

COMPANY magazine

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FEARNE

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TO SETTLE DOWN'

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THE DOWNRIGHT DIRTY!

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(EVEN ON A MONDAY)

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ISSUE

STARRING

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PEACHES GELDOF
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BEST DRESSED

WHO DID YOU VOTE
BRITAIN'S MOST
STYLISH CELEB?



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Travel

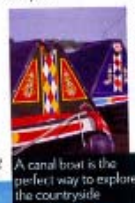
THE GREATEST BRITISH BREAKS

Britain's 30 million tourists a year can't be wrong, so why not give it a go with one of *Company's* favourite stay-cations – they're as British as fish and chips...

THE BEST OF BRITISH: CRUISE THE CANALS

No, not in a gay way, but on a narrow boat. There are 2,200 miles of waterways in the UK that you can potter along with your mates, arguing over who gets to be captain. And UK Boat Hire have 200 boats to choose from. You can hire a cosy one for you and your man or get a huge 70ft barge that sleeps up to 12. You'll get a lesson in how to work the locks and navigate your way through tunnels and over aqueducts. The good news is, it's so hard to get lost! Don't expect to get anywhere fast though – the top speed is around 4mph, but then you're never far from a waterside pub. If you want to explore the countryside, hire a boat for a week and do one of Britain's major canals, otherwise take one out for a short weekend break – it could work out cheaper than staying in a hotel. And messing about on the water is much more fun!

● For more information, visit www.ukboathire.com or call 0330 333 0590. Short breaks start from £306 per boat, sleeping three. A week's holiday starts at £470. A Swan Class boat for 12 people costs £598 for three nights (or just £50 each). *Company* readers can claim a 10% discount – for more information, visit www.britishtourism.co.uk or www.waterscape.com



A canal boat is the perfect way to explore the countryside

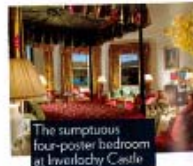


THE BEST OF BRITISH: BE QUEEN OF THE CASTLE

Inverlochy Castle Hotel, at the foot of Ben Nevis in Fort William, Scotland, was built in 1873 and got the Royal seal of approval from Queen Victoria herself. Well, if it's good enough for a Queen, it's good enough for us. Inverlochy has 17 bedrooms to choose from, each with a different design – our fave was the four-poster... Plus you can re-enact a medieval banquet with your mates in one of the castles three dining rooms. Hog roast, anyone?

Britain has over 250 castles you can stay in. Some have been turned into hotels, like Inverlochy; others you can hire out entirely, like the Fish Coast apartment in Hampton Court Palace (once home to Henry VIII). Sadly we're not sure you can order a prince on room service.

● Rooms at Inverlochy Castle start from £400 per room per night. For more information, visit www.inverlochycastlehotel.com or call 01397 702177. Fish Coast costs from £738 to hire for a three-night weekend and sleeps six. Visit www.landmarktrust.org.uk for more information. For more castles to rent, visit www.stayinacastle.com



The sumptuous four-poster bedroom at Inverlochy Castle

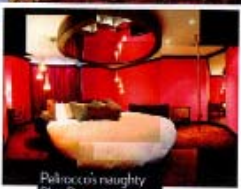
THE BEST OF BRITISH: COSY UP IN A QUIRKY CARAVAN

This original Romany caravan in Monmouthshire, Wales, is your chance to go all boho and wear hooped earrings with pride. Hand-painted in gorgeous reds and golds, the caravan has been completely restored. Next door is a wooden cabin decked out with all the essentials: a shower, toilet, basin, living area and kitchen. For warmer evenings, there's a veranda and barbecue so you can eat under the stars. Or you can hop across the fields (it's in the middle of a sheep farm) and check out the local boozers.

● The Romany Gypsy caravan sleeps two, and prices vary from £280 to £450 per week. For more information, visit www.cottage-holiday-wales.co.uk or call 01873 850190



Ahhh... you really can't get cuter than a romantic break in this gorgeous little caravan



Pelirrocco's naughty Play Room is great for a city weekend...

THE BEST OF BRITISH: STAY IN A SEXY SEASIDE HOTEL

The Pelirrocco is probably one of the coolest hotels in Brighton, if not in the UK... With its great location on Regency Square, by the seafront, it's just a hop away from all the shopping and clubs, and has 19 quirky themed bedrooms to choose from.

Company's top tip is to try out a different one each night. You could start in the sexy Pin Up Parlour, with its four-poster bed and decorative furniture; then move on to the naughty Play Room with its very own pole-dancing pole and mirrored canopy (oh yes!); and ending up in the Modrophenia – a Brit-cool room with retro 1960s interior. While you're there, make sure you check out the bar with its cult cocktails – and with a closing time of 4am, you won't even need to leave the place to party!

● Rooms at the Pelirrocco range from £50 to £300 a night. Visit www.hotelpelirrocco.co.uk for more information, or call 01273 327055

THE BEST OF BRITISH: BOOK INTO BUTLINS!

I know what you're thinking – Red Coats, cheesy karaoke, soggy fish and chips. Well, not anymore. Butlins in Bognor Regis has just opened a totally modern, £20-million spa hotel, making it more *Hotel Babylon* than *Hi-De-Hi*. All rooms have views of the sea or the British South Downs. Plus, guests get priority booking at the new Ocean Spa, which has a hydrotherapy pool, sauna, treatment rooms and a laserpod (don't ask!). Butlins resorts all over the UK also run BIG party weekends – from '80s Madness' to '90s Reloaded – which are great for fun girly weekends and hen dos.

● Prices for The Ocean Hotel start at £65 per room per night. For more information, visit www.butlins.com or call 0845 070 4730. For themed Big Weekends, visit www.bigweekends.com



The Red Coats are waiting at the Ocean Hotel.

THE BEST OF BRITISH: BED DOWN IN A PUB

Dating back to 1135, the Olde Bell in Hurley, Berkshire, is a gorgeous little hideaway in the middle of the English countryside. Apparently the oldest inn in the land, it has that genuine 'olde worlde' feel, which, combined with modern designer touches, makes it the perfect spot for a romantic break – or just a really cool weekend away with the girls... This, legend has it, is exactly how Hollywood star Liz Taylor and pals liked to spend their Freedom Years back in the 1950s. Beat that for some quintessentially British, name-dropping glamour! Fifty years on and this hidden gem is still a star attraction. From ancient roaring fires, rocking chairs and beams to fabulous food, luxurious beauty treatments and sexy bathrooms, the Olde Bell mixes up its historical roots with just the right amount of 21st-century pizzazz – oh, and the most delish, home-baked afternoon teas, too. Ding, dong!

● The Olde Bell is offering *Company* readers who book a two-night stay a free upgrade to a suite (subject to availability). Just mention this article when you book. A standard double room starts at £90 per room per night. For more information, visit www.theoldebell.co.uk or call 01628 825881



The Olde Bell has real charm and character – the perfect place to chill in the country



MINI-BREAKS: HALLOWEEN HAUNTS

After laughing and, erm, hiding under our duvets watching *Ghost Hunting With Girls Aloud*, we wanted to try Hazelwood Castle in York for ourselves. The castle's haunted weekend includes a psychic workshop on the paranormal, as well as some yummy slap-up meals – well you wouldn't want to see a ghost on an empty stomach, would you? Hazelwood has a long haunted history – a black figure has been seen walking across the courtyard and mysterious shadows regularly appear in the Rose bedroom and Jasmine suite. Phil Whyman, who's been on TV shows such as *Most Haunted* and *Scream Team*, leads the evening, and séances take place in the most 'active' areas. If you're feeling brave, you can even spend the night in the most

haunted rooms. *Ghostbusters*, eat your heart out.

● A haunted weekend at Hazelwood castle costs from £189 per person including Dinner, Bed and Breakfast for one night, psychic entertainment and a full paranormal experience. For more info call 0161 408 5353 or visit www.hauntedhotelguide.com. *Mosborough Hall* in Sheffield and *Madeley Court* in Telford offer similar weekends

If a ghost train is more your thing, life really is a rollercoaster at Alton Towers from 17 October to 1 November, when the theme park is hosting a two-week 'Scarefest' to celebrate Halloween. So if you prefer your pumpkins full of adrenaline, and you want to be thoroughly tickled and treated into the night, this is the place to really scream if you want to go faster...

● For more information, prices and hotel accommodation, visit www.altontowers.com or call 0871 222 6672