

10.07.21

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/7f8e332c-dff7-11eb-bac0-9597568b601f?shareToken=c09854902d93e05ed70ac465f9937fe8>

THE  TIMES

HOTEL GUIDE

Hotel review: The Double Red Duke, Cotswolds

A 16th-century manor in Bampton has been given a revamp, with plant-filled conservatory, outdoor bar and shepherd's hut treatment room



Share



Save



What's the story?

The Double Red Duke (the Duke, for short) is the third in the Country Creatures portfolio of Cotswolds hotels. The 16th-century building in the pretty village of Clanfield, south of Burford near Bampton, looks every bit the lordly manor with its elegant gables and wisteria-clad brickwork. The new owners have added a plant-filled garden room behind the restaurant with statuary and comfy moss-green banquettes.

There's a new treatment room in a sleek black shepherd's hut outside, a greenhouse that's lit up at night, and an outdoor bar in the courtyard with the promise of lazy summer afternoons under red-and-white-striped umbrellas. You can't book a table in the bar — it's kept free for walk-ins and locals, who will remember this place as the Plough. Six new rooms in timber outbuildings complement the 13 in the main building.

10.07.21



A family bedroom

What do we like?

The details. There's a red theme throughout (red books, red-bordered menus, red metal bistro chairs, red velvet armchairs in the snug — even the dial on the old-style in-room phone), but not in a Christian Grey sort of way. The whole place feels luxurious, with fabric wallpaper by the French brand Casamance, handmade sinks and baths (in my eaves bedroom it's a deep, freestanding matt-copper tub) and British-made toiletries by 100 Acres.

10.07.21



The dining room

I could have done with a ledge to put my washbag on in the bathroom — why do hoteliers so often overlook that? But more thoughtful touches include the two head-to-toe beds against the slanting roof (fun for children), and delicious chocolate chip cookies with the in-room tea things (Alessi kettle, natch). A buffet breakfast — remember those? — is included in the price and served in the light-filled garden room. You get eggs (there's a DIY boiler), plus a range of breads, and mini packets of Coco Pops, which remind me of childhood holidays.

Dinner is in the main restaurant, a little gloomy for a summer evening (although I liked the cowbell-like lights) but perfect for cosy nights come winter. Service is smiley but stretched – it seems to be the case everywhere – and they have former Hawksmoor chefs manning the grill, so steaks are *à point*.

What's near by?

Handsome Bampton is down the road, walks are from your doorstep – a footpath leads through a hay field from St Stephen's churchyard behind the hotel – and, for wild swimmers, Lechlade-on-Thames is a popular spot for a dip. Badbury offers woodland wanders and forest bathing. And the Uffington white horse is a 30-minute pilgrimage by car.

Family-friendly; dog-friendly; restaurant

Jenny Coad was a guest of the Double Red Duke. B&B doubles from £120 (countrycreatures.com)