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BY WOODY ALLEN

Kate Winslet Photographed by Corinne



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The 10 loveliest rural retreats

Bazaar picks out the most idyllic escapes from the length and breadth of Britain – a celebration of fresh air, comfort food and old-school charm

1 THE BEACH HOUSE, CORNWALL

This gorgeous, pastel-hued, sea-facing Hamptons-esque house has been in the Petherick family for some generations, and has a magnificent position right on the beach near St Austell in Cornwall, so you can walk barefoot all the way from your bedroom to the beach. The sound of waves can be heard in every room in the house.

The Beach House (www.thebeachhouse-cornwall.co.uk), from £2,250 a week (sleeps 14).

2 THE FLYING BOAT CLUB ISLES OF SCILLY

Pared-down clapboard houses with oak floors, sea views, a pool, gym and tennis courts: these are the attractions of the 12 new beachfront houses on the site of the old naval air station on Tresea in the Isles of Scilly. There's a general store and restaurant on site, and plenty to distract - from PowerCat speedboats and golf to the romantic Tresea Abbey Garden. *The Flying Boat Club* (01720 422649; www.fbc.co.uk), from £1,375 a week (minimum stay seven nights).

3 THE CABIN AT TENBY, Pembrokeshire

A picture-postcard town on the Pembrokeshire coast, with pastel houses and authentic pubs, Tenby has a dinky little port where sailing boats are stranded in low tide. Pretty cottages hug the harbour wall; one houses the Cabin flat, which overlooks Carmarthen Bay. Roald Dahl spent summers in the Cabin, and the family still owns it; it's simply but cosily decorated, and perfect for a family or small group of friends.

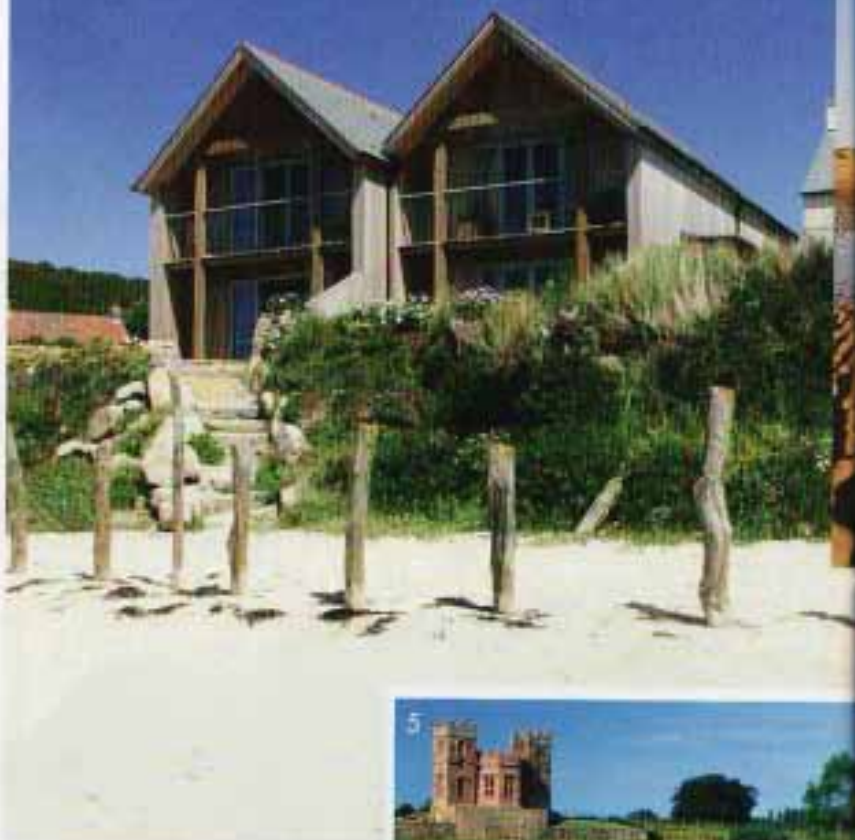
Seven nights, from £485 (sleeps six), with Coastal Cottages of Pembrokeshire (01437 763765; www.coastalcottages.co.uk).

4 CORRIAN LIGHTHOUSE LODGE, SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

This isolated lighthouse keeper's cottage on the shores of Loch Linnhe, with enchanting views, was recently converted into a house - the separate lighthouse still has its own working life. The walled garden opens onto the beach. There's not much to do, but that's the point - walk to the local pub, or take a ferry across the loch to the Nether Lochaber Hotel for its hearty food.

Three nights, from £680 (sleeps 12), with Rural Retreats (01388 761117; www.ruralretreats.co.uk).

2



5 THE COOP HOUSE, NORTHUMBERLAND

A bijou idyll on the banks of the River Esk, backed by meadows, the Coop House was built in the 18th century as an ornamental summerhouse for Netherby Hall, from which to enjoy salmon fishing on the river. It couldn't be more secluded, and is a bouquet's throw from Gretna Green, for any interested eelers.

Seven nights, from £447 (sleeps three), with the Landmark Trust (01628 823825; www.landmarktrust.org.uk).

6 THE OLDE BELL, BERKSHIRE

An hour from London, in Hurley, Ye Olde Inn has been updated by designer Ilse Crawford, who transformed the country-house-hotel concept a decade ago with Babington House. In the 1940s and 1950s, Elizabeth Taylor and co lived the place, and would spin there in classic cars for the weekend. The Bentley Drivers Club liked it so much that they built a replica in California.

The Olde Bell (01628 825881; www.theoldebells.co.uk), from £85 a room a night.





7 THE GEORGE IN RYE, EAST SUSSEX

A short drive from the beautifully desolate Camber Sands (left), this elegant Regency inn was built in 1575, and though you can imagine pirates in these cobbled streets, today the George is all about sumptuous rooms and mod tona. Owner Alex Clarke is the brother of Samantha Clark (of *Moon* fame), and her influence can be seen in the restaurant. When you've pigged out and vegged out, you can explore the antiques shops of Rye.

The George in Rye (01323 722214; www.thegeorge.com), from £125 a room a night B&B.



8 HIPPING HALL, NORTH YORKSHIRE

This comfortable, classic house, covered in wisteria, is surrounded by four areas of natural beauty: the Eden Valley, the Lake District, the Dales and the Trough of Bowland. The hotel's public spaces are vibrantly decorated; the white-palette bedrooms offer airy, simple and elegant comfort. The focus is the restaurant, serving Modern British and European cuisine, with full à la carte and tasting menus available every night of the week.

Hipping Hall (01524 271187; www.hippinghall.com), from £205 a room a night B&B.



9 THE PEACOCK AT BOWSLEY, DERBYSHIRE

Fishers know this boutique hotel in the Peak District for the seven miles of fly-fishing on the Rivers Wye and Derwent, and anglers (including fashion designer Bill Amberg) come from around the world to try their hand at catching the region's rainbow and brown trout. But the Peacock is not a fisherman's lodge – it's more of a chic manor house, with rooms by India Mahalavi and an adventurous Mediterranean menu.

The Peacock at Bowsley (01629 232558; www.thepeacockatbowsley.com), from £145 a room a night B&B.

10 HIGHER WESTCOTT FARM, DEVON

This chic converted longhouse, in idyllic pastures on the edge of Dartmoor – great for walkers – is the work of two ex-London women, who poured their heart and soul into creating the kind of intimate bolthole they used to hanker for when dreaming of a country weekend. In the evening, you can dine here: anything from a simple meal to a five-course feast, all made using local ingredients.

Higher Westcott Farm (01847 442205; www.higherwestcottfarm.com), from £10 a room B&B; or from £260 a night for the whole house (sleeps 10). □

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