

food & TRAVEL

EAT, DRINK, ESCAPE

1 WATERMEADOW COTTAGE

BLenheim PALACE ESTATE, OXFORDSHIRE

This teeny two-bed 18th century Cotswold stone hunting lodge, set down a pot-holed farm track on the Blenheim Palace Estate, is as cute as a button. The Duke of Marlborough has leased it to 'DJ' Nichols, American founder of 'lifestyle provider' Unlisted. Decorated with panache – big patterns, statement furniture, crystal chandeliers and dark colours – it's also bug-slug with underfloor heating and a heated terrace, a welcome hamper and an honesty 'larder' with Elemental Herbology spa goodies, vacuum-packed chicken stock and Berry Brothers champagne. Even your pooch gets paw wipes and a blanket. They'll organise everything from dusky roses, drivers and nappy bins to event tickets. Or whisk up seasonal outside catering, including extraordinarily good Smart & Balanced wheat and dairy-free meals all served by a maid in uniform. Sleep in utter peace under 'WMC' monogrammed Belgian linen sheets and among private family photos of Winston Churchill. There's a little summerhouse overlooking the River Evenlode where you can escape to read, or enjoy a spa treatment.

DON'T MISS A Riveting Blenheim Palace tour with former lawyer-turned-guide, Charles Grant.

FROM £325 per night

0870 2255 007; watermeadowcottage.co.uk



BRITISH RENTALS

Sometimes it's good to have a home from home, says Daisy Finer