

FAT T H E R[®]

JULY £4.40

ROYAL RESCUE

THE PRINCE OF WALES
AND CORNWALL'S
MOST SACRED STately

TURBO LOANES

THEY ARE
BANKRUPT AND
OVERLOADED

DREAM BODY

HOW YOU CAN
GET ONE

TOP BIKINIS AND SOME LOVELY BOTTOMS

THE GLIN CROWD
INSIDE DOMINIC WEST'S
FAMILY CASTLE

MONEY TALKS

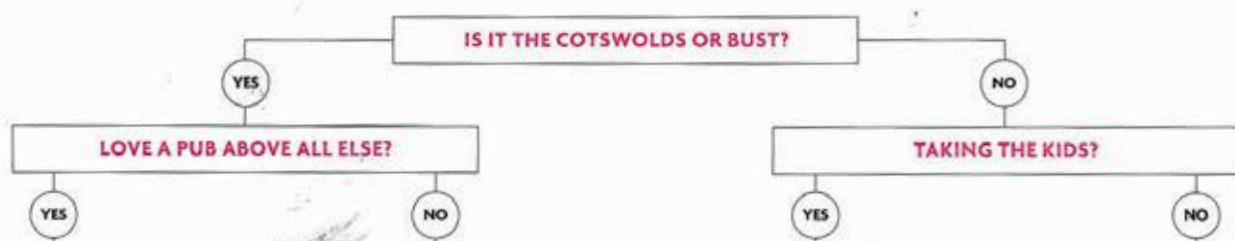
MEET THE
BILLIONAIRE
PHILOSOPHER

BRIGHT STAR

MILLIE BRADY SHINES IN SUMMER'S MOST RAVISHING FASHION

Where to go...

FOR A VERY BRITISH BREAK



THE SWAN INN
AT SWINBROOK
Oxfordshire

This is bucolic Britain at its best, a wisteria-covered inn sitting beside the meandering River Windrush, facing a verdant cricket pitch – you'd almost expect a Mitford sister to come stalking past. Most fitting, given that the previous proprietress was the late Debo Devonshire, the youngest of the clan. Inside it's all oak beams, log fires, flagstone floors and Mitford memorabilia.

The five swish new rooms in Riverside Cottage (like the six in the stable block) are simple, pared back and tasteful. A velvet headboard, a rolltop bath, a private terrace and cushions you'll want to squeeze into your case. You mustn't. Instead, we give you permission to nick the delicious Bantam bath products. The food made a lasting post-summer impression on Cameron and Hollande when they lunched here last year – shredded-venison confit, haricots blancs and black pudding. This is quite possibly the poshest pub there is.

BOOK IT Double, from £125
(theswanswinbrook.co.uk).



BARNSELY HOUSE
Gloucestershire

Country-house hotels can be a bit of a bore – all overheated, with over-plumped sofas and fussy cream teas. But if you're a contemporary sybarite who likes the Cotswolds, there are one or two places that won't make you grind your teeth in irritation. One is Barnsley House, originally famous as the home and, more importantly, garden of Rosemary Verey. Guests still come to marvel at her creation, including the knot gardens, the Laburnum Walk and the ornamental fruit and vegetable garden. The hotel has 18 rooms, all decorated in a sleekly modern yet exceedingly comfortable style – the bathrooms are particularly lovely, with their vast baths and waterfall showers. It also has a neat private cinema, a snazzy spa and, cutely, a gin of the week. And the food is properly marvellous – from the Potager restaurant to the Village Pub (which is part of the hotel and a delightful two-minute walk away), you won't find better. Promise.

BOOK IT Double, from £300
(barnsleyhouse.com).



MOONRAKERS
Cornwall

'Self-catering holiday' – a phrase that can strike fear into the hardest of hearts. A group of grown-ups plus kids equals NO time to self, and 'catering' anything other than tea and toast is not a holiday. But this socking great house, with its sweeping garden and cracking sea view, has something special: Amanda Selby, the bubbly blonde owner, who has been holidaying in St Mawes for over a decade. Her calls start weeks before you arrive: what would you like in the fridge? When can she arrange the child minders? Book the best table at the best places? Organise local chefs to come and cook up a storm? The house is lovely too, bright and airy, with zingy pops of colour (and kids will love it almost as much as they'll love the fancy-dress wardrobe). It even has its own signature spa treatment: a therapist will turn up and give you two and a half hours of tip-top body massage and a facial. Self-catering? Selfish-catering, more like.
BOOK IT From £1,115 for 3 nights
(stmawesretreats.co.uk).



THE CROWN AT
AMERSHAM
Buckinghamshire

Fancy a weekend away but can't be arsed to actually go anywhere? Just at the very end of the Metropolitan Line, only 45 minutes from central London, there is the pretty market town of Amersham. And in this slightly touristy but in no way theme-park place there is a lovely modern inn called the Crown. It's a gorgeous combination of old beamed buildings and immense comfort. Designed by Ilse Crawford (the genius behind Soho House New York), this is not one of those cramped country hotels where you have to climb over the bed to get to the bathroom – the human-friendly design is simultaneously stupidly comfortable and modern and fresh. Most excitingly, the Elizabethan Suite was the scene of Hugh Grant and Andie MacDowell's famous skulk in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, and the reception is where George, the whisky-soaked boor, is convinced, 'I think I'm in there...'

BOOK IT Double, from £105
(thecrownamersham.com).