

Continental Appeal

A Trio of European Destinations Satisfy The Needs of Even the Most Seasoned Traveler

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Grand balustrade steps lead to Bovey's formal terrace from the gardens.

GREAT BRITAIN

A Castle in the Sky

A Fifty Million Dollar Makeover at Bovey Castle is worth its weight in Pounds

Word has it that charismatic Hotelier Peter de Savary somehow has the great fortune to magic up perfect weather at his magnificent restored properties. Perhaps the gods of fair weather look favorably on the flamboyant entrepreneur, but the locations for his historic lifestyle hotels are so magnificent that they often benefit from favorable micro-climates.

Certainly, to sit on the Formal Terrace at Bovey Castle in Devon, de Savary's latest reincarnation, looking out over the rugged hills of Dartmoor while bathing in pure sunshine is to behold one of the most bucolic views in the whole of England. In a country not known for immaculate metrological conditions, de Savary has spared nothing for



Above: Classical décor carefully merged with modern conveniences create spacious and elegant bedrooms. Below: The breathtaking gardens filled with lakes and lily ponds.



those who prefer to spend time indoors. While ploughing \$50 million into restoring this former Devonshire Manor House to an immaculate 65-room country house hotel on a 368-square mile estate in Dartmoor National Park, he's captured the essence of 1920s optimism, making a visit to Bovey a thoroughly unique experience. Live jazz accompanies diners nightly to the Chinoiserie-clad art deco palm court; one can almost smell a whiff of prohibition while nonchalantly enjoying a sloe gin from the flapper-style decanter sets in each room.

The authenticity of the Great Hall, a luxuriously appointed Cathedral Room with 30-ft stone fireplace, oak-paneled drawing rooms, a minstrels gallery and the Grand Terrace, make for an imposing air of grandeur. That's all before the staff even sets foot on the place. Each morning, a falconer provides an impressive flight display with eagles and hawks that shift one back in time in the way that only pockets like this of England can. Of course, on-estate country pursuits like tennis, fly fish-