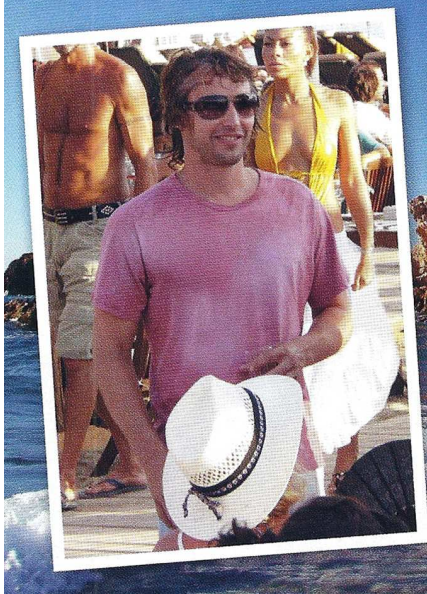


Cala Moli  
beach, Ibiza



## My own private... Ibiza by James Blunt

The singer-songwriter on his island idyll

### How long have you owned a house in Ibiza?

I've lived there for six years in an old Spanish finca in the countryside. It's not fancy, but earthy and homely. I like the more traditional buildings.

### If you didn't have a house, where would you stay?

Friends stay at the Gran Hotel as it's by the marina and near the action. Or there are some really lovely small agro-hotels like Es Cucons in the north near Santa Agnès de Corona. But if you've got a gang, I would hire a villa.

### Where is your favourite place to have lunch?

Sands Beach Restaurant on Playa d'en Bossa has a great vibe and good music and a good new Japanese chef. But you can't beat fresh fish straight from the sea.

### And for supper?

Watch the sun go down and then have dinner at Amante Beach Club. Kylie had her album launch party here, so if it's good enough for her, it'll be good enough for you.

### What are your favourite clubs?

Last year: Sunday, Luciano in Pacha; Monday, Cocoon in Amnesia or Swedish House Mafia in Pacha; Wednesday, Erick Morillo in Pacha; Thursday, David Guetta in Pacha; Friday, Pete Tong in Eden. Once a month is Flower Power

in Pacha and, of course, DC10 whenever it is open!

### Best hangover cure?

A swim in the sea.

### Describe your perfect day in Ibiza

A gang of friends; a swim in the sea; a waterski by Formentera; a picnic on a boat; drinks at sunset; dinner somewhere local; a nightclub with good music; an afterparty somewhere strange; a view of the dawn; and someone to carry me to bed.

### Do you go out of season too?

Ibiza is at its best out of season. It's green, lush, beautiful and full of really great people.

### Who gives the best parties?

Max Gottschalk puts on ambitious, extravagant and hugely entertaining parties. Why? Because he's generous and enjoys hosting the fun.

### Where's the best beach?

S'Estanyol is a really sweet little beach, or head over to the island of Formentera for stunning beaches and crystal clear water.

### Where do you go to get away from it all?

The cliffs in the north are quiet and have amazing views.

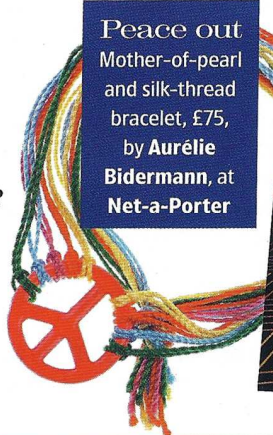
### Who would you call in a crisis?

Emme Gex at the Agency (theagencyibiza.com) is the one stop for sorting anything. She does villa rentals and is the island's biggest star. □

Hang loose  
Silk kaftan,  
£170, by  
Easton  
Pearson, at  
Browns



Silver surfer  
Woven leather  
sandals, £25,  
at Topshop



Peace out  
Mother-of-pearl  
and silk-thread  
bracelet, £75,  
by Aurélie  
Bidermann, at  
Net-a-Porter

## Sleeping beauty

### Devi Ratn, India

Devi Ratn must be one of, if not the, most courageous properties likely to be built in the foreseeable future. Lekha Poddar, who startled the world with her new take on old palaces when she opened Devi Garh 11 years ago, has now achieved something equally astonishing. The first time round, instead of maharaja twists and twirls, she went minimalist and stony, completely luscious without being lush; the result was very controversial. Then for many years, it was Poddar's dream to create a hotel that was totally uncompromising – here is the latest vision made flesh. It's like stepping into a parallel wonderworld because it's a beatific can't-stop-staring-at-it blast of the new. From the moment you approach it, with its cactuses in stone boxes pointing out at odd angles, you just start to smile. The main building, in deepest terracotta, turns to rust and dark scarlet in the evening sun; herringbone tiles in soft red and peach twinkle on the floor. The bar has gentle revolving lights that reflect on the swirling mist outside; the restaurant has giant pillars that morph from silver to gold. There are 60 large rooms and three villas, all with views of the ancient Aravali Range, and of distinct majesty. It's an uplifting place. It's rock 'n' roll but future-classic, an amazing venture, a brave morphing of colour, a bizarre new take on shape. Poddar has also opened up Rasa this year, a younger, more contemporary hotel, consisting of 40 rather simple but extraordinary cubes just north of the city. The point is Poddar has perfect taste: it showed itself in Devi Garh 11 years ago and it comes to full fruition in Devi Ratn. *Greaves India (greavesindia.com) offers two nights at Devi Ratn and two nights at Rasa from £1,050, including flights, transfers and breakfast.*

