

October 15, 2017

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Home
INSIDE

Travel



THE SUNDAY TIMES
BEST PLACES TO
STAY
2017
2



100

GREAT BRITISH HOTELS



Travel Best Places to Stay

B&B

Home sweet home

WINNER **THE BULL SHED** **HEREFORDSHIRE NEW OPENING**
 The setting of this boutique bolthole is sublime; the sleepy village of Colwall has a ringside seat overlooking the Malvern Hills, and you can enjoy a slap-up breakfast cooked by the owner, Amanda Burningham – a MasterChef quarter-finalist. At the other end of the day, her husband, Lee Jay, will direct you and your glass of wine to a seat in their romantic courtyard. The 150-year-old barn has been transformed into a Soho House-cool chillout zone, with A-frame beams, a central woodburner surrounded by oversized sofas, and an industrial-chic walkway suspended above. This leads to one of the five bedrooms, which have dinosaur-egg baths, fake-fur throws and underfloor heating.
 Doubles from £130, B&B; bullshedbarn.com

A CHAPEL HOUSE CORNWALL
 This townhouse is the centrepiece of a photogenic Georgian street that sweeps down through bohemian Penzance to Mount's Bay. The six rooms are spacious and high-spec, with enormous bespoke oak beds, Ercol furniture and bathrooms with toiletries made by an artisan outfit further up the road. Guests get an iPad loaded with top tourist tips from the owner, Susan Stewart, as well as a room-service function using FaceTime. Susan's a superior home cook – breakfast includes devilled kidneys and homemade granola and jams.
 Doubles from £150, B&B; chapelhousepz.co.uk

D SEAVISTA CORNWALL
 A hipster spot near Mawgan Porth, Seavista blurs the lines between guesthouse and hotel, offering in-room spa treatments and a turndown service. All seven bedrooms have zesty colour schemes, midcentury furniture and homemade flapjacks on tea trays. Downstairs is a cut above the average B&B – a retro-styled sitting room, an honesty bar and a deck with Atlantic views. Breakfast is local sausages, eggs and bacon, or superfood porridge and avocado on toast. Even the ascetic will love the night-time treat on their pillow: homemade orange and goji chocolates.
 Doubles from £75, B&B; seavista.co.uk

G THE OLD PARSONAGE CORNWALL NEW OPENING
 This is a former naval lieutenant's home five minutes from Mevagissey harbour, with a cheery blue and buttercream facade. Breakfast is cooked to order, fresh milk is left in a flask outside your room every afternoon and there's even a pillow menu. The five bedrooms have soundproofing, pocket-sprung mattresses and antique furniture. The award-winning Kernow Sausage Company, in Tregony, supplies the bacon, sausages and black pudding, and the owner, Iza, nips down to the harbour for her home-cooked kippers and kedgeree.
 Doubles from £75, B&B; oldparsonage.net

D THE 25 VENON
 Prince William was a regular at the country-house hotel that Andy and Julian Banner-Price once ran in Caernarfon. The couple wanted to downsize and offer a more personalised service: this adults-only, six-bedroom place in Torquay is the result, and it's bursting with personality. Bedrooms have black-and-white stripes on the walls, tangerine chests of drawers and original fireplaces, with king-size or super-king beds and mist-free mirrors in the bathrooms. The award-winning breakfast menu offers everything from smoothies and a full English to eggs benedict.
 Doubles from £120, B&B; the25.uk



DALE VIEWS Stow House is as striking inside as out

E THE OLD FORGE DORSET
 This time-warped B&B in Cranborne Chase has a recreation of a 1930s garage workshop that recently featured in George Clarke's Shed of the Year show. Breakfast, taken in the old wheelwright's workshop, includes eggs from the resident chickens and apple juice from the family orchard. Four of the seven rooms are in the Old Forge; the rest are in a 1934 Romany wagon and two shepherd's huts. All are furnished as though the 21st century never happened.
 Doubles from £90, B&B; theoldforgeorset.co.uk

F THE DRIFTWOOD EAST SUSSEX NEW OPENING
 The owner of this Victorian townhouse in Bexhill-on-Sea is the hotelier Seng Loy and the designer is Mark Standing, whose CV includes the Great House at Sonning, our Budget winner this year. They have created six stylish bedrooms with exposed brick, button-backed leather bedheads, luxury linens and eye-catching throws on Hypnos beds. The shower rooms are small, but have rainforest showers and Noble Isle toiletries. The B&B is open to all comers for brunch and lunch, with breakfast served until 3pm.
 Doubles from £99, B&B; thedriftwoodbexhill.co.uk

G ECCLESTON SQUARE HOTEL LONDON SW1
 A B&B in Belgravia? Well, after a fashion. This grade II listed townhouse slips into the category because it doesn't have a restaurant. What it does have is some of the most hi-tech rooms in the capital. All have a Hästens, the Rolls-Royce of beds, which cost £12,000 each (see panel, page 7), as well as an iPad concierge, a free smartphone and a glass wall between bed and bathroom that turns opaque when you press a button. The free beer in the minibar is as welcome as the key to the square's private garden, where there's a tennis court.
 Doubles from £188, B&B; ecclestonssquarehotel.com

I STOW HOUSE NORTH YORKSHIRE
 There's an arty, metropolitan flavour to this Victorian vicarage, a mile outside the village of Aysgarth. The owners, Sarah and Phil Bucknall, have made their B&B-

memorable with bold colour schemes, striking pictures and easy, off-the-cuff hospitality. All three are on show in the purple library and the cocktail bar, where "anything from the Savoy Cocktail Book" can be mixed. The sense of style continues in the seven uncluttered bedrooms, which are furnished with statement beds and original antiques, complemented by dramatic views of the Wensleydale countryside.
 Doubles from £100, B&B; stowhouse.co.uk

I THE MALABAR CUMBRIA
 This magnificent six-room B&B in the Howgill Fells has an Indian theme. Graham, the owner, grew up in Kerala and lays on an extraordinary afternoon tea with 12 blends to try, as well as his own scones, lemon tarts and cherry brownies. His wife, Fiona, oversaw the decor, spoiling guests with giant beds, wool duvets, lacquered chests, elephant lamps and a freestanding bath in every room. How do you follow a night in such a space? The never-ending breakfast, taken at a communal table and including everything from wild boar bacon to grilled aubergine, is a great place to start.
 Doubles from £160, B&B; suites from £220, B&B; themalabar.co.uk

SUNDAY TIMES OFFER

SAVE 20% AND RECEIVE A FREE BREAKFAST AT ECCLESTON SQUARE
 One night in a double room, breakfast and complimentary minibar from £63pp* (down from £105pp) until Apr 30. Call 0330 180 5134, quoting ST100



Inghams
 Live Every Moment

Don't miss your Ski moment

- Choose from 91 leading resorts in 8 countries
- Flights from 21 UK airports
- Award-winning Ski Tour Operator
- Over 80 years of experience

For offers & information
 Visit ingham.co.uk
 Call 01483 345 374

80 YEARS OF SKI TOURS
 ABTA