



THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Britain and Ireland's best pub gardens

It's the essence of summer: a good pint in the beautiful gardens of a smashing little pub. Here are our favourites



(Peter Tarry)

The Royal Oak garden (2) is a fine spot for chilling out

11 OLDE BELL Hurley, Berkshire

The Olde Bell is a medieval inn that has been given thoroughly modern manners by one of the UK's leading designers, Ilse Crawford. The bar is a hotchpotch of vintage Ercol chairs, milking stools and rockers, balancing precariously on the authentically wobbly red-tiled floor — as you will be after a few frothy pints, served in pewter tankards. Its huge meadow garden is full of butterflies, wild flowers, chunky furniture and an outside kitchen that ensures the scent of a hog roast permeates the air every Sunday. After lunch, a lazy-day stroll between picture-perfect cottages takes you to a minty stretch of the Thames as it swishes its way down to Henley. *Tel: 01628 825881, theoldebell.co.uk*

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1 COMMENT | RECOMMEND? (13)

1 RAM INN Firle, East Sussex

Some of the rural bohemian sorts who populate this corner of East Sussex are none too pleased that the Ram Inn, previously a ramshackle, kooky watering hole, has tidied up both its act and its orchard.

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