



Luton Who?

By Andrew Forbes

When looking for an outstanding hotel, spa and golf resort in the UK, the town of Luton may not be the first to come to mind. Well-known for its airport, immortalised by those quirky Campari TV ads of the 1970s, and once synonymous with Britain's automotive industry, Luton is now the latest destination to boast a world class, five-star resort.

Luton Hoo, an 18th century, Grade 1 listed mansion on the edge of the Bedfordshire town has undergone a programme of restoration over the past few years. It has truly been transformed, with the palatial property now forming the heart of a luxury 1,000-acre resort encompassing rolling private parkland, an 18-hole golf course, tennis courts, fitness centre, club house, spa and conference suites.

Within minutes of leaving the M1 and Luton's international airport, you could be relaxing like a lord and lady of the manor in one of the 144 guest rooms. Spread across the expansive property, suites combine 21st century life support systems, such as broadband internet, flat screen TVs and aircon with the glamour of a bygone age.



Although flawlessly modernised, Luton Hoo has retained its traditional values and guests must remember to dress for dinner. So forget about dressing down your Armani suit with your favourite Nike trainers or dressing up your sexy Diesel jeans with that classy Dior bag - here you're in traditional English territory where classic formality is the order of the day. Yet you will be more than rewarded when dining in the extraordinarily elegant Wernher Restaurant. The combination of exquisite, complex flavours and flawless presentation and service is one of the highlights of this unique resort experience.

So next time you pass junction 10 of the M1 or use Luton Airport, think about making your Luton experience a whole lot more glamorous by enjoying a taste of the privileged lifestyle of England's aristocracy and walk in the footsteps of royalty and eminent historical figures at Luton Hoo Hotel, Golf & Spa. ■

+ Details:

Tel: +44 1582 734437
www.lutonhoo.com

+ News Voyage



Whatever you do, look down

Last month saw the opening of the world's tallest observation deck, just pipping Toronto's CN Tower by 30m. The brand new Shanghai World Financial Center will allow visitors up to the 100th floor in order to survey the surrounding area. The tower also contains a Park Hyatt hotel, now the highest in the world. They say that the service is of the highest standards...

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www.shanghaihills.com
www.shanghai.park.hyatt.com



Green is the colour

...and eco is the game. South Africa's trendy Hout Bay in Cape Town meets its latest neighbour this month as the glass and wood Tintswalo lodge is now under full operation. With stunning views towards the South Pole and two aged 18th century Dutch forts, including the oldest operating gun battery in the world, the appeal is not surprising. The 11 Tintswalo eco-lodges that neatly cower in the pebble bay are each themed and join a thriving, but small, community of luxury retreats. Thankfully, this is not a ruined beauty spot.

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www.tintswalo.com
www.houtbayonline.com