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## 10 of the world's finest cookery holidays



Learn something new CREDIT: ISTOCK

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By **Nick Trend**

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*Come Cook with Me from £275 for a two-day course. Room from £252 per person, for two nights, half-board. Airds Hotel ([airds-hotel.com](https://www.airds-hotel.com/) (<https://www.airds-hotel.com/>)).*



Dig into some gourmet dishes from Chris Stanley

### 3. Hotel break in Lancashire

**Northcote hotel** (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/united-kingdom/england/lancashire/hotels/northcote-hotel/>) near Blackburn in **Lancashire** (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/united-kingdom/england/lancashire/articles/>) has a good recipe for foodies wanting to combine a gourmet hotel stay with a day's course at the chef's table. Themes include bread-baking, meat and fish-based recipes, modern desserts, sous-vide techniques, and Lancashire hotpots. New for this year is a Dinner Party Experience course with tips on time-saving prepping ideas and presentation. Class numbers are limited to eight. Dinner in the Michelin-starred restaurant is an optional extra.

*Stay and Cook Break from £210 for a full-day course, including lunch and tea. One night B&B from £130. Northcote hotel ([northcote.com](https://www.northcote.com/) (<https://www.northcote.com/>)).*

### 4. Hands-on in Sicily

Cookery breaks aren't necessarily just about tuition and eating, they can also include interesting local excursions. **Italy** (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/italy/>) specialist Flavours Holidays offers a seven-night stay in **Sicily** (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/italy/sicily/>), which includes outings to the towns of Syracuse and Ragusa. Based in the Villa Aragonese near Modica, there are five half-day, hands-on cookery lessons with a local chef, a tour of a nearby vineyard for tastings, a chance to sample Modica's famous chocolate and time to relax by the pool.





Check out Bonajuto, the oldest chocolate factory in Sicily CREDIT: ATLANTIDE PHOTOTRAVEL

*Cooking Holiday in Sicily from £1,599 for seven nights, including all meals and transfers. Flights excluded. Flavours Holidays ([flavoursholidays.co.uk](https://www.flavoursholidays.co.uk) (<https://www.flavoursholidays.co.uk/>)).*

## 5. Tapas in Andalucia

Expandable waistbands are recommended for a week of full-on Spanish gastronomy with culinary specialist Tasting Places. Kicking off with a welcome evening tapas tour of Vejer de la Frontera, there are three daytime cookery classes, and an evening cookery class with supper. Excursions include a visit to Barbate fish market, a “Sherry Triangle” tour of local bodegas and two tapas lunches (one in Cádiz). A shorter, four-night version of the course is also on offer.

*Vejer Cookery Course from €1,250 for four nights or €1,900 for seven nights, including most meals. Flights and transfers excluded. Tasting Places ([tastingplaces.com](https://www.tastingplaces.com/) (<https://www.tastingplaces.com/>)).*

## 6. Stately breaks in the Veneto

The 15th-century Palazzo Casagrande, home of the Conti Brandolini d’Adda family, is the venue offered by Stirred, the luxury cookery operator, for its Veneto programme. Grand, frescoed reception areas, stylish bedrooms and gardens with a pool combine with hands-on cookery lessons with top chefs and in-depth insights on local produce, including oil, wine and cheeses. A day trip to [Venice](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/italy/veneto/venice/articles/venice-travel-guide/)

(<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/italy/veneto/venice/articles/venice-travel-guide/>) is a highlight, with a guided tour of the city’s historic fish market by the Rialto bridge.