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Above: the Bernard Magrez Grande Maison hotel, Bordeaux. Below: The Hospital Club lounge, London

marine biologists and naturalists and offers children's "bubble-maker" courses, certification, refresher programmes and night dives.

→ The red-roped world of private members' clubs is shifting in **LONDON** with **The Hospital Club** (www.thehospitalclub.com; from £580). This bustling Covent Garden meeting place for media types who rely on substantial art-production and screening facilities debuts 15 bedrooms this month. This will make the Hospital Club's hopping bar accessible to non-members for the first time. The zippy modern suites – more private home than hotel and with an in-room cocktail service – feature works by contemporary artists, including Alyson Mowat, Kristof Jeney, Christian Thompson and David Degreeef-Mounier. In April, the Mayfair-based **Arts Club** (www.theartsclub.co.uk; prices yet to be set) is following suit with 16 hotel rooms in its Dover Street townhouse.

→ If small is beautiful, then acclaimed chef Joël Robuchon is getting something right with the opening in **BORDEAUX** of his latest restaurant at the new six-room Bernard Magrez hotel **La Grande Maison** (www.lagrandemaison-bordeaux.com; from €345). Magrez is the owner of 40 estates and wineries worldwide, including four Grands Crus Classés in the Bordeaux region; Robuchon has received as many as 26 Michelin stars. The aim of this new project is to give Bordeaux its first three-Michelin-star dining establishment in the elegant surroundings of a late-19th-century private mansion.

→ Wilbert Das, the former creative director of Diesel, made a second name for himself with **LUXUA Casa Hotel & Spa** (www.uxua.com; from £475), a collection of exquisitely appointed houses in the historic centre of Trancoso, **BRAZIL**. The latest addition is **Casa Dona Frozina**, a new Das-designed house in the *quadrado*, or town square, with a jewel-green private garden. It's an eclectic mix of weathered wooden pillars, sofas covered in vintage African indigo linen and hammocks on the patio. You won't find it listed on the hotel's website (it's a Das favourite that he tends to reserve for friends), but if you don't ask, you don't get – and this is a gem worth chasing. +



preserving critical ecosystems, which is why the arrival of environmentally oriented **Jean-Michel Cousteau Diving** (www.jeanmichelcousteaudiving-caribbean.com) on the private-island resort of **Petit St Vincent** (www.petitstvincent.com; cottages from \$1,100) in **ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES** is so appealing. Run by the son of Jacques Cousteau, it features on-staff



Above: an underwater experience with Jean-Michel Cousteau Diving, Petit St Vincent