



The rise of the
"Brazilian Obama"
INTERNATIONAL
P18

Should we be
ashamed of
Downton?
BRITISH P16

THE GREAT
SPIDER
INVASION
HEALTH P21

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A champion for England? Cameron turns south

Page 6



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Travel

LEISURE 45

Six stylish holiday houses in Britain

From cosy couples' retreats to modernist party houses, British holiday rentals are upping the style ante

Georgian grandeur on the Borders

Crailing House, Near Jedburgh, Scottish Borders

A neo-classical country house set in rolling parkland in the Teviot Valley, Crailing House has a pleasing balance of grandeur, style and homely comforts, says Condé Nast Traveller. The East India

Company official who built it in 1803 employed a "flurry" of servants, and there's still "an air of Downton Abbey" about it, with a live-in housekeeper who "tiptoes around" clearing up each morning. Ceilings soar and double-height windows frame "dreamy" pastoral views. There's an "industrial-size" Everhot range in the huge kitchen-dining room; and in the sitting room, drawing room and study, centuries-old portraits and "carefully chosen" antiques are set off against Designers Guild fabrics. Oxnam Water flows through the estate, and provides good trout fishing. *Sleeps 12 from £2,300pw. www.craltreeandcraltree.com*



Eco-luxe style by the sea

The Cabin at Bliss Blakeney, Blakeney, Norfolk

Set in a glorious position beside salty marshlands, The Cabin is the last word in ultra-modern seaside eco-luxe, says Jessica Johnson in Coast. Designed by Lisa and Daniel Broch (founder of the Everyman Cinema group), it was built in just seven weeks using concrete and sustainable cross-laminated timber, and is extremely energy efficient.

Locally sourced vintage furniture is complemented by classic Anglepoise and Krupuk lanterns, charming old bedspreads and African batik fabrics; and there is a log fire in the light-filled open-plan living space. You can rent it with the master bedroom alone, or make use of three other bedrooms, all with their own bathrooms. Outside, there's a shower, fire pit and, of course, the sea for swimming, kayaking and crabbing. *Sleeps two or eight, from £785 for three nights. www.blissblakeney.co.uk*



Fairytale romance in wild Suffolk

Hex Cottage, Sibton Park, Suffolk

Created by Foxton's founder Jon Hunt, the Wilderness Reserve is a 4,500-acre stretch of Suffolk that has been returned to its "Arcadian"

18th century state, thanks to a long-lost Capability Brown plan, and the planting of a million trees. Scattered across the estate are six historic buildings for rent, none more romantic than Hex Cottage, says Peter Hughes in The Daily Telegraph. Set amid meadows and woodlands, this former gamekeeper's cottage is "a sort of English gingerbread house", with a thatched roof and portico supported by four pillars of rough tree trunks; floors of brick and pine; walls rendered in bare plaster; and a canopied bed and hip bath in the bedroom. With no electricity, heating comes from open fires, and hot water from the a wood-burning stove. *Sleeps two, from £200 per night. www.wildernessreserve.com*



A chocolate-box cottage on Dartmoor

Moorland View, North Bovey, Devon

The rustic exterior of this two-bedroom cottage belies a luxurious interior, including a huge copper bath for two, says Condé Nast Traveller. Built in 1705 for local

workers, it sits in the idyllic medieval village of North Bovey, a stone's throw from its 14th century church, traditional pub and village green, lined with ancient oaks. Recent restoration has exposed the cottage's original flagstone floors, lath-and-plaster walls, open fireplace and wooden beams; but Sophie Conran crockery, Brissi linens and Colefax & Fowler prints lend it an air of "modern-day Provence by way of Notting Hill". The garden is perfect for al fresco dining, with nothing to disturb but the occasional clip-clop of hooves; and there's a two-Michelin-star restaurant, Gidleigh Park, close by. *Sleeps four, from £700 for three nights. www.moorlandviewcottage.co.uk*



A cosy Black Mountains bolthole

Millbrook Cottage, Black Mountains, Wales

This Elizabethan hall house might look a bit creaky, but it's solid and comfortable inside – making it a wonderful base for a walking holiday in the Black Mountains, says The

Guardian. Many of its original features have been preserved – a studded oak front door, giant flagstones, panelled walls, open fires and low-beamed ceilings – but it has modern comforts too: huge sofas, rain showers, clawfoot baths and an Aga. There are three big bedrooms, with Turkish rugs and crisp white linen; the kitchen is "equipped for the most finicky of modern chefs"; and the large lawn, which catches the sun all day, is perfect for croquet or badminton. The house is on the edge of the village of Llanvihangel Crucorney, which claims to have the oldest pub in Wales; and it's not far from the foodie heaven of Abergavenny. *Sleeps six, from £745 for three nights. www.sheepskinlife.com*



A sleek party pad in the Lake District

Grey Gables, Windermere, Cumbria

Designed by Lancashire architects Campbell Driver for Money Supermarket.com founder Simon Nixon, Grey Gables brings modern "chalet-style" chic to the shores of Lake Windermere, says House and Garden. Floor-to-ceiling windows give

"breathtaking" views across the one-acre garden to the lake, where there's a boathouse and jetty; and the house's stone walls and heavy oak frame blend beautifully with these surroundings. Conceived by designer Jill Stein, the interiors are high spec, with Ralph Lauren and Andrew Martin furniture, cosy plaid fabrics, fur throws, and huge log fires. Bedrooms have superb mattresses and deep baths, and there's a fully equipped Siematic kitchen, a games room and cinema. Good nearby restaurants include the Gilpin, L'Enclume and the Drunken Duck Inn. *Sleeps ten, from £5,880 per week. www.simonescapes.com*





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