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# TRAVEL SPECIAL

## PADASTE MANOR, ESTONIA

**OPENED** Reopened in June 2008.

**BEST FOR** Amorous trysts or contemplation.

**WHAT** Padaste Manor resort and spa is a romantic 19th-century bolt hole guaranteed to soften even the stoniest heart. Sensitively restored over the last two years by Dutch-born Martin Breuer and local MP and pianist Imre Sooaar, it has 16 brand-new rooms and is set amid endless open plains.

**WHERE** Despite being a short ferry ride from Tallinn, long considered stag-party central, Padaste Manor is a peaceful retreat by the sea. It overlooks marshes on the southern tip of the island of Muhu where moose and wild boar roam free among juniper forests and otherwise deserted bays.

**INSIDE** Low-key luxury, in the form of stone floors, soft leather chairs, antique furniture and open fires,

extends to the rustic bedrooms, set over two levels and furnished with wooden rocking chairs, richly patterned rugs and pretty balconies.

**EXTRA TREATS** Guests can fish for their supper or practise their horseriding skills. Snowshoes and poles are provided for icy treks in

winter. For the less adventurous, an old dairy has been turned into a spa offering mouth-watering treatments such as goat's-milk facials and oatmeal and yoghurt body scrubs.

**CONTACT** Padaste Manor, Muhu Island, 94716, Estonia (00 372 454 8800; [www.padaste.ee](http://www.padaste.ee))



Padaste Manor



**New**

**order**

A new crop of intriguing hotels has sprung up across Europe. Deborah Feldman checks in