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MARVELOUS MALLORCA **Cycle in the shadow of the pros**

TORONTO, Canada — It may be better known as the home of tennis star “Rafa” Nadal, but Spain’s biggest Balearic island gem is a star in its own right in the world of cycling—and a standout in the stable of Gray & Co. two-wheeled destinations. That’s because the climate is ideal most of the year. The quality of the trails and roads is easily matched by that of the hotels and the food.

“Mallorca is perfect for our travellers,” says Gray & Co. founder Cari Gray. “We can ride on the same amazing network as the pros, on over 420 miles of secondary roads, but at the end of the day we’re not *really* training...so we can take full advantage of all that the island offers. We’re pros at knowing how to pamper our cyclists—from the ultimate routes, guides, drivers and mechanics to the best massage therapists and restaurants to round out the day.”

Among the five-star accommodations favoured by the high-end specialists are Son Brull Boutique Hotel & Spa, a 23-room Relais & Châteaux property set in an 18th century monastery; La Residencia, nestled among olive and citrus groves near the village of Deià on the north coast; and the newly-opened Castell Son Claret, a 15th century castle set on 300 acres in the foothills of the Tramuntana Mountains.

“What we love most about the accommodations,” says Gray, “is that they’re characterful and 100% authentic. You always know where you are, because Mallorcan history and culture are built into every thick stone wall. That a fabulous spa or world-class restaurant—like Son Claret’s wonderful Zaranda—has been worked into the mix is a bonus.”

As far as the cycling goes, it’s not just all about the deep-blue Mediterranean sea views—though that’s a big part of it. With smooth pavement and perfectly diverse terrain, it’s not hard to understand why the island draws some 35,000 cyclists annually. Riders can choose to ride among the vineyards, olive trees, and marcona almond orchards in the flat fertile valleys, or they can climb up into the mountains on roads that are challenging but rarely too steep for comfort.

As with all its active bespoke journeys, the Gray & Co. difference is in the details: which direction to ride from Soller to Deia; where to stop for a café con leche and the perfect paella; which guide to reveal Gaudí’s secrets in Palma cathedral; where to catch the yacht for the cruise back at the end of the ride; and when to hit the spa.

Gray & Co

Gray & Co. crafts custom journeys for active travellers to many corners of the globe. With first-hand knowledge and local connections, they can orchestrate almost any adventure with style and precision. They cater to groups of friends and families, design corporate retreats, and more. For more information, please visit www.grayandco.ca.