



View gallery

Timbrell's Yard

Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, England

View on a map

8/10

Telegraph expert rating

" Historic market town Bradford on Avon, on the cusp of the Cotswolds with the winding River Avon flowing through it, is a quainter alternative to Bath. Timbrell's Yard showcases contemporary rusticity, global tweaks on British dishes and a combination of rooms dreamed up with slumber in mind. "

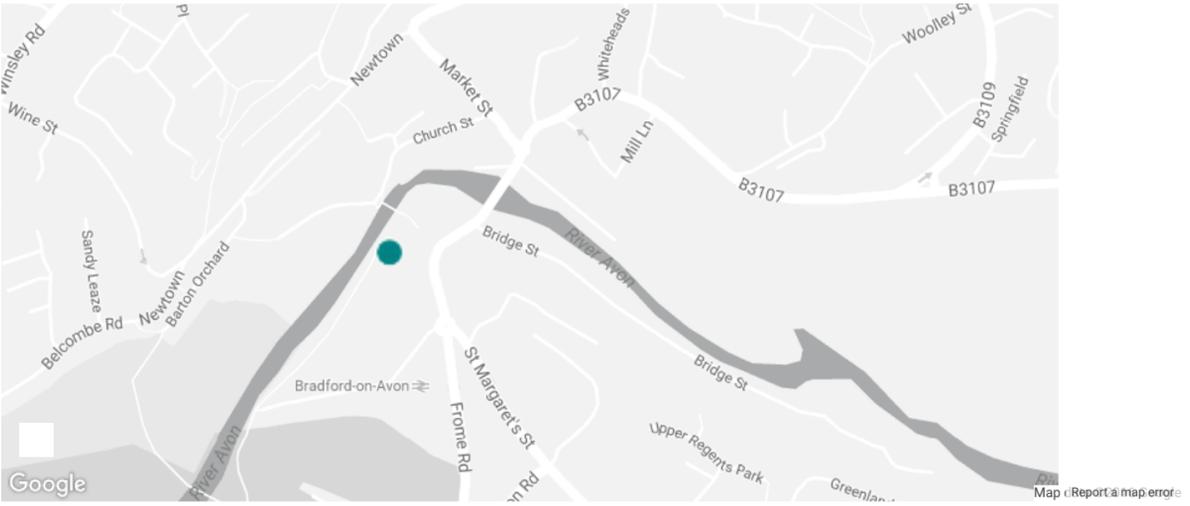
By Benjamin Parker, TRAVEL WRITER

Location

8/10

The medieval arched bridge, twisting streets and limestone buildings give Bradford on Avon the postcard good-looks of a West Country lure. Beside a short-stay carpark and former Victorian factory is Timbrell's Yard. It's also right next to the River Avon, by far it's prettiest angle. Around town you can visit the small museum, duck into the mixture of independent shops and cafés, or brush up on history at the Saxon church and title barn.

A Thursday market takes place by the river, where you'll find organic meats, home-made pasties and plants, and on the last Sunday of the month a farmers' market pops up. For something slow-paced, charter a narrowboat and explore the Kennet and Avon Canal. Honey-coloured Bath is only 20 minutes away by car, or 10 minutes by frequent trains, for more history, shopping and wandering (and more of a late-night scene).



Style & character

8/10

You can see the line kept between adding colour and energy while keeping a historic pub-restaurant foundation. They've found balance, retaining rusticity – exposed stonework, a three-metre-wide fireplace supported by a thick wooden beam, white tiled bar – and pairing it with woven cushions patterned with vivid Native American motifs and Farrow and Ball's 'Stony Ground' on the walls. With vintage dressmaking mannequins and thick braided jute as staircase handrails, you find a quirk that complements the rough-hewn – yet still polished – look. A courtyard of flagstone near the river is the spot for a sundowner.



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Service & facilities

8/10

Chirpy staff are on hand to help, whether you want to discuss pre-dinner gin or find out more about the town's history. Apart from the bar and restaurant, there are no additional facilities at Timbrell's Yard – an intentional decision, leaving the focus on easy eating, drinking and sleeping.

- ✔ Bar
- ✔ Parking
- ✔ Restaurant
- ✔ Wi-Fi

Rooms

8/10

The traditional-contemporary tussle must have flamed when designing each of the 17 rooms, simmering down to leave two distinct styles: loft suites with a modern edge, mezzanine bedrooms and window seats looking over river and church spires, or rooms in the hotel's older wing where you find wonderfully low beams (clad in heavy vintage linen, softening any bumps) and freestanding cast-iron baths.

Natural textures, especially wood, and muted tones are featured throughout. Furniture, like desks and chests, is antique or vintage in style. A patchwork of tiles adorn en-suite bathrooms, each with a rainfall shower and Wiltshire-made Bramley body products. Classical music from Pure radios quietly fills the room when you first arrive – a soothing soundtrack for post-dinner slides into comfortable bespoke beds made by Bristol-based Origin Interiors.

Food & drink

8/10

High expectations for a place that boasts former River Cottage man Tom Blake as executive chef and head chef Ricky Ford, who worked under Gary Rhodes, running the show. The menu, lead by West Country produce, showcases simple, hearty dishes with some international tweaks. Nervousness shown by a young waiter when asked to match the main course with wine was necessary: a deft pick of white from Austria cut through the black cabbage salsa that surrounded Gloucester Old Spot belly.

Breakfast is a buffet of creamy vanilla yoghurt, croissant and cereal, as well as something from the kitchen such as the bubble and squeak cake (a popular choice, judging by surrounding orders).

Value for money

8/10

Double rooms from £95. Breakfast included. Free Wi-Fi.

Access for guests with disabilities?

Wheelchair access to the bar and restaurant; none to the rooms.

Family-friendly?

Children are welcome across the whole property, with a menu for younger ones in the restaurant. Cots and Z-beds are available.

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timbrellsyard.com