

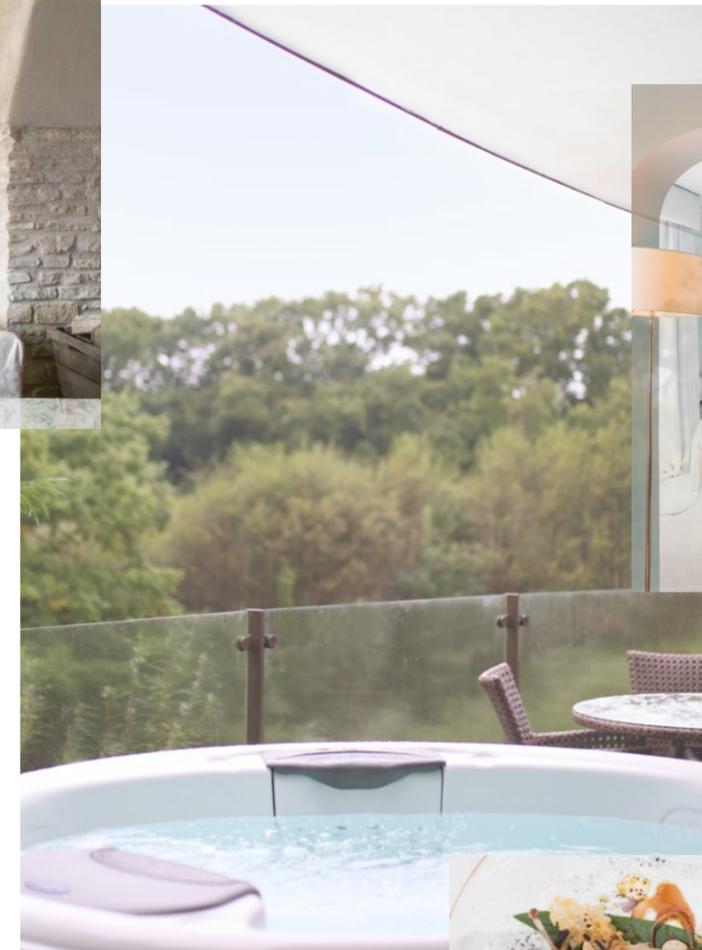
National TREASURES

The best of British hotels, from a Cornish classic to a Hampshire haven, the pearl of Perthshire and a Cambridge sanctuary

Soho Farmhouse COTSWOLDS

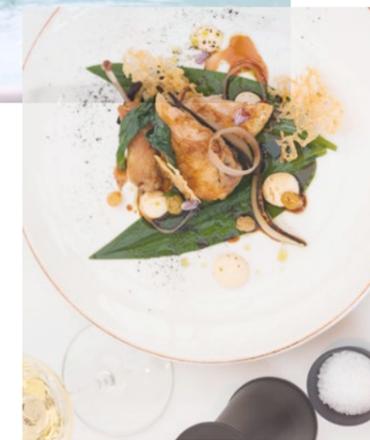
Just when you thought that Soho Farmhouse, with its cheese shop, outdoor pool and horse-drawn cart, couldn't be more idyllic, along come the Piglets, a brand-new room category for the ultimate secluded stay. Tucked behind the main farmhouse in a wildflower meadow, each domed wooden structure is perfect for two, with an emperor-size bed piled high with pillows and cashmere throws, a whole range of delicious Cowshed toiletries and a well-stocked minibar (open the jar labelled 'Treats' for a cheeky chocolate-chip cookie). In the morning, draw back the curtains to find a perfectly chilled milk bottle on your terrace, so you can enjoy a cup of tea in your pyjamas, or flag down the breakfast truck and have bacon and eggs cooked right in front of your room. *LUCY HALFHEAD Soho Farmhouse, from £270 a Piglet a night (www.sohofarmhouse.com).*

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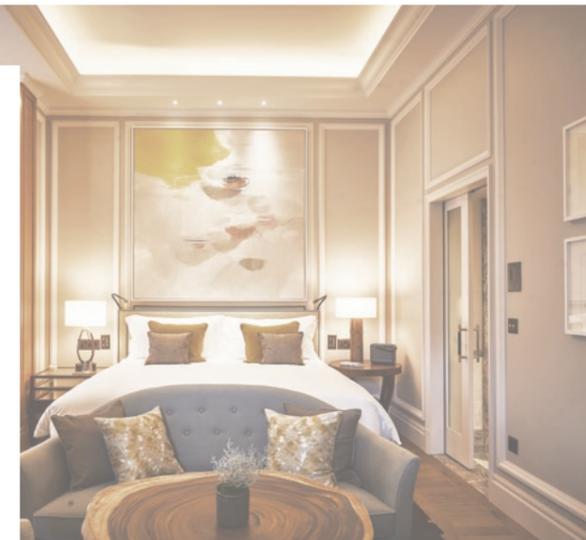
Chewton Glen HAMPSHIRE

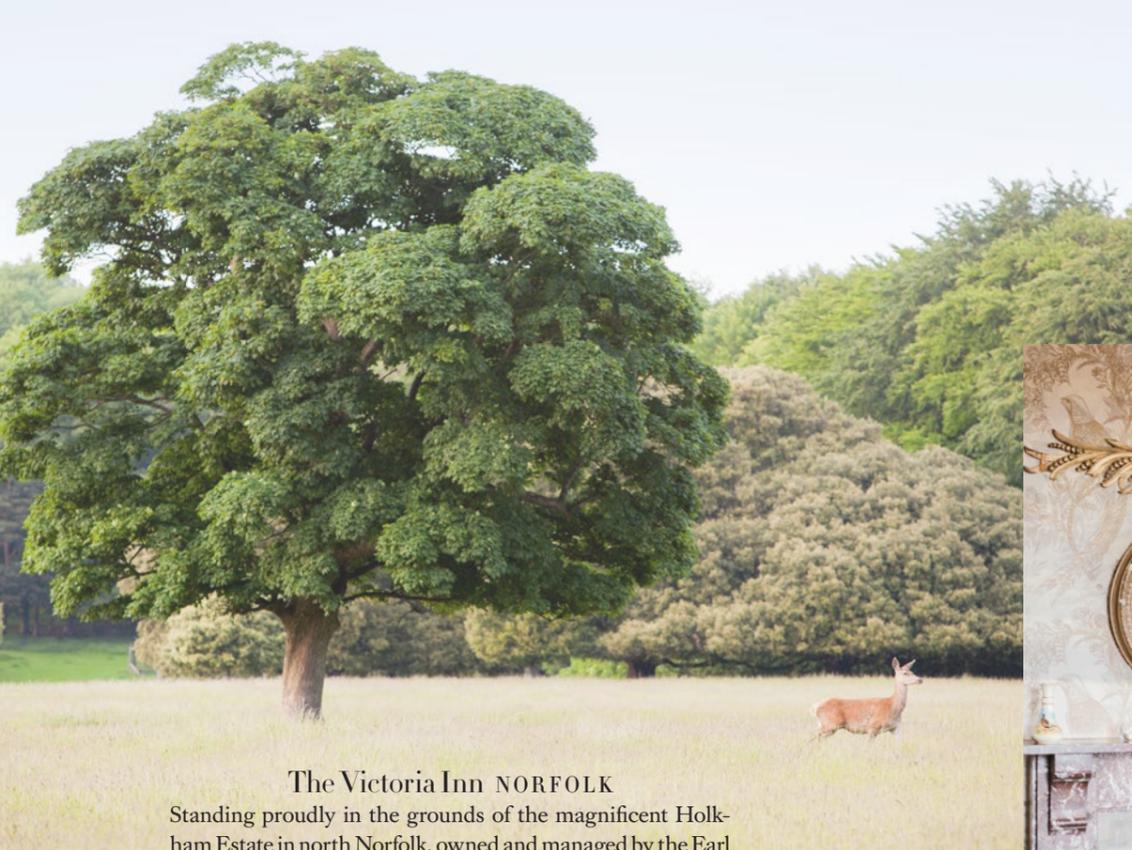
It feels like nothing bad could ever happen at Chewton Glen, where curling up with a good book on a buttery-leather sofa is the order of the day. The splendid team will cater to your every whim, be it for a lavish afternoon tea by a roaring fire, a lift down the gravel drive to the chef James Martin's restaurant the Kitchen, or breakfast on the sun-dappled terrace of your treehouse suite, 35 feet above the ground. This cocooning rural retreat also has a spa, equipped with countless bubbling pools and Jacuzzis, an outdoor hot tub, and now its own blissful product range, the Chewton Glen Spa & Body Collection, which is incorporated into facials and massages in the 12 beautiful treatment-rooms. *LH Chewton Glen, from £325 a room a night (www.chewtonglen.com).*



Belmond Cadogan Hotel LONDON

Following a top-to-toe refurbishment that has brought its beguiling 132-year history to life, the Belmond Cadogan Hotel has thrown open its doors in sophisticated Chelsea, just minutes away from the designer boutiques on Sloane Street. Once the playground for socialites and bohemians such as Lillie Langtry and Oscar Wilde, who have new suites named after them, the hotel is an inner-city sanctuary with just 54 rooms, whose guests have exclusive access to a flower-filled private garden square. As the executive chef, Adam Handling oversees the food and drink; the main restaurant features an open kitchen in which artful dishes receive their final touches; and there is an elegant tea lounge where you can indulge in cucumber sandwiches and scones laden with cream and jam. *LH Belmond Cadogan Hotel, from £470 a room a night (www.belmond.com).*





The Victoria Inn NORFOLK

Standing proudly in the grounds of the magnificent Holkham Estate in north Norfolk, owned and managed by the Earl of Leicester, the Victoria Inn offers weary urbanites a chic coastal getaway. Along with its sister hotel Ancient House, this picturesque property is just metres from the romantic dunes of Holkham beach and is something of a foodie hub, renowned for serving delicious seasonal produce, including beef and lamb from the estate's tenant farmers, and oysters fresh from the shore. After dinner, retire to one of 20 cosy bedrooms and soak in a roll-top bath filled with hot water and salts – you might even spot the resident herd of fallow deer wandering past your window. ELLA PHILLIPS
The Victoria Inn, from £130 a room a night (www.holkham.co.uk).



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The Talbot NORTH YORKSHIRE
The experienced hoteliers Sam and Georgie Pearman, who previously set up the much-loved Lucky Onion group, have turned their attention to the Talbot, a 18th-century riverside coaching inn in the North Yorkshire market town of Malton. The couple have worked closely with Tom Naylor-Leyland (his family has owned the hotel for many years), who has successfully turned Malton into one of the UK's top gourmet destinations, complete with a monthly market and annual food festival. Following a rejuvenation of the interiors, the Talbot is back to its best, with the four-poster beds and roaring fires of a quintessential countryside retreat. A new head chef, Robert Brittain, serves up some of Malton's finest dishes in the Feasting Room, while the bar offers traditional tipples from local breweries and distilleries. EP
The Talbot, from £150 a room a night (www.talbotmalton.co.uk).



Gleneagles PERTHSHIRE

For nearly a century, royalty and Hollywood stars have been drawn to the timeless luxury of Gleneagles, an iconic 850-acre Scottish estate that nestles among the wild hills of Perthshire. During your stay, you can try your hand at a multitude of country pursuits, including shooting, fishing and falconry, enjoy a round of golf on the championship course, or opt for total R&R in the award-winning spa. There are 27 sumptuous suites, 232 guest bedrooms and nine bars and restaurants, including the new-look Strathearn, whose interiors pay homage to the golden age of railway travel. It's a beautiful setting to enjoy delicious dishes, such as a fabulous five-hour smoked lobster, revealed with a flourish from underneath gleaming silver cloches while live jazz plays in the background. EP
Gleneagles, from £395 a room a night (www.gleneagles.com).



University Arms CAMBRIDGE

Following a two-year, £80 million revamp, the University Arms has been transformed into a luxurious haven for literary types. In the panelled library, curated by the Mayfair bookseller Heywood Hill, choose from potent cocktails commemorating, among others, the Bloomsbury Group and Lord Byron. The soothing tones of Alan Bennett reading *The Wind in the Willows* are piped into the downstairs loos, and the suites are named after notable Cambridge figures, and stocked with relevant tomes. Guestrooms have cloud-like beds and elegant bathrooms with deep, claw-footed baths, while downstairs in Parker's Tavern (modelled on a college dining-hall) you can revel in local delicacies, such as buttered sole with coastal herbs, and an apple mousse that celebrates Isaac Newton's discovery of gravity. LYDIA SLATER
University Arms, from £205 a room a night (www.universityarms.com).





Heckfield Place HAMPSHIRE

Having delayed its opening by no less than six years, Heckfield Place is certainly making up for lost time. The Hampshire mansion offers a winning combination of exquisite interiors and glorious, landscaped gardens. Its designers have also borrowed from the billionaire owner Gerald Chan's private art collection, including a fascinating series of black and white mid-century photographs taken by Elsbeth Juda, working under her professional name of Jay, that line the staircase wall to the first floor. More feminine flair can be found in the restaurants, where the chef Skye Gyngell is in situ as culinary director, and throughout the Assembly, a programme of monthly talks curated by the journalist Lucy Hyslop. LH

Heckfield Place, from £350 a room a night (www.heckfieldplace.com).



No 38 the Park CHELTENHAM

Part of the Lucky Onion group, owned by Superdry's Julian Dunkerton and the fashion designer Jade Holland Cooper, No 38 the Park is a handsome townhouse in Cheltenham. Thirteen individually decorated bedrooms are filled with bold furnishings from British designers, while artworks by David Hockney, Peter Blake and Roni Stretch hang on the walls. For an extra-special occasion, book Room 1, whose glorious ensuite bathroom features a free-standing antique tub and double shower, as well as a minibar filled with delicacies from local farmers and producers. Downstairs, the town's sensational South Asian fine-dining restaurant Prithvi has relocated to the hotel's atmospheric eating space, with its Czech railway mirrors, wooden beams and industrial hanging lamps. LH

No 38 the Park, from £130 a room a night (www.theluckyonion.com).



The Nare Hotel CORNWALL

If you've never had cherries Jubilee flambéed at your table by a dashing waiter, you've clearly never visited the Nare Hotel. At this charming country hideaway on Cornwall's Roseland Peninsula, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, dinner jackets and ties are de rigueur for gentlemen, the hors d'oeuvres trolley gets a daily outing and taking afternoon tea is practically a religion. Good old-fashioned service goes hand-in-hand with contemporary comforts: relax in the hydrotherapy spa, tuck into lobster cocktails and champagne jellies aboard the *Alice Rose* motorboat, or explore the scenic Cornish countryside from behind the wheel of the hotel's Morgan 4/4. FRANCES HEDGES □

The Nare Hotel, from £295 a room a night (www.narehotel.co.uk).



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