

## ENGLAND

01

**HOTEL TRESANTON**

◆ Cornwall

Wellingtons for rock pooling sit at the back door, a customized Monopoly set can be found at the bar and beach bags with picnic blankets await in the room. Plus, there's the 1930s racing yacht, *Pinuccia*, ready for a cruise around Falmouth Bay. Don't, however, mistake the nostalgia for innocent seaside pleasures that concern messy bucket-and-spade family fun; Tresanton, in the charming fishing village of St. Mawes, on Cornwall's southern coast, has a very grown-up elegance, with starched linen tablecloths, waiters in silver-buttoned tunics and turbot tronçon served on bone china. Londoners swoop down in helicopters to the restaurant terrace looking out over St. Anthony's lighthouse for oysters and Chablis and a hit of the iodine-rich sea air, which—with that peculiarly Cornish whiff of coal smoke and the heady, coconut-scented broom—is enough to give anyone a Proustian moment of longing. *Rooms start at \$380; 27 Lower Castle Rd., St. Mawes; 44-1326/270-055; tresanton.com.*

02

**LIME WOOD HOTEL**

◆ Hampshire

On the hunting grounds of ancient English kings, the 144-year-old hotel, about a two-hour drive from London, underwent a much-needed upgrade in 2009: The late David Collins (Madonna's designer) funkyed up the 1800s country manor house, replacing the chintzes with crisp aubergines, tangerines and limes.

The restaurant took longer to come of age: The formal, off-putting vibe has been replaced by a convivial sense of fun, with Michelin-starred chef Angela Hartnett eschewing heavily handled dishes in favor of hearty English-Med cuisine like wild mallard carpaccio with crosnes and Jerusalem artichokes. The rooms in the stable block can suffer from noise if you're next to a family with rowdy kids, and the "ello, Guv'ner" porters with their flat caps and tweeds verge on theatrical pretension. Still, these are small quibbles: Right now Lime Wood is the

British Isles' best country-house hotel, with an exceptional spa using top products, like those devised by England's organic queen, Carole Bamford. (See "The Wild Rabbit.") *Rooms start at \$430; Beaulieu Rd., Lyndhurst, New Forest; 44-23/8028-7177; limewoodhotel.co.uk.*

03

**THE WILD RABBIT**

◆◆ Cotswolds

It calls itself a restaurant with rooms, but the Wild Rabbit, in the Cotswolds, 80 miles northwest of London, is really about the accommodations. Each of the 12 rooms is an airy, pastel-colored sanctuary—the best is, naturally, The Rabbit—with just enough rusticity in its stone walls and wood furniture and beams. Formerly the Tollgate Pub, the property was opened in this incarnation in September 2013 by Carole Bamford, owner of the Bamford clothing lines as well as a chain of organic-farm shops; her Daylesford is just up the road, supplying fresh bread and produce to the Wild Rabbit's restaurant. So the food is hardly an afterthought, especially when pairing a pint of real ale with a succulent loin of Gloucester Old Spot pork. It's just that Bamford's taste is so good, we'd call it "rooms with a restaurant" if we could. *Rooms start at \$180; Church St., Kington, Oxfordshire; 44-1608/658-389; thewildrabbit.co.uk.*

## FRANCE

04

**PAVILLON DE LA REINE**

◆ Paris

In a 17th-century mansion behind Place des Vosges's northern vaulted arcade, the hotel is where anything goes yet nothing is disclosed. (For years it's been where the likes of Jean Paul Gaultier and Johnny Depp would retreat for quiet tête-à-têtes.) It's small (54 rooms), dark (damask-draped walls, silk curtains) and comes with a tight-lipped staff. Yes, the rooms are on the small side, but the privacy, not to mention the silver-service in-room breakfast, is enough to make you hole up for days. *Rooms start at \$530; 28 Place des Vosges; 33-1/40-29-19-19; pavillon-de-la-reine.com.*

**LEGEND**

- ◆ City Secret
- ◆ Far-Flung
- ◆ Old-School Understated
- ◆ Food with Rooms
- ◆ Cult Favorite
- ◆ Architectural Gem
- ◆ Owners Worth Knowing
- ◆ Maverick
- ◆ The Art of Well-being
- ◆ New