

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Spring News from Rebecca Recommends' Luxury Clients

Happy New Year, far and wide! As another year unfolds before us, we dedicate ourselves to making the world a better place as we match curious travelers with the globe's most intriguing and magical destinations.

We are thrilled to share with you the latest and greatest from our partners, each of whom is dedicated to creating a life-changing getaway for your clients, whether it's the royal treatment in [a suite with footman service](#) at The Goring, or an exclusive [Grand Outback Photography Tour](#) offered by Southern Crossings.

On Wednesday, January 18th, at 2 p.m., we invite you to join [Original Travel UK](#) for a 30-minute educational webinar on the UK and Ireland's best-kept secrets. You may have heard that Dominique Dashwood-Evans has returned to head up OTUK's newly expanded team, and we hope you'll join us on the webinar to meet her.

[Our congratulations go to Barnsley House](#), which landed on *Condé Nast Traveler's* 2017 Gold List when the magazine's highly respected editors were as smitten as we are with this Cotswolds hideaway and its unique blend of contemporary comforts and stately English ambience.

The new year will bring several new ventures for many of our clients, including [Oddfellows on The Park](#), a wonderfully flamboyant boutique hotel run by my father, Jonathan Slater. Look for its doors to open in the serene Bruntwood Park outside Manchester this March.

Farther afield, we are hotly anticipating [the unveiling of Wild Coast Tented Lodge](#), the third hotel venture from Resplendent Ceylon and opening later this year. With the world's largest concentration of leopards, Yala is a must-see for your wildlife-loving clients. In the Yucatán, [Private Haciendas](#) expands its collection of historic properties as it opens the beautiful Hacienda Tacubaya, with a welcoming staff ready to attend to your clients' every need in a jungle paradise.

That's just the beginning of a fabulous year ahead for Rebecca Recommends and all our partners and the experiences they offer, from [leisurely layovers in London](#) at Great Fosters, a lovingly

As you inspire your own clients for their best year of travel yet, please contact me or any of the Rebecca Recommends team if we can give you more information about any of our featured hotels and services. We love to hear from you.

Very best wishes,

Rebecca

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THE GORING IN LONDON



Advisors who are part of The Goring's Life is Suite program receive extra incentives when they book clients into the Belgravia Suite, pictured here.

The Rewards of Booking The Goring's Beautiful Suites

The Goring delivers the ultimate service experience to guests who stay in one of its truly sumptuous suites with a [dedicated footman](#) trained to the hotel's impeccable standards. To top it off, travel advisors who have previously booked their clients into a Junior Suite, the Belgravia Suite or the Royal Suite are invited to register for the Life is Suite reward incentive program by emailing reservations@thegoring.com with your full name, email address, company and office address.

Advisors who have registered in the program will receive a \$100 American Express gift card for each reservation made in a Belgravia Suite and a \$200 American Express gift card for each reservation made in the Royal Suite. This program runs alongside the increased 25% commission that is currently in place for Junior and Belgravia Suite bookings.

Rewards are mailed upon departure of the guest and cannot be retroactively claimed. If you make a reservation through the Global Distribution System, kindly email [The Goring](#) with details of the booking to claim your reward. (Here are all the [terms and conditions](#).)

Other tantalizing programs from The Goring include [the new Mid-Week bonus supplement](#), which allows guests to enjoy extras like early check-in, a guaranteed room upgrade and other extras for a special supplement of just £45 per night.



Rita Hackforth-Jones, Caroline Charnock, Amor Aguado, Dominique Dashwood-Evans, Susie Little and Annie O'Donoghue with a friend at Buckingham Palace.

Join OTUK's Webinar Call Jan. 18th To Learn More About The UK & Ireland

We are so excited to announce that Dominique Dashwood-Evans has returned to [Original Travel UK](#) to head up a newly expanded team. With prior experience within a UK Virtuoso on-site and in luxury events (including working on The Queen's Jubilee and Garden Parties), Dominique is perfectly placed as the main point of contact for advisors and clients alike.

You can meet Dominique and learn more about hidden gems scattered across the UK and Ireland when OTUK offers an educational webinar on **Wednesday, January 18th from 2:00 - 2:30 pm EST**. This is an outstanding opportunity to gain more product knowledge on lesser-known areas of the UK and Ireland.

You may join the webinar by [clicking on this link](#) from your computer, tablet or smartphone. You will be able to listen from this link, but if you would like to speak, kindly dial in with your phone to +44 (0) 20 3713 5011, using the access code 327-786-621. To register ahead of time so we know to expect you, email [Rita Hackforth-Jones](#).

OTUK's newly expanded team is brimming with energy and an enthusiasm for all things British and Irish. They scout the coolest destinations, meet the best local guides, and seek out special properties across the country so they can create the perfect itinerary for your clients. Keep up-to-date with the team and their boundless energy at OTUK's new [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

BARNSLEY HOUSE IN THE COTSWOLDS



Condé Nast Traveler editors call Barnsley House "among the best of the English countryside's flock of New Wave country hotels."

Making Condé Nast Traveler's 2017 Gold List

It is gratifying when such experienced, discerning travelers as the editors at Condé Nast Traveler confirm what the team at Rebecca Recommends already knows. Our clients are among the best in the world. The editors scoured six continents and 46 countries for their list of favorite hotels, and [Barnsley House in the Cotswolds](#) was one of ten properties chosen in the U.K.

[Here's what the editors of Condé Nast Traveler had to say:](#) "Among the best of the English countryside's flock of New Wave country hotels is Barnsley House, a 1697 stone manor with just 18 rooms, each of which is unique, mixing contemporary furniture and modern art with the occasional antique."

They praised the many wonderful details: "free champagne, mineral water, fresh-squeezed orange juice, and chocolates in the fridge; oversized showerheads; one of the country's loveliest gardens (laid out in the late 1950s by the renowned Rosemary Verey); and not one but two watering holes—an on-site saloon featuring a cherry-red Lucite bar illuminated from within and the village pub nearby, which pulls in one of the hippest crowds around."

ODDFELLOWS ON THE PARK NEAR MANCHESTER



Oddfellows On The Park is a stunning boutique hotel in the restored 19th century mansion, Bruntwood Hall.

Oddfellows On The Park Will Open in March

[Oddfellows On The Park](#) will be a venue like no other, both idiosyncratic and flamboyant. Set to open in March, the stunning 22-bedroom boutique hotel sits amidst the mature woodland of Bruntwood Park's magical 100 acres in Cheadle, just outside Manchester, and reservations are now being accepted.

Oddfellows on the Park is inspired by the story of Major James Platt, the Bruntwood Hall resident who created an equestrian stud farm on the estate and added the enormously expensive ballroom where an ambitious new restaurant called [The Galloping Major](#) will be headed by Daniel Beech.

The sympathetically renovated hall has some gorgeous original features that will be married with the Oddfellows' signature quirky interior design spin. In the rooms, signature features include beds you can sink into, deep rolltop baths and a strong shower.

Meanwhile, at Oddfellows Chester, The Secret Garden has been converted to [Oddfellows On The Piste](#), Chester's funkiest "ski resort" until the end of January. Winter BBQs, warming cocktails and fun are all on the menu.

DECOUVERTES IN FRANCE



Decouvertes' President and CEO Bertrand Collignon and COO Maude Chemin (third and fourth from left), enjoy a glass of Champagne with Decouvertes' DMC Group Advisor Sandra Py (far left) and colleagues from Atout France, which promotes France as a tourist destination.

Decouvertes Rolls Out the Red Carpet in Paris

France's leading luxury destination management company, [Decouvertes](#) was extremely proud to be among those travel companies which graciously hosted the 2016 Virtuoso Chairman's Event, held in the fabulous global center for art, fashion, gastronomy and culture that is Paris.

Decouvertes created [the Chairman's Event flipbook with all the amazing experiences](#) available to those who were fortunate enough to attend. We encourage you to peruse the flipbook, as it provides a fascinating look at the hidden possibilities of Paris and the kind of experiences Decouvertes can arrange for your clients. The one exception, alas, is a visit to Coco Chanel's apartment, which is typically reserved for Chanel clients whom Karl Lagerfeld has personally approved to visit.

Needless to say, with the entire Parisian luxury travel industry focused on showcasing their enchanting city at its best, the Virtuoso Chairman's Event was a huge success. "It was a great opportunity for the team to promote France as a destination, to collaborate hand-in-hand with all our partners, and to showcase exceptional experiences in Paris," says Bertrand Collignon, President and CEO of Decouvertes.

RESPLENDENT CEYLON IN SRI LANKA



Wild Coast Tented Lodge's family villas are located away from the couples' suites.

Wild Coast Tented Lodge in Yala to Open In August

The much-touted [travel destination of Sri Lanka](#) will have another major attraction when [Wild Coast Tented Lodge](#) opens later this year. The luxury wilderness camp is the third hotel venture from Respendent Ceylon, which owns [Cape Weligama](#) on the coast near Galle, and [Tea Trails](#) in the hill country.

The setting is a pristine beach on the edge of Yala National Park, home to the world's largest concentration of leopards, along with wild elephants, sloth bears and civets. Constructed with natural materials to blend in with the landscape, The Lodge's 28 spacious, air-conditioned suites will offer a safari-style wilderness experience along with all the comforts of a traditional luxury hotel.

Four secluded beach-facing suites have their own plunge pools for a more private couples experience. Sixteen sumptuous suites are dotted around five watering holes designed to attract birds, amphibians and other wildlife, while the Family Cluster will be home to eight sizeable tents and a play area equipped with slides, swings and rope ladders.

An on-site dive center in connection with sister property, Cape Weligama, will allow guests to discover the diverse world that lies beneath Sri Lanka's waters, including the haunting wrecks of many Portuguese treasure galleons.

There are plenty of ways to enjoy Sri Lanka before the camp at Yala opens. Clients can become a tea connoisseur with a [Ceylon Tea Celebration Package](#) in honor of the 150th anniversary of the first tea planting in Sri Lanka (then known as Ceylon), or savor both [Tea and Sea](#) at Cape Weligama and Tea Trails, the only two Relais & Chateaux properties on Sri Lanka.

VENTOURS IN INDIA AND BEYOND



Rawla Narlai in Rajasthan is a unique property of the sort Ventours is always seeking out.

Ventours Uncovers Secret Treasures in Rajasthan

Ventours has built its reputation as the premier luxury management company for India by searching out exclusive new properties and exciting destinations, then orchestrating special experiences on the ground.

Here's a sneak peek at Rawla Narlai, a beautifully restored heritage resort that will be featured on a Ventour's fam trip to Rajasthan later this year. Once a hunting lodge of Jodhpur's Royal family, Rawla Narlai is still owned by family members. In fact, a Ventours owner is related to an owner of Rawla Narlai, giving it even deeper connections and special access to this lovely property.

Set in a traditional rural village at the foot of a mammoth granite rock, Rawla Narlai is the perfect base from which to enjoy countryside safaris, horseback riding, cave temple visits, village walks and leopard sightings, which Ventours can always arrange. One special possibility: riding a bullock cart to dine at the 16th century *baori*, a massive stepped well (more like an ancient rock-hewn swimming pool) that is lit by candles, a magical evening that won't soon be forgotten.

Ventours can create equally enchanting land experiences in the other countries it serves, including Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet and the Maldives.

SOUTHERN CROSSINGS IN AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC



The Grand Outback Photography Tour is just one of many exceptional things to do during the Australian winter -- June through August.

The Pleasures of Heading "Down Under" in Winter

Even highly experienced travel advisors may believe that the winter months of June through August are not ideal for travel "down under". However, [Southern Crossings](#), the leading bespoke destination management company, advises that it can be *the best time* to visit some of the area's greatest treasures. The crowds are gone, the weather is still fine, and there are interesting experiences you can have only that time of year.

One special occasion is the [Grand Outback Photography Tour](#) coming up June 9th - 22nd. Accompanied by a highly respected travel photographer, this intimate group will travel to some of the most remote corners of the continent, including the underground opal mining town of Coober Pedy, the dramatic sandstone cliffs of Kings Canyon and the stunning Mary River wetlands.

Photographers (and their non-photographer partners) will delight in this 14 day all-inclusive and very exclusive tour of Australia, which will also touch down in the colourful Tiwi Islands, the rugged Kimberley Coastline, the majestic Wilpena Pound and iconic Uluru (Ayers Rock), the Red Heart of Australia where the art installation Field of Light has been extended until March 31, 2018.

In the Great Barrier Reef, "winter" possibilities include sailing a yacht amongst the picture-perfect Whitsunday Islands, sightseeing in style aboard a private luxury cruiser, or swimming with Minke Whales in June and July. Humpback whales appear off Western Australia's Ningaloo Coast from July through October.

In New Zealand, the ski season in the country's dramatic Southern Alps runs from mid-June through late September. World class heli-skiing is also on offer, which extends the ski season into the shoulder months of May and October. Need we say more?

BLANKET BAY LODGE NEAR QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND



It's fun, and you don't have to be an extreme skier or snowboarder to heli-ski in New Zealand.

Heli-Skiing in New Zealand's Adventure Capital

Speaking of thrilling off-season possibilities, Condé Nast Traveler recommends New Zealand's adventure capital, Queenstown, as a "best place to go in 2017" in July, when ski season starts. Blanket Bay, [the country's finest wilderness lodge](#), can arrange trips from its doorstep with [helicopters that transport skiers and snowboarders](#) to virgin powder. With New Zealand's unique geography you can heli-ski on moderate terrain (the average Southern Alps' heli-ski run is 2,460 vertical feet).

Set on the northeastern corner of Lake Wakatipu and ringed by mountains, Blanket Bay is known for its stunning views, a combination of sky, mountain and lake unlike anywhere else in the country. Though it feels remote, Blanket Bay is less than an hour from the airport (and a helicopter ride is just ten minutes).

Year-round there is always something to do -- spectacular hiking, fly-fishing, jet-boating, kayaking, 4WD tours, bungee-jumping, horseback riding, art trails, vineyards, top-flight golf courses, and flight-seeing over the World Heritage Fiordland National Park and Milford Sound.

CATHERWOOD TRAVELS AND
PRIVATE HACIENDAS IN THE YUCATÁN



The friendliness of the Maya people makes visiting the Yucatan a special delight.

Mérida Celebrates Its 475th Anniversary

The ancient capital of the Yucatán, Mérida, is celebrating its 475th anniversary this year, and [Catherwood Travels](#), the premiere on-site in the Yucatan, is ready for anyone who wants to come to the party. Known as The White City, Mérida has preserved a rich architectural heritage that includes an underlying pre-hispanic city, colonial, Porfirian and modern styles that blend beautifully together.

Special events planned throughout the year include the Festival of Light, performances by Mexican and international artists, and an exhibition of artwork by Degas, Monet and Cezanne. No matter when you visit the city, you can find free cultural events -- fairs, theatre, dances, sports and music -- to attend all year round.

Mérida will also hold the designation of American Capital of Culture for 2017, making it the only city in the world to achieve this designation twice.

Catherwood Travels can help plan the perfect trip by offering exclusive access to a collection of historic [Private Haciendas](#). The newest member of the collection is Hacienda Tacubaya, with four suites and a full staff always ready to serve your clients in a most warm and graciously welcoming way.

GREAT FOSTERS IN SURREY



A London Heathrow Layover at a Tudor Hunting Lodge

Fosters, a Tudor hunting lodge transformed into a hotel in 1930, is just twenty minutes from London Heathrow and [an attractive Layover Package](#) includes accommodation, full English breakfast and a chauffeur-driven car to -- or from -- London Heathrow.

As a Grade One building "of exceptional interest" on The National Heritage List for England (only 2.5% of listed buildings have that top ranking), [Great Fosters is an inherently fascinating place](#) to stay. It is also twenty minutes from Windsor Castle, the family home of British kings and queens for almost 1,000 years and still an official residence of Her Majesty The Queen.

Henry VIII's favorite residence during the second half of his reign, Hampton Court Palace, is just 30 minutes from Great Fosters. Highlights include The Great Hall, the new Cumberland Gallery with works from the royal collection, and the original Tudor kitchens designed to feed at least 600 people twice a day.

When you're hungry, [The Tudor Room](#) will satisfy with a stately dining experience that recently earned a Michelin star. Chef Douglas Balish sources only the most perfect ingredients, including those supplied by Great Fosters' own kitchen garden.

MIDDLETHORPE HALL NEAR YORK



A host of fascinating special programs are coming up at Middlethorpe Hall.

Orchids, Whisky and Agatha Christie at Middlethorpe Hall

[Middlethorpe Hall](#), a 17th century William and Mary country house just ten minutes from the medieval city of York, has programs coming up that are sure to delight your garden-loving, whisky-drinking, mystery-loving clients. Andrew Leighton of the Royal Horticultural Society joins Head Gardener David Barker on March 9th for "Caring For Orchids", which includes a tour of Middlethorpe's spring gardens and a lively luncheon.

Back by popular demand, Julian Kay from the Wright Wine Company leads a jovial "Whisky Tasting Dinner" on March 17th. Julian owns one of the largest collections of whisky in the UK. Yes, he has tried them all, and loves nothing better than to share some special bottles and knowledge.

Finally, fans of "Agatha Christie and Art Deco" will delight on April 7th, when History Wardrobe presents dramatic readings of Christie's work while dressed in dainty day dresses, beaded flapper frocks and sweeping evening gowns from the 1920s and 1930s. There's even a mystery to solve. Enjoy a sparkling wine reception and afternoon tea as you discover just why Mrs Christie's life was as interesting as any novel, from her work in the world of archaeology to the drama of her eleven-day disappearance.

Now a National Trust property, Middlethorpe was built for Thomas Barlow, a prosperous master cutler who bought the estate in 1698 as a bid to establish himself as a country gentleman, a familiar pattern in English life. Read more about these programs and others in Middlethorpe Hall's [most recent newsletter](#).



Hartwell House is known for its outstanding public rooms, which are still fit for a king.

The Royal Heritage of Hartwell House

[Hartwell House](#) is a celebrated country house with a long history, but its most colorful resident was certainly the exiled King of France, Louis XVIII, who held court there from 1809 to 1814. During the residence of the French Court the roof was converted into a miniature farm, where birds and rabbits were reared in cages (a king must eat royally) and vegetables and herbs were cultivated in densely planted tubs. Shops were opened in the outbuildings by émigrés short of money.

It's fascinating to explore this National Trust property, just 35 minutes by train from London. Hartwell House is a Grade I listed Jacobean and Georgian House just two miles west of Aylesbury and surrounded by 90 acres of gardens and parkland.

Built in the early seventeenth century for the Hampden family, this Relais & Chateau property features outstanding decorative plasterwork and panelling. The hotel has 46 bedrooms and suites, The Old Rectory, meeting rooms, a restaurant, a spa and always [many interesting special offers](#).

CALCOT IN THE COTSWOLDS



Calcot Spa's beautiful outdoor soaking pool is right by a roaring fire.

Calcot Recognized For Leadership in Spas

With tumbling hills, lavender horizons, wildlife, walks and waterparks, the Cotswolds are lovely, and what's more, right on the doorstep of [Calcot](#). It has been recognized as The Best Family Hotel in the U.K., yet it's also a romantic destination because of the posh Calcot Spa. With an indoor pool, secluded courtyard, outdoor hot tub with log fire, gymnasium and multiple treatment rooms stocked with the best therapists and the best products, Calcot is renowned as one of the most luxurious spa hotels in the Cotswolds.

What's more, Spa Manager and Director Cathy Ball was recognized as Spa Professional of the Year in the United Kingdom, largely because of her leadership in training all Calcot therapists to offer sympathetic treatments to cancer sufferers. A new treatment called Tranquil Sea allows therapists to fully massage a client lying comfortably on their backs on warm water-filled cushions, without having to ask them to turn. It's just one more way Calcot achieves excellence, every day, for every guest.

THE NARE IN CORNWALL



The Nare boasts a lovely seaside location, early flowering gardens, and Cornwall's coziest sitting room.

Cornwall Makes The New York Times' List of Places to Go in 2017

[The Nare](#) is Cornwall's finest hotel, something to keep in mind if you're working your way through *The New York Times'* suggestions of [52 Places To Go In 2017](#). The article recommends Penzance, the historic Cornish port town in the southwest of England, which is having a moment thanks to the popularity of *Poldark*, the BBC costume drama set in 18th-century Cornwall.

There's plenty to do on a day trip from The Nare, just one hour away by car. If the tide's out walk across the causeway, or take a boat over to St Michael's Mount, home to a fairytale castle and tropical gardens.

The Nare's remarkably mild micro-climate creates a profusion of early spring flowering shrubs, and the hotel excels in good old-fashioned service. Friendly and welcoming, the staff are always on hand to ensure that everything guests need is in place for a perfect stay.

G & V ROYAL MILE HOTEL, EDINBURGH



G&V Royal Mile Hotel has opened a modern new bar called Epicurean.

The Changes Keep Coming As G&V Plans A New Spa

sensibilities of its city, which is known famous for arts and theatre festivals. First, the newly opened and ultra-modern [Epicurean](#) features all day-dining and an extensive cocktail menu that leads guests on a Scotsman's journey of Botanical Europe.

Cucina, the award-winning Italian restaurant, now serves a buffet breakfast with hand-pressed organic cheeses, artisanal breads and [honey provided by G&V's own bees](#) -- all 180,000 of them. Coming up in 2017, G&V is redesigning its gym and spa, which will feature Ishga, an organic skincare line based on Scottish seaweed and springwater, and ila, made in the Cotswolds with essential oils and loving intent.

The only five-star hotel on the historic Royal Mile, G&V is located in the heart of the medieval Old Town, and within easy walking distance of Edinburgh's many beautiful and historic landmarks and several tempting shopping districts, including those in the Georgian New Town.

ALDOURIE CASTLE ESTATE AT LOCH NESS, SCOTLAND



Guests can enjoy their own private castle right on Loch Ness.

Have a Summer House Party at Aldourie Castle Estate

A house party haven for family gatherings, [Aldourie Castle Estate in Scotland](#) on the southern shores of Loch Ness offers the pinnacle of exclusive, luxury living, both inside and out. When the weather is high (and even when it's low), summertime at Aldourie is a sight to behold. Backed by the majestic Highland hills, boats bob on the marina, signaling the lush summer season.

Exclusive Castle guests can explore the magnificent 500-acre Scottish Estate, walking through lush tree-shadowed trails, gazing over a glimmering Loch Ness from the Estate's private pier, enjoying the nights along Dores Beach.

From early summer, the Castle gardens start to bloom with bright colours in every shade, from rose arches to rhododendron walks and wild, cascading flowers. Barbeques on the terrace make for an enjoyable afternoon in the sun and come the evening guests go off to wander the grounds - or sometimes borrow the golf buggy - with a glass of the Castle's finest cellar wine.

THE TORRIDON IN THE WEST HIGHLANDS, SCOTLAND



The Torriddon has been receiving lots of excellent press lately.

Praise for The Torriddon's Food, Comforts and Yes, Whisky

We are so thrilled with all the [well-deserved praise of The Torriddon](#) that is popping up lately. "Offering ultra-luxe accommodation and fine dining in staggeringly beautiful surroundings, The Torriddon is perfect for those planning to tour the North Coast 500 road route in style," [writes Cal Flyn in The Telegraph](#). "Chef David Barnett pulls no punches while showcasing the best of local produce, including beef from the shaggy Highland cattle grazing outside. The artful cheeseboard is a must."

[The Daily Mail named The Torriddon](#) among the U.K.'s Best Boozy Getaways. "Novices can take up a whisky nosing for £30 per person by trained staff, where guests will be treated to a sample of the bar's 350 single malt whiskies," writes Imogen Blake. "Once you're there, you won't want to leave if you're a whisky lover."

Finally, [NBC New York devoted a segment](#) to the pleasures of The Torriddon. The bedrooms are luxurious, the fine dining makes brilliant use of local ingredients, and when you tire of sitting, The Torriddon has its own friendly and professional activities team to lead you forth across the sort of scenery which lifts the soul.

BODYSGALLEN HALL & SPA IN NORTH WALES



The cozy Bodysgallen is the perfect place from which to explore North Wales.

History Buffs and Hikers Will Love Bodysgallen

"The jewel of north Wales," 17th-century [Bodysgallen Hall & Spa](#) offers an opportunity to stay in a National Trust property while touring nearby National Trust treasures such as [Penrhyn Castle](#), a medieval fortified manor house transformed into one of the U.K.'s most admired Norman Revival "mock castles".

For hikers, The Wales Coast Path is the world's longest continuous coastal path, passing through marine nature reserves and a wildlife paradise regarded as one of the top five most important botanical sites in Britain.

With lake-studded landscapes and villages steeped in history, breathtaking [Snowdonia National Park](#) is known for its hiking, but there's plenty more to enjoy, including a vintage steam railway that climbs the highest peak in Wales. [Read Bodysgallen's most recent newsletter for specials.](#)

CASTLE LESLIE ESTATE, IRELAND



Castle Leslie Estate can provide a romantic retreat, relaxing break or action-packed adventure.

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Take a moment to [enjoy this recent video that was shot at Castle Leslie Estate](#) and showcases just how beautiful this part of Ireland truly is. Set on 1,000 acres of gorgeous Irish countryside, dotted with ancient woodland and glittering lakes, [Castle Leslie Estate in County Monaghan](#) is one of the last great Irish Castle estates still in the hands of its founding family.

Only 80 minutes from Dublin, Castle Leslie Estate boasts accommodations to suit all tastes. The Castle offers authentic original interiors and old-style hospitality, while The Old Stable Mews and Village Cottages are the perfect spot for families or couples who desire the convenience of hotel living combined with the privacy of a luxury home rental. The Lodge is the social hub of the Estate, bringing locals and guests together in a convivial atmosphere.

There's so much to do at Castle Leslie Estate including fishing, exceptional walking trails, kayaking and clay pigeon shooting, a private cinema, hot air balloon rides, falconry, a fabulous spa and of course, the famous [world-class equestrian center](#).

When it comes to dining, it's all about choice. Guests can look forward to lazy breakfasts, light lunches or picnic lunches in the woodlands, Irish country cooking in Conor's bar or gourmet dinners in the 2AA Rosette award-winning Snaffles Restaurant. No matter where you eat on the Estate, you will enjoy the best of classic Irish cooking, including daily-baked breads and scones and homemade preserves delicious enough to tempt any guest.

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