



Inside today 8-page special

# The Grand National

The runners, the riders - and how to pick the winner

# MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!



► Captains of industry accused of hijacking election for their own ends after National Insurance row dominates start of campaign

By Nigel Morris  
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

THE LEADERS of some of Britain's largest businesses were last night accused of putting their own personal interests ahead of the country by backing Conservative plans to reverse rises in

National Insurance contributions (NICs). Senior figures in the profitable sectors of academia and politics warned that the interests of vast sections of British society were being ignored amid the hysteria generated this week by a roll-call of industrialists supporting Tory tax policy.

The fall-out from their intervention

continued to dominate campaigning yesterday as clashes intensified between Labour and Tories over how David Cameron would afford his eye-catching promise and whether it would cost thousands of jobs.

Today, David Cameron will announce the latest element of his tax proposals with plans to give married couples a tax

break of up to \$50 a year. The move - designed to meet the Tory leader's promise to recognise marriage - is targeted at basic rate taxpayers.

But, amid signs of a backlash against the Tories and their supporters, Vince Cable, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, turned on the businessmen.

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On film, family and the downside of fame



In The Magazine

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# traveller

THE INDEPENDENT

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## Escape route

Weekends by the British seaside

PHILADELPHIA STREET ART ◊ PORTUGUESE BEACH RETREATS  
NICARAGUA ◊ TREKKING IN BHUTAN ◊ 48 HOURS IN POTSDAM



## The big six

### Beach retreats in Portugal

BY SOPHIE LAM

#### Martinhal Beach Resort Sagres

Opening on Monday, this resort is bringing tropical style to the Algarve. Set in the Costa Vicenta Natural Park in the serene western Algarve, the resort's rooms and apartments are spread between the main building and a scattering of timber-clad houses and stone villas. Restaurants, a market, sports activities, spa and kids club complete the package.

Martinhal Beach Resort, Apartado 54, Sagres, Algarve (00 351 26 262 0026; martinhal.com). Doubles start at €151, including breakfast.



#### Herdade do Touril de Baixo Odemira

This rustic retreat is on the deserted western coast of the Alentejo region. Herdade do Touril de Baixo is a working farm that offers homely accommodation in restored whitewashed manor buildings. Breakfast of home-made bread, jams, yoghurt and fresh juices are followed by a scramble down the rocks to the deserted sweep of Tonal beach or a bike ride then a snooze beside the saltwater pool.

Herdade do Touril de Baixo, Zambujal do Mar, Odemira, Alentejo (00 351 28 295 0060; herdadedotouril.com). Doubles start at €80, including breakfast.



#### Memmo Baleeira Sagres

White is the predominant colour at this design-driven resort, but textured rugs, chocolate and plum furnishings and subtle contemporary murals steer it clear of monotony. As well as the obligatory spa, restaurant and golf course, there's also a surf school, dolphin-watching trips and diving opportunities.

Memmo Baleeira, Sítio da Baleeira, Sagres, Algarve (00 351 26 262 4212; memmohotels.com). Doubles start at €88, including breakfast.



#### Vila Monte Resort Moncarapacho

Vila Monte offers a different take on the Algarve. Surrounded by well-tended gardens (which yield produce for the restaurant), the country resort is still just 10 minutes from the beaches of the Rio Formosa Natural Park. Rooms are in villas whose design borrows from Andalucía and Marrakech.

Vila Monte Resort, Sítio dos Calicos, Moncarapacho, Algarve (00 351 28 979 0799; vilamonte.com). Doubles start at €139, including breakfast.



#### The Oitavos Cascais

Cascais is to Lisbon what Brighton is to London. This former fishing village, 30km west of the Portuguese capital near the Tagus estuary, now harbours polished yachts, golf courses and smart hotels. Joining the set will be The Oitavos, a luxury hotel set to open in the upscale Quinta da Marinha resort on the western periphery of Cascais in late August. The chic, modern rooms will maximise the coastal views with floor-to-ceiling windows. Meanwhile, the striking glass and steel building will be supplemented by a destination spa, seawater pool, several restaurants and bars and, naturally, the requisite golf course.

The Oitavos, rua de Oitavos, Quinta da Marinha, Cascais, (00 351 21 486 0020; theoitavos.com). Doubles start at €375, room only.



#### Farol Design Hotel Cascais

The name of this hotel suggests something entirely modern, but it is in fact based in an 1890 mansion. A contemporary extension houses chic interiors including suites created by Portuguese fashion designers. There's also yoga, a spa, seaside lounge and sushi bar.

Farol Design Hotel, 7 Avenida Rei Humberto II de Itália, Cascais (00 351 21 482 3490; farol.com.pt). Doubles start at €190, including breakfast.

