

INSIGHT

Flite
HOTELS
DISTINCTIVE EXPERIENCES

Distinctive Experiences in the South of England

ISSUE 02 – WINTER / SPRING 2020

DESTINATION

EXPLORING
BEDFORDSHIRE

LIFESTYLE

GIVING THE
PERFECT SPEECH

NEWS

INVESTING IN
OUR FUTURE



A Bright Future

Ipen this introduction as 2019 draws to a close, and my hope for 2020 is for a healthier political and economic environment and one that provides stability to our greatly valued employees from overseas. Not to be deterred by the many global uncertainties, our refurbishment projects continue in earnest.

“

When combined with our idyllic locations, our continued investment provides a bright future for Elite Hotels.”

Ashdown Park’s redevelopment of the Country Club is progressing well with the recent completion of new changing rooms and Fitness Studio. Transformation of the Club lounge into a brasserie style restaurant will commence in the new year with a spring completion planned, alongside a new spa relaxation lounge. Development of a new Spa offering will follow later in the year. Refurbishment of private function suites are also progressing well with the Lady Brassey and Laura Stafford rooms recently receiving a wonderful new look with state of the art audio visual facilities.

Applications to redevelop the Health Club and Chestnut Suite at Tylney Hall have recently been approved by Hart District Council and we look forward to sharing our exciting plans with you in the next issue. In the meantime, we are finalising plans for transformation of the Hampshire Suite into a brasserie style restaurant to complement the recently refurbished Oak Room Restaurant. The Mattingley and Tylney Suites have also undergone soft refurbishment and look stunning.

The Grand Hotel’s Cocktail Bar has undergone a dramatic transformation and refurbishments to the Presidential and Debussy Suites will be completed shortly. Inland bedrooms will be our next focus with exciting proposals being finalised for commencement early in the new year. The Health Club and meeting rooms will also receive attention in 2020. Not to be outdone, refurbishments of the bedrooms at Luton Hoo Hotel are also being programmed for 2020.

We very much look forward to sharing our new facilities as we progress through the year. In the meantime, I and the team look forward to welcoming you during 2020.

Graeme Bateman FIH MI FIoD
Managing Director, Elite Hotels

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Exploring *Bedfordshire*

From historic water mills to secret forest sculptures, Bedfordshire has more than its fair share of charms.



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1. The Chiltern Hills

If you are looking for a bracing hike rewarded by stunning views, then head to The Chilterns. There you will find plenty of walking trails, chalk grasslands and woodlands to ramble around in. Best of all, there are hikes suitable for all experience levels, including Watlington Hill, Coombe Hill and Pulpit Hill. Also make sure to drop by the Roald Dahl Museum and Café Twit. 🚗 45-minute drive

2. The Shuttleworth Collection

The Shuttleworth is a transport museum showcasing a host of fascinating vehicles. Based in Old Warden Aerodrome, it's considered to be one of the best of its kind in the world. Drop by to see vintage aircraft, Edwardian cars, penny-farthing bikes and even a steam engine. The museum also has an eccentric 19th century Swiss Garden with grottos, follies and an Indian pavilion. 🚗 40-minute drive

3. Olde Watermill Shopping Village

Built around a heritage watermill at Barton-le-Clay, this charming arcade and visitor attraction has plenty to offer both shoppers and history lovers. As well as 20 unique shops, there is also a restaurant, tearoom and antique centre. If you want to keep the little ones occupied, there is also a 9-hole crazy golf course and soft play area. 🚗 25-minute drive

4. Jordans Mill and Gardens

Based on the banks of the River Ivel in Biggleswade, this attraction offers a chance to peek inside a genuine Victorian flour mill. Run by the cereal company Jordans, you can tour the original machinery and explore the wildflower

gardens. There is also a café with river views, as well a meadow and woodland. 🚗 40-minute drive

5. Mead Open Farm

Spanning 30 acres, this fun children's farm offers a chance to see and pet various rural animals, as well as a few exotic species like alpacas. If that wasn't enough, other activities include indoor and outdoor play areas, go-karts, a high ropes course, tractor rides and crazy golf. Kids can also get messy with sand play too. 🚗 20-minute drive

6. Wrest Park

This sweeping 19th century country house and formal gardens is a Grade 1 listed heritage site. The landscape design actually spans three centuries, meaning that you can get a real feel of the evolution of the English country house garden. Visitors can explore 92 acres of ornamental flowerbeds and woodland walks, including a marble fountain, Chinese bridge with a temple, and the stunning Archer Pavilion. Wrest Park also has a children's play area and café. 🚗 25-minute drive

7. The Forest Centre & Millennium Country Park

Planted in the 1990s, The Forest of Marston Vale is an award-winning woodland. Visitors can explore 225 hectares of forestland, grasslands, meadows, lakes, hidden willow huts and even the Wetlands Nature Reserve. Children will love the Sensory Garden, which includes dinosaur egg hunting and a chance to sit on a wooden throne overlooking a pond. 🚗 25-minute drive

8. Woburn Safari Park

Lions, tigers, elephants, bear, seals and much more can all be found roaming the grounds at Woburn. In fact, there are over 1000 animals at the safari park, which you can explore by road and foot. Other attractions include the Go Ape Treetop Adventure with wobbly bridges and zip wires, plus a miniature railway and an aviary. 🚗 25-minute drive

9. Gullivers Dinosaur & Farm Park

This educational theme park gives kids a chance to learn a bit about prehistoric times while having fun too. They can explore 32 animatronic dinosaurs, plus dinosaur rides, play areas, the Farm Park petting zoo, and the Reptile and Bug Centre. The Observation Tower offers a sweeping view of the Lost World, or why not take a thrilling Jurassic River Ride? 🚗 35-minute drive

10. Rushmere Country Park

This ruggedly fun attraction includes 400 acres of ancient woodland, lakes, meadows and heathland, making it ideal for hiking, biking and picnicking. Visitors can explore the nature trails and fascinating Sculpture Park, plus there is also a café and children's play areas. 🚗 25-minute drive

There is so much to see in beautiful Bedfordshire and Luton Hoo Hotel, Golf & Spa is the ideal base for exploring it all. To find more about the hotel, restaurant and leisure facilities, visit www.lutonhoo.co.uk



And if you can bear to tear yourself away from the country house comforts of Luton Hoo Hotel, Golf & Spa for a day, then here are 10 unmissable attractions for all ages...

A new future for Elite Hotels



An artist impression of plans for Tylney Hall's Health Suite

Having worked with Elite Hotels from the very beginning, Clague Architects have overseen some momentous projects across the group. With a busy schedule of refurbishments and redesigns ahead, we take a look at both past and future plans with Clare Butterworth. Clare has worked with Clague Architects since 1998 and, as a partner of the business now manages the Harpenden Office and Elite Hotels projects.

Starting from the beginning, how does the process work for implementing redesigns or refurbishments at the properties?

Having such an established relationship with Elite Hotels, we have a really good understanding of each of the buildings and their unique historic assets. This is vital in being able to develop proposals that are both deliverable in conservation terms and provide practical solutions for the hotels operation. Elite are acutely aware of the needs of each of their hotels as well as the enhancements they wish to make, which at the core always have the main aim of increasing the guest experience.

We work closely with the Elite senior management team to ensure each project brief is understood and can

Ashdown Park Country Club elevations as viewed from the golf course



What has been one of your highlights from your time working with Elite?

A personal highlight for me has to be the redevelopment of Luton Hoo Estate to create Luton Hoo Hotel Golf and Spa. This was a highlight both in terms of the quality, being able to work on a Grade I historic building is a very exciting opportunity; as well as the vast scale of the construction project undertaken. We faced numerous challenges transforming the Estate, which made it even more of an achievement once it had opened. This truly was a project that will be remembered forever by all of those involved.

What is next in the plans for Elite Hotels?

At Ashdown Park Hotel, we have taken inspiration from the surrounding areas and the beauty of the Ashdown forest to influence our designs for the new Country Club restaurant, which forms part of the wider developments going ahead next year for the Country Club as a whole. The new restaurant will have spectacular views across the estate and will be enhanced with a new raised terrace, utilising natural materials such as wealden sandstone and wood. The interior design will focus on a range of different textures and finishes.

The new designs also feature new heat treatment experiences integrated in the pool area and a new spa pool that will be surrounded in a green oak and glazed enclosure with views of the spa garden. This area has been designed to maximise natural light and engage with the landscape beyond, contrasting with the warmth and protective environment provided by the newly refurbished internal pool. When complete, 10 new treatment rooms and a new reception and retail area will complete the offering within the spa, while external landscaping and a new outdoor swimming pool will transform the courtyard providing a sheltered private oasis for hotels guests.

At Tylney Hall Hotel, the influence of Gertrude Jekyll can still be seen when walking around the hotel grounds. The proposed refurbishment of the Hampshire Suite, constructed circa 1900, looks to provide a second, more relaxed dining experience. This new restaurant has been designed to include the use of pattern and floral design in direct response to the glorious nature of the plants and gardens that surround its location. While the banquet seating, a dedicated bar and outside terrace and an open kitchen area will allow the guests to engage with not only the surrounding gardens but the theatre and creation of their culinary experience. We are also busy working on plans for the redevelopment of the Health Club and Chestnut Suite as mentioned on page 3.

2020 promises to be an exciting year of development at Elite Hotels and we are delighted to play our part.

be translated into planning and listed building proposals. We then work with both the local authorities and with Historic England to negotiate and develop the designs to achieve their approval. Not as easy as it sounds!

Once planning and listed building proposals have been achieved, Clague deliver technical design works and detailed interior plans to provide building control approvals and develop the designs for costing and final for construction and delivery.

Clague always look to provide a holistic approach to the whole architectural design process from inception to completion. Our work strives to demonstrate flair and imagination, yet is sensitive to the buildings and their natural environment.

The Secret Daily Habits of High-Achievers

Success can often seem like it's all down to the big, shiny achievements in life, like movie contracts and billion dollar deals. But the truth is that when high-achievers are asked to share the secrets of their success, they often mention daily habits that sound insignificant but get huge results.

With this in mind, here are five of the most popular ones:



1 Rise with the larks

High achievers tend to be notoriously early risers, including Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama. But if you want to join the 6am Club, 5am Club or even (gasp) 4am Club, you have to put a few smart strategies in place. A good start would be to train your body clock with 'sleep hygiene' — essentially, going to bed and getting up at the same time every day.

Why it works: The early morning hours are especially good for focused activity, so getting up at dawn will give you a head start on your goals.

2 Write morning pages

Entrepreneur and podcaster, Tim Ferriss, swears by this practice. Invented by creativity expert, Julia Cameron, the key is to scribble down three stream of consciousness pages first thing in the morning, making sure not edit what you've written. Do this every day until it becomes a habit and keep a notebook by your bed to make it easier.

Why it works: Morning pages give you the chance to write down any nagging thoughts, fears and worries as soon as you

wake up. This unclutters your mind, allowing you to focus on your goals clearly for the rest of the day.

3 Exercise, exercise, exercise

It's easy to use busyness as an excuse for avoiding a workout, but exercise is essential for peak physical and mental fitness. High achievers know this, which is why they always make time for a workout. For instance, Dame Anna Wintour might be the editor of Vogue, but she never misses her daily 5.45am tennis lesson.

Why it works: From boosting endorphins to busting stress, exercise will help to keep you laser-focused on your goals each day.

4 Read the right books

Ask a successful person what books have inspired them and they'll probably be able to reel off a list straight away. In other words, high achievers tend to be focused, strategic readers. That's because they know that by absorbing wisdom from history's most notable people, they can learn from their failures and triumphs. So no matter how busy you are, make time each day to enjoy a good book — even if it's just 15 minutes before bedtime (Meditations

by Marcus Aurelius is often a reading list favourite of successful types).

Why it works: Reading gives you a chance to learn from some of the smartest people in history. In essence, think of it as having the world's highest achievers as your mentors.

5 Practice gratitude

It might sound twee, but a gratitude journal is a practice that many successful people swear by, including Emma Watson and CrossFit champ, Annie Mist Þórisdóttir. The key is to pick five things that you are grateful for, big or small, and write them down daily.

Why it works: Reflecting on the things that make you happy each day will help you to stay positive and adopt a more constructive attitude to challenges.

Successful habits don't happen overnight. So why not pick just one of these tips to start with, practice it for a month and see how your life improves? Who knows, you might find yourself that much closer to achieving your dreams...



The best of the 10's

It has been an interesting decade of culture and we have been graced with some amazing literature. Now in 2020, we take a look back at the top 5 critically acclaimed books of the last decade.

The Martian by Andy Weir

Published 2011

The year is 2035 and Weir's story follows an American astronaut, Mark Watney, as he becomes stranded alone on Mars with no way to contact earth. It is nature vs man, as the astronaut fights for survival trying to make life on Mars. This novel was quickly adapted into a blockbuster film in 2015 with Matt Damon starring as the titular character, who won a Golden Globe for his portrayal.

The Testaments by Margaret Atwood

Published 2019

As the highly anticipated follow up to Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, this novel did not disappoint fans or critics. Set 15 years after the events of *The Handmaid's Tale*, the story is narrated by three women; Daisy, Agnes and Aunt Lydia whose stories help piece together the past and detail life before, after and during the regime of the Republic of Gilead.

Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi

Published 2016

This debut novel by Yaa Gyasi is multi-award winning. Each chapter follows a different descendant of an Asante woman named Maame, starting with her two daughters, who are half sisters, separated by circumstance: Effia marries James Collins, the British governor in charge of Cape Coast Castle, while her half-sister Esi is held captive in the dungeons below. Subsequent chapters follow their children and following generations.

The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet by David Mitchell

Published in 2010

The fifth novel by David Mitchell is a historical piece based in the late 18th century, following Jacob de Zoet, a Dutch clerk marooned on the man-made trading island of Dejima during Japan's self-imposed exile. Filled with betrayal, love, superstition, power politics and murder this gripping novel leaves readers on the edge of their seat.

The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins

Published in 2015

This novel is a first-person narrative told from the point of view of three women: Rachel, Anna, and Megan. Rachel commutes to work on the same train every day and has noticed the same couple, time and time again. When she witnesses something terrible she becomes entangled in something much bigger. Appearing in the BBC's Top 100 Books of all time it has become a literary treasure in a short space of time and was adapted to a blockbuster film in 2016 starring Emily Blunt.

How to glow like the sun

Too often we think of winter as being the time when we have to take the most care of our skin — after all, the cold, wet and windy weather can wreak havoc with our complexions.



But that said, spring definitely isn't the time to let your skincare routine slip.

It's just as important to maintain good habits as the warmer months approach.

With this in mind, here are our top tips for having radiant and healthy skin from spring to summer.

Protect

We all love the sunshine but while it's good for your soul, it can wreak havoc on your skin. Sun damage can cause fine lines and hyperpigmentation, not to mention more serious issues further down the line. So your number one skincare priority should be to invest in a decent sun block, ideally a factor 35 or above. 'What, no tan?' we hear you cry. Well, don't forget that gorgeous, shimmery spray tans are a fabulous alternative.

Moisturise

It's important to keep your skin soft and supple, but that said, you don't need to dollop your face with the heavy creams of winter. Instead, opt for lighter formulas and better still, find ones that have combined sun protection as well. This will have the added bonus of cutting down your beauty routine steps.

Hydrate

Lots of people confuse dry skin with dehydrated skin, but they are actually two different things. Dry skin lacks natural oils, which can be replaced with various creams, potions and, well, oils. But dehydrated skin lacks water, which can be treated more easily by glugging as much as you can. Aim for six to eight glasses a day and carry bottled water everywhere

with you in the warmer months. Also keep an eye out for hydrating moisturisers too.

Boost

With its anti-ageing effects, as well as its ability to brighten and smooth complexions, vitamin C is a skincare wonder. Its powerful antioxidant properties helps to protect your skin against free radicals and while it's essential to your skincare all year around, it's especially crucial in the sunny months. For this reason, investing in a vitamin C serum would be a smart step. To boost the effects, aim to eat lots of vitamin C-rich foods too (fruit salads, here you come).

Target

When you are popping on the sun block every morning, it's easy to forget that your face has a few more sensitive areas that need added protection. These include your lips, delicate eye area and bridge of your nose, so why not use a higher factor, targeted cream for all of these? And don't forget to keep re-applying it throughout the day — setting an alarm reminder on your phone helps (hey, beauty needs planning).

Cool

Most of us tend to shower more often in spring and summer. However, if you are used to a long, hot blast of water, then be warned that this can tire out your skin. In warm weather, aim for a

more moderate shower heat, then slather your body in cocoa butter afterwards. Better still, if you're brave enough, why not take cool showers? After all, these also have the benefit of adding a little extra shine to your hair (go on, we dare you).

Soothe

You've worn sunblock, stayed in the shade and even sported an uber chic straw hat. Yet despite this, you've still been caught out by a hot day and ended up with sunburn. Disaster! It's best to be prepared for this eventuality by having a soothing after-sun gel on standby, such as aloe vera. This will help to take the soreness away and potentially minimise any sun damage. It pays to be prepared.

Repair

The bad news is that it's almost impossible to completely escape sun damage. The good news is that there are now more lotions and potions than ever before to can tackle the signs. So why not invest in a specialised serum that will reduce sun damage issues like hyperpigmentation? Serums aren't marketing hype, they're an essential part of any beauty routine, so make sure that you incorporate a few magic potions into yours this summer.



If you follow these eight top tips, your complexion will look gorgeous and glowing in time for the British summertime. Better still, why not treat yourself to an Elite spa day and enjoy the latest in tailored facials from one of our beauty specialists?

How to give a speech *that people remember.*



Let's face it, few people actually love giving speeches. But at some point in our lives, most of us will find ourselves having to give some sort of toast, talk or presentation.

The good news is that whether you are preparing for a wedding, business event or retirement party, speeches don't have to be painful. Here are three tried and tested tips for getting the audience on your side — and maybe even enjoying yourself a little in the process.

GET YOUR AUDIENCE INVOLVED

The key to a great speech is to make the crowd feel like active participants rather than passive listeners. There are a number of ways to do this, including asking people to imagine that they're in a particular situation, mentioning audience members by name, or even requesting a show of hands. You can also ask rhetorical questions such as 'Have you ever wondered...?' or 'Did you know that...?' Sometimes, when it comes to making speeches, 'you' really is the magic word.

TELL STORIES WITH IMPACT

You've probably heard that weaving a story or anecdote into a speech is a brilliant way to engage your audience. This is totally true, but there is actually a way to make this strategy even more effective. If you have ever watched a successful TED talk, you will notice that speakers rarely tell a story in the past tense. Instead, they often tell it as if it's unfolding in real time, for example, 'So, it's 5am and I'm sitting on the plane to Mumbai...'. This has the effect of making your story feel more

immediate and immersive, drawing the audience in straight away.

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE (AND PRACTICE)

Know your speech inside-out. Know it until you're bored of it. Know it until you could say it in your sleep. Some people panic at this idea, thinking that it means the same thing as memorisation. But no one's saying that you have to deliver your talk without notes or cue cards (that said, if you can memorise it, then brilliant). However, by practising your speech aloud (ideally in front of friends or colleagues) you will get a better idea of which parts of it are working — and which aren't. Plus the more intimately familiar with a speech you can become, the less scary it will feel to you.

Making a speech is nerve-wracking but thankfully, there are endless books, videos and online tips that can help you. The most important thing is to start preparing early. If you give yourself as much time as possible to write, refine and practice your talk, then by the time the big day finally arrives, it will feel like an old friend.



Couple: Stephen & Lewis Maymanning Power

Date of the big day: 12th August 2019

Location: The Grand Hotel, Eastbourne



“The Grand has made an indelible mark on our hearts, thank you all!”

From the initial venue enquiry in February 2018, to the spectacular wedding celebration on a glorious sunshine-drenched day in Eastbourne in August 2019, the planning time span of Stephen & Lewis's big day was the 18 months average but that is most definitely where 'average' disappeared. The couple wanted the wedding of the year, an affair to be remembered by all their guests, and went about its planning in exquisite detail, element-by-element with the events team at The Grand Hotel Eastbourne.

With a beautiful Art Deco theme, and their own monogram created, the S&L brand was born. The branding flowed seamlessly throughout the entire wedding journey from a bespoke aisle runner, table plan, seating cards, monogrammed mirror coasters and charger plates, wedding favours and more.

After the Ceremony (held in The Princes Room) guests dressed top

to toe in 1920's attire, made their way to the balcony of the hotel's Presidential Suite for confetti canons and drone footage arranged by the production company West End Studios.

The Compton Room, the hotel's original ballroom, with its feature pillars and intricate ceiling cornicing (dance floor, stage & bar too) hosted the wedding breakfast and evening celebrations, which was as glamorous as the morning. A menu of Smoked duck breast to start, slow-cooked Persian style lamb roulade followed by butterscotch pecan tarte, cheeses, coffee & petits fours were enjoyed with Champagne saucers, built into an impressive Champagne Tower by the Grand's Conference & Banqueting Team. The evening entertainment was provided by a live band, Marilyn Monroe lookalike performance, show girls, confetti canons, dry ice and a specially constructed moon shape poser chair.

ELITE SEASONAL EVENTS

Take a look at what is on offer at Elite this season...



UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

We go straight to the top and ask our General Managers for their top event of the season. Here is what they have decided...



BEN BOOKER, GENERAL MANAGER AT ASHDOWN PARK HOTEL RECOMMENDS:

Here at Ashdown Park Hotel, we are thrilled to welcome back the Swingtime Sweethearts who will help us mark a very special occasion, VE day. To honour this day in history, they will sweep us back to the musical stylings of the 1940s, where guests can enjoy a specially designed three-course menu from our Executive Head Chef, Andrew Wilson. We can't wait to mark this occasion with you!

Find out more on page 19.



JONATHAN WEBLEY, GENERAL MANAGER AT THE GRAND RECOMMENDS:

At The Grand Hotel, music is an integral part of our history and culture with many musical events on our events calendar throughout the year. We welcome back the London Mozart Players in February to join us for their 18th year. This event always stands out as it is an opportunity to go behind the music with open rehearsals, concerts and dinner with the players, and of course to enjoy a coastal break away!

See page 18 for details.



MATTHEW LONG, GENERAL MANAGER AT LUTON HOO HOTEL RECOMMENDS:

Situated in over 1000 acres of parkland, the grounds are such a glorious part of Luton Hoo and offer Capability Brown landscaped vistas and beautiful formal gardens. Many of our guests tell me how keen they are to learn more about our estate, so this year we have introduced a garden tour and lunch, which I am sure will be extremely popular.

Details can be found on page 18.



SAM AZIZ, GENERAL MANAGER AT TYLNEY HALL HOTEL RECOMMENDS:

Easter is a wonderful time of the year to spend with family and friends. Here at Tylney Hall, join us for a family friendly Easter weekend filled with delicious dining fayre and a special Easter Egg hunt for the little ones to enjoy.

Turn to page 22 to find out more.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DINING

If any of the events at our hotels are of interest please contact our reservations teams for more information.



**ASHDOWN PARK
BURNS NIGHT
DINNER**



Saturday 25th January

Join us for an evening celebrating the Scottish Bard Robert Burns. On arrival enjoy a delicious whisky cocktail before you are welcomed to sit down to dinner by a traditional piper. Our Executive Head Chef Andrew Wilson has created a traditional and delicious four-course meal.

£75.00 per person

**TYLNEY HALL HOTEL
HIGHLAND
AFTERNOON TEA**



Saturday 25th January

Our traditional Afternoon Tea takes a Scottish twist in celebration of Burns night. For this special weekend we offer Afternoon Tea with a glass of Scotch Whisky with Haggis savoury options and shortbread included in our sweet options.

£38.00 per person

**THE GRAND HOTEL
LONDON MOZART
PLAYERS WEEKEND**



Fri 7th – Sun 9th February

The renowned London Mozart Players join us for their 18th year at The Grand Hotel with a weekend which has become a firm favourite in our social calendar. We offer you Open Rehearsals, concerts, talks plus dinner with the players. Of course there will be a generous serving of Mozart too!

For prices, please contact the reservations team on 01323 412345

**THE GRAND HOTEL
MIRABELLE DINNER
WITH A TASTE
OF PROVENCE**



Wednesday 4th March

Welcoming back our season of speciality Mirabelle dinners for 2020, and what a way to start. Enjoy the delights of the southern provinces of France. A special menu has been created with the richness of Provence and accompanied by wines especially selected for each course.

£75.00 per person

**LUTON HOO PARK
GARDEN TOUR
& LUNCH**



Wednesday 22nd April

Discover more about our 1,065-acre estate, landscaped by Capability Brown in his typical style of sweeping vistas and serpentine shapes, with a tour of our gardens by our Head Gardner followed by a three-course lunch.

£40.00 per person

**TYLNEY HALL HOTEL
ST GEORGE'S JAZZ
AFTERNOON TEA**



Sunday 26th April

Spend your Sunday afternoon relaxing to the soothing sounds of Jazz, with a very special St George's themed Afternoon Tea.

£38.00 per person

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Ashdown Park Hotel & Country Club: 01342 824988
Luton Hoo Hotel, Golf & Spa: 01582 734437

The Grand Hotel, Eastbourne: 01323 412345
Tylney Hall Hotel & Gardens: 01256 764881

**ASHDOWN PARK
VE DAY
DINNER**



Friday 8th May

Be swept up in a past era and transported back to the 1940's with the Swingtime Sweethearts. Enjoy a welcome drink on arrival, music from the Swingtime Sweethearts and a three-course dinner with coffee & petit fours.

£72.50 per person

**THE GRAND HOTEL
MIRABELLE ENGLISH
WINE CELEBRATORY
DINNER**



Thursday 21st May

Immerse yourself in the Grand Hotel's range of English Wine as we celebrate English Wine Week with a specially designed spring menu.

£75.00 per person

**ASHDOWN PARK
JAZZ AFTERNOON TEA
ON THE LAWN**



Monday 25th May

One of the most popular events of the Summer, the family-friendly day out is perfect for everyone! Enjoy a leisurely afternoon listening to the classic sounds of live Jazz in the Sunshine while you and your family enjoy your Afternoon Tea.

£36.00 per person

**ENGLISH
WINE WEEK
23rd - 31st May 2020**
Sample the best of
English Wine in
our restaurants.

**TYLNEY HALL HOTEL
WINE AND CHEESE
EVENING**



Thursday 28th May

Celebrate 'English Wine Week' and indulge in an evening of wine and cheese, which includes wine tasting accompanied by an exquisite cheese board platter. You will then have the choice to buy your favourite wines by the bottle.

£20.00 per person

**ASHDOWN PARK
WORLD GIN DAY
DINNER & COCKTAIL
MASTERCLASS**



Saturday 13th June

Learn the art of making the perfect Gin Cocktail with an expert masterclass by Warner Edwards Gin. Once you have mastered the art, sit back and enjoy a three-course dinner (gin cocktails to accompany) followed by Coffee & Petit Fours.

£79.50 per person

**THE GRAND HOTEL
TENNIS
AFTERNOON TEA**



Fri 19th June – Sat 12th July

Celebrate the return of the Nature Valley Eastbourne Tennis at the Grand, with our deliciously themed Tennis Afternoon Tea. We've extended the theme to cover the Wimbledon Championships this year too, giving you longer to enjoy a winning tea and tennis combination!

From £27.00 per person

VALENTINE'S DAY & MOTHERING SUNDAY

ASHDOWN PARK VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER



Friday 14th February

Relax and enjoy an intimate dinner with your loved one in the candlelit Anderida Restaurant. Experience an evening of exquisite cuisine selected from the romantically influenced table d'hote menu, while enjoying the soothing sounds of our resident pianist.

£42.50 per person

THE GRAND HOTEL VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER



Friday 14th February

Celebrate in style with your valentine this year, with two amazing choices. Join us in our beautiful Garden Restaurant for a three-course menu or head to the Mirabelle for a romantic candlelit dinner experience.

Garden Restaurant
£52.50 per person
Mirabelle Restaurant
£75.00 per person

LUTON HOO PARK VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER



Friday 14th February

Create special memories this Valentine's day. Enjoy a romantic twist to our menus in both the Country Club restaurant, Adam's Brasserie and our 2 AA Rosette Wernher Restaurant.

From £45.00 per person

TYLNEY HALL HOTEL VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER



Friday 14th February

Enjoy a glass of champagne in our lounges before heading to our award winning Oak Room Restaurant for a sumptuous four-course meal accompanied by our resident pianist.

£116.00 meal per couple

TYLNEY HALL HOTEL VALENTINE'S DAY AFTERNOON TEA



Sunday 16th February

Revel in the romance on this romantic weekend, with a very special Valentine's Day themed Afternoon Tea with a special glass of Champagne.

£38.00 per person

ASHDOWN PARK MOTHERING SUNDAY CHAMPAGNE AFTERNOON TEA



Sunday 22nd March

There is no better way to spend Mothering Sunday afternoon than in the welcoming, luxurious surroundings of Ashdown Park's drawing rooms. Treat your mum to a delicious afternoon of Champagne, Strawberries, cakes and finger sandwiches.

£49.50 per person

Ashdown Park Hotel & Country Club: 01342 824988
Luton Hoo Hotel, Golf & Spa: 01582 734437

The Grand Hotel, Eastbourne: 01323 412345
Tylney Hall Hotel & Gardens: 01256 764881

ASHDOWN PARK MOTHERING SUNDAY LUNCHEON



Sunday 22nd March

Show your Mum how much she's loved by treating her to a delicious three-course Mother's Day lunch, including coffee and petit fours in our 2 AA Rosette Anderida Restaurant. Our resident pianist will play the perfect soothing musical accompaniment throughout. Each Mum will receive a gorgeous Molton Brown gift too because they deserve it!

£55.00 per person

THE GRAND HOTEL MOTHERING SUNDAY LUNCHEON



Sunday 22nd March

Treat Mum to a special lunch surrounded by family in our award-winning restaurants. Both the Mirabelle and Garden restaurants open their doors for longer this lunchtime. With a special gift from the Grand too!

Garden Restaurant
£45.00 per person
Mirabelle Restaurant
£50.00 per person

LUTON HOO PARK MOTHERING SUNDAY AT WERNHER RESTAURANT



Sunday 22nd March

Treat your Mum to a well deserved day off with 5 star dining in our Wernher Restaurant and a complimentary spa pass to use at her leisure. Enjoy a delicious three course lunch or dinner.

£48.50 per person

LUTON HOO PARK MOTHERING SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEA



Sunday 22nd March

Enjoy a special Mother's Day Afternoon Tea in the stunning setting of the Mansion House at Luton Hoo Hotel. Mum will be spoiled a little further with a complimentary weekday pass to The Spa at Luton Hoo.

£45.00 per person

TYLNEY HALL HOTEL MOTHERING SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEA



Sunday 22nd March

Enjoy a delicious Afternoon Tea in our Tylney Suite with a free glass of Champagne for Mothers. There will also be a special present for all Mothers on the day.

£48.00 per person

TYLNEY HALL HOTEL MOTHERING SUNDAY LUNCHEON



Sunday 22nd March

Treat your Mum to a specially prepared four-course Mothering Sunday Luncheon in our award-winning Oak Room Restaurant. There will also be a special present for all Mothers on the day.

£68.00 per person

EASTER

*Extend your celebrations with our Easter Break packages.
Visit our website for full details.*

ASHDOWN PARK GOOD FRIDAY LUNCHEON



Friday 10th April

On Good Friday we will be offering a delightfully fresh, line-caught, fish menu in our Anderida Restaurant. A variety of alternative choices will be available for those who still want to enjoy the delights of Good Friday and getting together with friends and family but would prefer non-fish options.

£19.50 per person

ASHDOWN PARK EASTER CELEBRATORY AFTERNOON TEA



Fri 10th – Mon 13th April

For a limited time only, sit back and relax in our cosy lounges whilst enjoying our traditional afternoon tea with a chocolate/Easter twist.

From £26.00 per person

THE GRAND HOTEL EASTER AFTERNOON TEA



Fri 10th – Mon 13th April

This year we are offering a traditional Easter themed Afternoon Tea with a chocolate twist for the whole family to enjoy. There will even be Easter cocktails for the grown ups to enjoy too!

£29.50 per person

ASHDOWN PARK EASTER SUNDAY LUNCHEON



Sunday 12th April

Bring your family together for a traditional three-course celebratory Sunday Luncheon made with the freshest seasonal ingredients and complete with coffee and petit fours. We will have a special visit from the Easter Bunny, who will be bringing chocolate for each child.

£39.50 per person

THE GRAND HOTEL EASTER SUNDAY LUNCHEON



Sunday 12th April

Bring your family together for a celebratory Easter Sunday Luncheon made with the freshest seasonal ingredients and complete with coffee and petit fours. We will have a special visit from the Easter Bunny, who will be bringing chocolate for each child.

Garden Restaurant
£40.00 per person
Mirabelle Restaurant
£45.00 per person

TYLNEY HALL HOTEL EASTER SUNDAY LUNCHEON



Sunday 12th April

Join us this Easter Sunday for a special three-course luncheon designed by our Executive Head Chef Mike Lloyd in our Oak Room Restaurant. We will also be hosting an Easter Egg hunt for the little ones to enjoy.

£39.50 per person

FATHER'S DAY

ASHDOWN PARK FATHER'S DAY LUNCHEON



Sunday 21st June

This Father's day treat your Dad to an afternoon of delicious food, stunning surroundings, and of course, his favourite people - his family! Our three-course Sunday lunch in our 2 AA rosette Anderida Restaurant offers welcoming and unique surroundings, with stunning views across the parkland.

£39.50 per person

THE GRAND HOTEL FATHER'S DAY LUNCHEON



Sunday 21st June

A perfect gift for all Dad's this Father's Day. A traditional three-course Sunday Roast with all the trimmings in the Garden Restaurant, entertainment by our jolly resident Jazz Band and time to relax in our luxurious 5-star surroundings.

£38.00 per person

THE GRAND HOTEL FATHER'S DAY AFTERNOON TEA



Sunday 21st June

Treat your Dad to something different with Chef's specially themed Father's Day Afternoon Tea in one of our lounges, accompanied by a cold local craft beer from the bar.

£29.50 per person

LUTON HOO PARK FATHER'S DAY LUNCHEON



Sunday 21st June

Treat your father to five-star dining in the award-winning Wernher Restaurant or the more informal setting of Adam's Brasserie. Each dad will receive a complimentary pass to use in the spa or for a round of golf.

Werhner Restaurant
£45.00 per person
Adam's Brasserie
£40.00 per person

TYLNEY HALL HOTEL FATHER'S DAY LUNCHEON



Sunday 21st June

Treat your Dad to a special three-course Father's Day Luncheon in our award-winning Oak Room Restaurant and a sample selection of beers from a local brewery.

£39.50 per person

Our luxurious seasonal breaks provide just the tonic to a cold winter. Find out more at elitehotels.co.uk/breaks-offers

REGULAR EVENTS

From Ladies Luncheons and Coffee Mornings to themed Afternoon Teas - each hotel has a range of regular events not to be missed. Find out more online.

WEDDINGS



YOUR ONCE UPON A TIME IS NOW...

“

Were I a dreamer of dreams, I would say... Marry me – and I will conquer the world and lay it at your feet.”

WINSTON CHURCHILL

LUTON HOO PARK WEDDING OPEN EVENINGS



Thurs 23rd Jan & Thurs 21st May

These informal evenings, give prospective couples the chance to meet with our wedding team and discuss all queries they may have while having a look around the stunning setting of Luton Hoo.

Free admission

LUTON HOO PARK WEDDING SHOWCASE



Sunday 1st March

Held in our exclusive use venue Warren Weir, see our rooms set up and meet with a range of suppliers and our event wedding co-ordinators, who are on hand to answer any of your questions about the big day.

Free admission

ASHDOWN PARK EVENING WEDDING SHOWCASE



Friday 31st January

Be inspired as you step foot inside Ashdown Park during twilight hours and see its magnificence and beauty as the perfect wedding venue. Pre-book your appointment with one of our dedicated wedding co-ordinators.

Free admission

ASHDOWN PARK LUXURY WEDDING SHOWCASE



Sunday 15th March

We team up with the Luxury Wedding Show to offer an insight into what your big day could look like at Ashdown Park Hotel.

Free admission

THE GRAND HOTEL LUXURY WEDDING SHOWCASE



Sunday 29th March

The Grand and The Luxury Wedding Show have teamed up again to bring together brides & grooms-to-be with a selection of the finest wedding suppliers around.

Free admission

TYLNEY HALL HOTEL LUXURY WEDDING SHOWCASE



Sunday 26th January

Tylney Hall has teamed up with The Luxury Wedding Show, to bring together brides & grooms-to-be with a selection of the finest wedding suppliers around.

Entry is free to those who pre-register otherwise £5.00 on the door

TYLNEY HALL HOTEL WEDDING SHOWCASE



Sunday 23rd February

Your chance to see why Tylney Hall has earned a reputation as the most romantic wedding venue in Hampshire. Our experienced and friendly wedding planners will be on hand to give you a personalised tour of a selection of our suites!

Free admission

“

As soon as I saw you, I knew a grand adventure was about to happen.”

WINNIE THE POOH



EXPLORING THE COUNTRY

CONCIERGE TIPS...

The best events near Elite Hotels

The Elite Hotels' concierge team are once again on hand to help direct you to the best events around the Hotels' this season.

GLYNDEBOURNE FESTIVAL

Lewes, 21st May - 30th August 2020

Enjoy opera in the heart of the British countryside as the ever popular Glyndebourne Festival returns for 2020 with a summer programme of world class operas. Dress up in your finest attire and enjoy one of the six productions on offer during the festival, from Dialogues des Carmélites to The Rake's Progress. Both The Grand Hotel and Ashdown Park Hotel are an ideal base for those attending the festival, contact our reservations team for more information.

MAGNIFICENT MOTORS

Eastbourne, 2nd & 3rd May 2020

Magnificent Motors is one of the biggest free motoring spectacles on the south coast. Over 900 vintage and classic cars, motorbikes and buses attend this display on Eastbourne's Western Lawns and Wish Tower Slopes. There is also live music entertainment in tow throughout the weekend and all just a stone throw away from The Grand Hotel, Eastbourne.

NATURE VALLEY INTERNATIONAL TENNIS

Eastbourne, 19th to 27th June 2020

A huge fixture in any tennis enthusiasts' calendar, The Nature Valley International returns to Eastbourne in 2020 and boasts a fantastic line-up of world-class tennis tournaments. You may even catch a glimpse of some of the big stars of the sport such as Andy Murray and Johanna Konta.

WOBURN ABBEY GARDEN SHOW

The Bedford Estates, London, 27th and 28th June 2020

The Gardener's Garden Show is a must see for anyone with green fingers. Set in Woburn Abbey's beautifully landscaped gardens, the show offers unparalleled access to award-winning exhibitors and nurseries as well as an array of live entertainment, artisan foods, shopping, demonstrations, informative talks and gardening advice, tips and garden tours.

You don't need an excuse to treat yourself to an Elite escape, but these calendar highlights certainly offer plenty so why not pair a special event with a luxury country house mini-break this summer. Book your stay at www.elitehotels.co.uk

Gift vouchers are available to purchase online and at reception.

THE GIFT OF GIVING

With experience gifts increasing in popularity across the UK, we thought we'd share some of the key trends with the help of SK Chase, our voucher management experts.



Top three most popular gifting dates are: Black Friday, Christmas Eve and Mother's Day with Black Friday being the busiest day of the year



People tend to spend more on average on Christmas gifts than they do on Birthday gifts



Surprisingly Mondays are the most popular day to buy gift vouchers



People spend the most on Wedding and Valentine's Day gifts



Birthday gifts are the top reason for purchase all year round, apart from in December (Christmas gifts)



Father's Day gifts have the lowest average spend. Sorry Dads!



Our top five selling gifts are: Afternoon Tea, Spa, Dining, Overnight Stays and Monetary



Every year, more people choose for their gift to be sent via email rather than by post. Last year, 55% of orders were sent via email

ELITEHOTELS.CO.UK/GIFTS



An Afternoon with... Bolney Wines



Sam Linter. Head Winemaker and Managing Director at Bolney Wine Estate

Wine has long been present in modern society, it can be seen paired with dinner, a glass (or two) after work and appears at any and most occasions. Having supplied us with many varieties of their delicious wines and a popular favourite in the restaurants across the Elite Hotels group, we ask the experts at Bolney Wine some questions behind the nation's favourite tipples!

1 Firstly, can you tell us a bit about Bolney Wines?

We are one of England's oldest and most beautiful vineyards, located in the heart of Sussex. A three generation family business led by myself, we have been guided by nature since 1972 when our first vines were planted. Along with our expert team we produce a wide-ranging portfolio of award-winning still and sparkling English wines. Alongside our wine, visitors can enjoy a great day out at Bolney Wine Estate with various tours, a vineyard trail, café restaurant, wine bar and Cellar Door shop.

2 What do you think makes wine such a popular and staple drink? How has it lasted so many years when other alcoholic drink trends seem to come and go?

The variety and different styles of wine make it such an interesting and thought-provoking topic. There is so much to learn about wine: how wine is made, where it is made and the different grape varieties involved. There are over 10,000 grape varieties around the world. Wine is also made to match with food and this gives it an enduring relevance. In many countries such as France and Italy, wine is drunk as part of the meal, not just a mere accompaniment. Sparkling wines are also known as celebratory wines and many parties and special occasions are celebrated with this style of wines.

3 At Elite Hotels we always celebrate English Wine Week. Would you agree that English Wine has seen a rise in popularity?

Absolutely! People are enjoying English wines more and more as the industry is growing. Wine tourism is a dominant part of the South East area, as the region is ideal for growing grapes due to having the warmest weather in the UK. Climate and terrain dictate everything. To our advantage, the soil on our 104-acre estate is sandstone, which drains well



and provides good mineral pick-up. It's great soil for growing vines. We've grown from being pioneers into being leading lights in the thriving English Wine industry, and it's exciting to see English wine gaining more popularity year on year.

4 For a complete beginner how can someone start to learn the art of pairing wines with specific food?

The principal is to try to balance the food and the wine so that neither of them overpowers the other. It is important to try to match the weight of the food with the weight of the wine. A full-bodied wine is usually a good match with meatier canapés, whilst lightweight food like poultry and fish are complemented by more delicate wines. Salty foods are enhanced and balanced by a hint of sweetness, and work very well with acidity. Therefore, a salty nibble would work perfectly with a sparkling wine. Opinion can vary greatly when it comes to matching, but certain flavours bring out the best in each other. So good luck with finding your perfect pairings and most importantly enjoy the matching process!

5 Can you give us your wine recommendations for the delicious following three courses:

A Fish Starter: For this starter, we would recommend our Kew English Sparkling White. The delicious floral notes complement white peach and

apple blossom flavours, leading to an elegant finish which pairs perfectly with oily fish, mackerel and seafood risotto.

Main of Red Meat: Here, we would suggest our Lychgate Red. This medium-bodied dry red wine with lovely blackcurrant aromas complements red meat dishes, and is highly recommended with meals such as steak frites and meaty pasta dishes. *A Fruity Dessert:* To finish, we would pair our Bolney Rose with a fruity dessert. This delicate, medium bodied rosé has a refreshing palate of red fruits with undertones of vanilla, reminiscent of strawberry trifle which enhances the flavours of sweet fruits.

6 Finally, what is in store for Bolney Wines in 2020?

We officially opened our new, state-of-the-art winery this year, which will allow us to increase our production of premium still and sparkling wines by 170% within the next three-years. Built in time for our 2019 harvest, the new winery is one part of an ambitious expansion plan, which will help us to meet our target of producing more than 300,000 bottles of premium still and sparkling wines by 2022.

Want to give the experts suggestions a try? Join us for dinner in our award-winning restaurants

ASHDOWN PARK HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB



-  Anderida Restaurant

-  106 bedrooms

-  Spa Treatments, Gym, Pool, Tennis, Golf

-  17 private dining & meeting rooms, max capacity 200

-  Licensed for weddings and civil ceremonies

-  186 acres

THE GRAND HOTEL



-  The Garden and Mirabelle Restaurants

-  152 bedrooms

-  Spa Treatments, Gym, Putting Green, Indoor & Outdoor Pools

-  17 private dining & meeting rooms, max capacity 400

-  Licensed for weddings and civil ceremonies

-  Situated on the Eastbourne seafront

LUTON HOO PARK



-  Wernher Restaurant and Adam's Brasserie

-  228 bedrooms

-  Spa Treatments, Gym, Pool, All-weather & Lawn Tennis, Golf

-  25 private dining & meeting rooms, including Warren Weir – an exclusive use venue, max capacity 330

-  Licensed for weddings and civil ceremonies

-  1,065 acres

TYLNEY HALL HOTEL & GARDENS



-  Oak Room Restaurant

-  113 bedrooms

-  Spa Treatments, Gym, Tennis, Indoor & Outdoor Pools

-  13 private dining & meeting rooms, max capacity 140

-  Licensed for weddings and civil ceremonies

-  66 acres

Luton Hoo Park
Luton, Bedfordshire
LU1 3TQ
01582 734437
lutonhoo.co.uk

Tylney Hall Hotel & Gardens
Rotherwick, Hook
Hampshire, RG27 9AZ
01256 764881
tylneyhall.co.uk

Ashdown Park Hotel & Country Club
nr Forest Row,
East Sussex, RH18 5JR
01342 824988
ashdownpark.com

The Grand Hotel
King Edwards Parade, Eastbourne,
East Sussex, BN21 4EQ
01323 412345
grandeastbourne.com

