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MAY 2014
£3.95

BATTERSEA & CLAPHAM



BLOOMINGLY LOVELY

GRAB YOUR TROWEL:
IT'S GARDENING TIME

ROBBIE HONEY | LANDMORT PRINCE
ON CONTEMPORARY WASHBURN TAILORING

SANDI TOKSVIG
TAKES ON FIFTEEN TO ONE

STYLISH. INTELLIGENT. ELEGANT. ABSOLUTELY

ABSOLUTELY
FOOD & TRAVEL



UK GETAWAY

WATER MEADOW COTTAGE

Blenheim Palace Estate WORDS: **GEORGIE LANE-GODFREY**

THE COTTAGE

It might be a quintessential Cotswolds cottage from the outside, but push open the heavy oak door of the traditional stone portico and you'll find more of a boutique London hotel than a cosy country pad. The sitting room's plush Victoriana-inspired interiors are decadently off-beat – think twinkling chandeliers in rusted birdcages – while the dining room's huge wooden table is perfect for long brunches with the Sunday papers. Upstairs, you'll find a beam-ceiling bathroom, complete with cast iron roll top bath, and two boudoir-style bedrooms decked out in elegant chinoiserie wallpaper, crystal chandeliers and sumptuous monogrammed linens – the kind of rooms that were made for luxuriant lie-ins.



THE LOCATION

Perched on the banks of the River Evenlode at the end of a quiet tree-lined country lane, Water Meadow Cottage's location could not be more idyllic. A picturesque former hunting lodge dating back to the 18th-century, the cottage sits guarding the gates to the historic Blenheim Palace Estate – home to the Duke of Marlborough, birthplace to Sir Winston Churchill and one of England's most spectacular stately homes. A visit to this World Heritage Site is a must, even if it's just for a stroll along the river in the beautiful grounds. Further afield, the 'city of dreaming spires' that is Oxford lies just 15 minutes to the south, as does the designer outlet centre Bicester Village, providing high end retail therapy. Personal shoppers and chauffeur-driven transfers available on request.



THE EXTRAS

Those not so keen on self-catering needn't worry – Water Meadow Cottage has its own impressive seasonal menu from which gourmet dishes can be selected and delivered fresh to your door. They also provide guests with all the basic essentials upon arrival and there's an extensive honesty larder for everything else, so you're spared the usual trek to the shops after you've unpacked. Meanwhile, those looking for some R&R will love the massages available on demand in the stylish summerhouse – the lovely Daniel will commute down from London to soothe away your stress with a relaxing holistic massage; all you need do is commute across the pretty cottage garden. Dinner reservations, local recommendations – everything really is taken care of, making this cottage the perfect country retreat for those still wanting the comforts and conveniences of urban life.

THE DAMAGE

From £425 per night (2 night minimum), or £2,525 per week. Peak rates and 3 night minimum stay apply over high season. 5 night rates available. £25 surcharge per night for 1 large or 2 small dogs. Water Meadow Cottage, Hanborough, Witney, OX29; watermeadowcottage.co.uk