

# COUNTRY & TOWNHOUSE

DECEMBER 2009 £3.00

**GIFT AID**  
WE'VE GOT  
CHRISTMAS  
WRAPPED

**PASTURES GREEN**  
A new life  
in the  
country

How to  
commission  
a work of art

**HIDDEN TREASURES**  
HOTELS TO  
HIBERNATE IN

**LUXE REDUX**

SW  
Chelsea chic

**FOOD & TRAVEL** hotels



**5 VINE HOUSE, BURNHAM MARKET**  
A secret British hideaway in Norfolk – elegantly and beautifully decorated with just seven romantic bedrooms. Expect stylish wallpapers, duck egg blue paints, lush linens and claw baths. Everything is impeccably tasteful and comfortable. There are sofas to curl up on, board games to play, lots of magazines and a little patio garden. Spend the day on glorious Holkham beach or explore the sweet little boutiques and delis of Burnham market. The perfect weekend retreat.  
**DOUBLES FROM: £125**  
01328 738777; vinehouseboutiquehotel.co.uk



**9 PERIVOLAS, SANTORINI**  
Santorini is so impossibly pretty. Those white washed houses, that deep blue sky, and oh those dreamy infinity pools. All is well with the world here, especially if you are staying at Perivolos, the most laidback and boho of all the island's boutique gems. This is organic cave dwelling at its smartest: the 17 rooms are built into 200 year old caves, each with its own terrace – the suite has an olive tree growing in the sitting room. Book now for a perfect spring break.  
**DOUBLES FROM: £190**  
Through Mediterranean Experiences, 0845 277 3398

## HIDDEN TREASURES

*If you're looking for to treat yourselves, these luxurious hidden gems are thoroughly decadent and spoiling, says Daisy Finer*

### 1 SAN DOMENICO HOUSE, CHELSEA

An incredibly stylish boutique home-from-home hotel, with just 15 gorgeously decadent rooms – think grand four-poster beds, gilded mirrors, sumptuous fabrics, antiques and proper paintings. One couldn't really ask for a more homely, old fashioned, comforting atmosphere. Best of all is the location, right in the heart of Chelsea and two minutes from the King's Road, but in a wonderfully quiet residential street.  
**DOUBLES FROM: £235**  
020 7581 5757; sandomenicohouse.com

### 2 OAK HOUSE NO 1, TETTBURY

A colourful, juicy fruity bolthole in the heart of one of the prettiest Cotswolds market towns. A bit kitsch, a bit rock 'n' roll and a bit country classic, this four bedroom B&B is a fabulous surprise. Everywhere you look is eye candy – original Andy Warhols, Philippe Starck taps... It's a crazy, deeply original mix put together with flair by owner Gary Kennedy and his wife, who make impeccable and fascinating hosts.  
**DOUBLES FROM: £135**  
Book through Chic Retreats, 020 7307 2797

### 3 BOWWOOD HOUSE HOTEL, WILTSHIRE

If you want to combine a championship golf course, a marvellous nearby historic house, great food and a swanky spa then this sleek, brand new hotel on the grounds of Lord Lansdowne's estate is a real find. OK, so the hotel building itself isn't the most charming, but the 43 bedrooms are calm cocoons, decorated by the Marchioness herself (who used to work for Colefax and Fowler), and the setting, hidden amongst 200 acres of Capability Brown parkland is splendid.  
**DOUBLES FROM: £180**  
01249 822228; bowwood.org

### 4 HOTEL TERRAVINA, NEW FOREST

A new, 11-bedroomed, sparkly gem from the co-founders behind the much loved Hotel du Vin chain. Run by an army of on-the-ball staff, this shiny new star is a perfect base for exploring the wonderful New Forest. But best of all is the food glorious food, most of it local sourced, and all of it dangerously accompanied by a ridiculously extensive wine list.  
**DOUBLES FROM: £135**  
Book through i-escape.com



### 7 JARDINS SECRETS, NIMES

Is this one of the prettiest hotels in the world? Jardins Secrets is an dreamy, romantic, joyously good value B&B in the heart of French Nimes. Eat breakfast under the olive trees, on vintage English china and crisp white linens. Dip into the shaded pool, hole-up in the Moorish candlelit spa and marvel at the lovely interiors. Good enough to save marriages.  
**DOUBLES FROM: £225**  
Book through Chic Retreats, 020 7307 2797

### 8 CASADE MADRID, MADRID

What a gorgeous little number. Casa de Madrid has pedigree, style and charm. Hidden away on the second floor of an 18th century building, it exudes the atmosphere of a smart aristocratic private house. There's a wonderful salon with busts and Persian rugs, and of the seven heavenly bedrooms the Darnask suite has a sitting room and a stone Jacuzzi bath.  
**DOUBLES FROM: €250**  
Book through i-escape.com

### 10 JK PLACE, FLORENCE

A discreet, creamy, dreamy townhouse decorated with low-level sofas, cashmere throws, piles of glossy books and antique prints. There are just 20 bedrooms, with plasma screens, walk-in wardrobes and bath tubs to wallow in. You can help yourself to drinks, biscotti and mini pizzas in the dining room, and sunbathe on the roof terrace with a glass of prosecco. The ever helpful staff can arrange anything, including a personal shopper – don't miss Farmacia Santa Maria Novella, located just across the square in a magnificent 13th Century frescoed chapel.  
**DOUBLES FROM: €350**  
+39 055 2645181; jkplace.com



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