether your rhythm is more laid-back beach set or urban groove, the central theme to all Mediterranean clubs is lots of sun, lots of sand, not many clothes and decadence in all its forms. Money can't buy you love, but it can certainly buy you magnums of Cristal at the Caves du Roy in St Tropez. **By Harry Becher.**

IBIZA

Ibiza, spiritual home of the beach club. Spanish cruising regulations make it difficult for superyachts to charter here, so I picked just one club from the many.

Ushuaia Ibiza Beach Club (opened 2009) has the toughest guest list in the civilised world. Designed by Bruno Reymond (La Maison de L'Eléphant), VIPs lounge on white day beds. Raw wood and thatch contrast with sleek seating and lights. There's a fashion boutique, massage shack, juice bar and chill out lounge. From nightfall until 2am, top DJs demonstrate why they have a cult following. Swim there if you have to. www.ushuaiaibiza.com

MONACO

It's a matter of principality. Monaco is the place to get a taste of that mythical golden age when money bought exclusivity and megayachts and nightclubs were the jetset's privilege. They still are, at Jimmy's, the most famous spot in town for 30 years. Jimmy's is the favoured haunt of aristocrats, models, celebrities and top DJs. Come to see and be seen. www.sportingmontecarlo.com

ST TROPEZ

With his 1956 classic film 'And God Created Woman', Roger Vadim created St Tropez, turning a pretty fishing port into the glittering capital of Riviera revelry.

Le Club 55 was one of the first beach clubs along Pampelonne beach (there are now 31 at the last count). Endorsed by Brigitte Bardot, sultry sex kittens and enigmatic French film makers are still much in evidence, as this remains the hot place to lunch if you are after ambience, people watching and a good soundtrack. www.club55.fr

La Voile Rouge is another classic Pampelonne institution, which means nobody will blink at being seated alongside a topless teenage beachbabe having Moët & Chandon

elegantly sipped from her bellybutton. All in the best possible taste. This 200 foot strip of soft sand and warm decking is dedicated to lounging, drinking, dining and dancing (on the tables, after sunset, if the fancy takes you) and it even has a bijou beach shop. www.plagelavoilerouge.com

Nikki Beach is an outpost of the infamous Nikki Beach in Miami, and has a vibe that is altogether more American, less French. Set back from the beach, this club offers a surreal poolside ambience where you can soak up hip hop culture, cocktails and world-class flirting from your poolside VIP daybed. Diners invade the space at dusk, while the serious party people bring in their bling from 10pm. www.nikkibeach.com/sttropez

Les Caves du Roy is the ultimate all-night dance venue: glitzy, extravagant, dripping with celebrities, royals and millionaires who come because the guards make sure the paparazzi don't. It is absolutely unmissable if you find yourself in St Tropez and can book a table. The club is in the Hôtel Byblos, itself one of the most glamorous hotels in the world. Sneak in at dusk, and retreat to your yacht at daybreak. www.lescavesduroy.com

The V.I.P. Room is exactly that, a room full of VIPs. The offspring of the rich and famous come here to play, and their parents come here to feel young. If you lose your teenagers in St Tropez, this is where to look: the music is sexy and ultra contemporary, the style is sleek, hard-edged with tons of attitude. Like many St Tropez clubs, the V.I.P. Room is only open July to mid-September. www.viproom.fr

SARDINIA

The Aga Khan may have envisioned the Costa Smeralda as an exclusive and manicured paradise, but that doesn't mean we can't have a big, loud party.

Billionaire gets more outrageous every year. Ferrari and Bugatti at the front door, Cavalli and Dior on the dance floor. The music is a mind-blowing cocktail of Italian pop and hip hop anthems woven together by resident DJs who know exactly who they're mixing with. Skip the dinner at 8 brigade, reserve yourself a floorside booth and turn up at midnight to dance, drink and do your thing. Pure debauchery. www.billionaireclub.it

Phi Beach, close to Porto Cervo, offers all-day tanning and DJ-fuelled nightlife. Its stunning location in front of an 18th century naval fort is right on the waterfront, complete with wooden jetty. The open-air venue with its saltwater pool, freeform dancefloor and outdoor bar is an easy place to idle away an afternoon – its 'Osteria Sur Mare' restaurant is terrific. Doze, dance, dine. www.phibeach.it

Ritual has always been a brave, wild place – the kind that could only have been conceived in the 1960's. Resembling an ancient ruined citadel amidst the cliffs, the club has a tribal vibe, and a stone-age chic style of dark corners and deep shadows. Known for its lavish Saturday night theme evenings and thumping dance music from 10pm through the summer season. www.ritual.it

CORSICA

French savoir-faire meets Italian flamboyance in the understated surroundings of Porto-Vecchio in Southern Corsica. For a couple of seasons now, the party has been at Via Notte, which claims to be Europe's largest outdoor dance club, entertaining up to 10,000 revellers. Its Ibiza-style dance culture hits all the right notes, with top notch international DJs (Philippe Corti, Erick Morillo) winding the crowd up a treat. Even the most sophisticated dressed-to-impress heiress will be waving her arms in the air. As the sign says, 'welcome to the pleasure'. www.vianotte.com

CAPRI

The sophisticated residents and celebrity regulars who reclaim Capri by night, when the day trippers have departed, know how to party in style.

Hidden down a cobblestone alley in Anacapri, Red currently hosts the smartest, hottest after-midnight dance scene on the island. This stylish dance and wine bar is a favourite among local villa-owning socialites, visiting yacht owners and their guests. The tranquil lounge bar vibe through the evening transforms around midnight into all-night dance party that brings in the dance addicts and visiting celebrities. Good tapas, too.

Anema e Core Taverna might look like an Italian tavern, but it's much more than a pub and restaurant, as you'll see if you drop in after midnight, when the club gets going. Stick around for the stage show. The legendary Guido has a way of making the most image-conscious lose their inhibitions. He's lured many other one-name-only stars (Naomi, Jay-Z and Beyoncé, for example) onto his stage. www.anemaecore.com

SICILY

A sensory overload of citrus, sunshine and sound systems awaits you on Sicily. Expect rich food, rich wine and, if you head for the right clubs, rich party people.

Panasia Beach is in Taormina, a small town on the east coast of Sicily that has become a magnet for Italy's chic and sexy young things. Panasia Beach is a minimalist day-into-night venue that goes from cool white lounge to white hot dance club. Better for strutting than swimming (the sea floor is stony not sandy), don't miss the Friday night beach parties.

Marabu-Naxos is massive. This is the best nightclub in Giardini Naxos, a small town with a big reputation for dance music just a short drive from Taormina. Marabu is a huge, multi-storey dance and nightlife venue that attracts DJs in the league of Carl Cox and David Morales like moths to a strobe. Such giants headline the club's summer events, but the vibe goes on year round at this epicentre of world-class global house.