

Sleepover... the world's finest hotels



Stoke Place Hotel – Buckinghamshire

Should we go and see the hotel llamas by the lake before or after our cocktails? Now that's a... [read more](#)



The Bildeston Crown - Suffolk

Please excuse us if we come across a little snobby, but we've resolved to only ever stay at hotels as nice as the Bildeston Crown... [read more](#)



The Montpellier Chapter Hotel - Cheltenham

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Carton House Hotel - Maynooth

Carton House Hotel in Maynooth, just outside Dublin, is an extremely imposing building, as befits the original home of the Dukes of... [read more](#)



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I'll never forget our stay at the Reading Rooms. I can't forget it - after returning from the elegant Margate hotel, my boyfriend... [read more](#)



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Stoke Place Hotel – Buckinghamshire

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www.stokeplace.co.uk

Review by Isabel Fay

Should we go and see the hotel llamas by the lake before or after our cocktails? Now that's a dilemma, a proper predicament, because when you're lolling on the perfect cushion bedecked bed, the real problem is that you may never get up again. Stoke Place is a true destination hotel with perfectly pitched design features - so impressive you know you're somewhere seriously special, but so inviting that you feel utterly at home.



Set in 26 acres of Capability Brown designed grounds this hotel is a shining example of modern British hospitality. Elegant woodland surrounds a shimmering lake with an uptumed rowboat, hammocks are scattered under ancient oaks and a giant chessboard heralds the way towards the sumptuous bar. The Garden Room restaurant's fresh modern décor makes for a cosmopolitan dining experience. Rooms range from small but perfectly formed to stonking great suites with freestanding baths, all sprinkled with the magic touch of Ilse Crawford (of Babington design fame). Deep toned wood and wallpapers splashed with coppers and silver are lit by contemporary chandeliers, modern four poster beds are endlessly huge and seriously comfortable, and the claw-footed baths, big enough for two, are not your only option as you can always soak under the soft monsoon showers. You see? How did we ever leave the room?



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Barceló Billesley Manor Hotel

Warwickshire - Before we begin, allow me to make two things quite clear - I have visited very many extremely plush hotels and I am... [read more](#)



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Broad House Hotel - Wroxham

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The Ottoman Imperial Hotel is a small but luxurious little hotel situated in one of Istanbul's... [read more](#)



Gravetye Manor - Sussex

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But we did. The bar at Stoke Place is manned by charming staff in relaxed brown cardigans, a uniform away from uniform. Here you can nibble on olives and sip your faultless aperitifs while you peruse the menu. It's a lucky thing the bar is so comfy, you may take some considerable time choosing from this menu, it's seriously cool.

Perfectly poached wood pigeon came with truffle potato, pickled raspberries and bitter chocolate jelly cubes. Elegant globe artichokes were scattered with tiny grolles, confit tomato and topped with Hoegaarden Air. It's inventive stuff, but without the often alienating air of an innovative menu. Modern and elegant with a twist, befitting the hotel's style, the chef has been let loose and is clearly having a blast, but with enough restraint that we're all in on the fun. Portions were small but were topped up by a steady flow of exquisite palette cleansers, all surprising and amusing, if delivered with slightly more ceremony than was necessary. Pan seared fillet of beef, tongue and bordelaise sauce made my companion actually "shush" me. Apparently this was so good it had to be savoured, nay honoured, with a moment of complete silence. Sigh. Topping this off with chocolate and tonka bean ganache, caramelised white chocolate, amaretto mousse, coffee air and green tea ice cream, I realised we had both stopped talking. With sappy content smiles on our faces we sloped back to the bar for a well earned brandy and a slate of divine chocolates.

"I literally couldn't eat another thing" I sighed opening the door to find the turndown service had left us a selection of, oh lord, more knee trembling chocolates and a slate of the choicest fruit. Apparently I literally could eat another thing.

Stoke Place is quite simply a treat. Whether you're looking for somewhere very special to spend the night or are on your way to the airport and just feel plain decadent, it's a contemporary gem that's both surprising and charming.

Prices start from £140 for a double room, dinner starts at £30 per head for two courses. London Marylebone to Gerrards Cross rail 30 mins, 4.6 miles from Gerrards Cross.



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