



THE SUNDAY TIMES

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B&B

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bar and a deck with Atlantic views. Breakfast is local sausages, eggs and bacon, or superfood porridge and avocado on toast. Even the ascetic will love the night-time treat on their pillow: homemade orange and goji chocolates. *Doubles from £75, B&B; seavista.co.uk*

THE OLD PARSONAGE CORNWALL **NEW OPENING**

This is a former naval lieutenant's home five minutes from Mevagissey harbour, with a cheery blue and buttermilk facade. Breakfast is cooked to order, fresh milk is left in a flask outside your room every afternoon and there's even a pillow menu. The five bedrooms have soundproofing, pocket-sprung mattresses and antique furniture. The award-winning Kernow Sausage Company, in Tregony, supplies the bacon, sausages and black pudding, and the owner, Iza, nips down to the harbour for her home-cooked kippers and kedgeree. *Doubles from £75, B&B; oldparsonage.net*

THE 25 DEVON

Prince William was a regular at the country-house hotel that Andy and Julian Banner-Price once ran in Caernarfon. The couple wanted to downsize and offer a more personalised service: this adults-only, six-bedroom place in Torquay is the result, and it's bursting with personality. Bedrooms have black-and-white stripes on the walls, tangerine chests of drawers and original fireplaces, with king-size or super-king beds and mist-free mirrors in the bathrooms. The award-winning breakfast menu offers everything from smoothies and a full English to eggs benedict. *Doubles from £120, B&B; the25.uk*

THE DRIFTWOOD EAST SUSSEX **NEW OPENING**

The owner of this Victorian townhouse in Bexhill-on-Sea is the hotelier Seng Loy and the designer is Mark Standing, whose CV includes the Great House at Sonning, our Budget winner this year. They have created six stylish bedrooms with exposed brick, button-backed leather bedheads, luxury linens and eye-catching throws on Hypnos beds. The shower rooms are small, but have rainforest showers and Noble Isle toiletries. The B&B is open to all comers for brunch and lunch, with breakfast served until 3pm. *Doubles from £99, B&B; thedriftwoodbexhill.co.uk*

ECCLESTON SQUARE HOTEL LONDON SW1

A B&B in Belgravia? Well, after a fashion. This grade II listed townhouse slips into the category because it doesn't have a restaurant. What it does have is some of the most hi-tech rooms in the capital. All have a Hästens, the Rolls-Royce of beds, which cost £12,000 each (see panel, page 7), as well as an iPad concierge, a free smartphone and a glass wall between bed and bathroom that turns opaque when you press a button. The free beer in the minibar is as welcome as the key to the square's private garden, where there's a tennis court. *Doubles from £188, B&B; ecclestonsquarehotel.com*

STOW HOUSE NORTH YORKSHIRE

There's an arty, metropolitan flavour to this Victorian vicarage, a mile outside the village of Aysgarth. The owners, Sarah and Phil Bucknall, have made their B&B



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The 25, Devon

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Prince William was a regular at the country-house hotel that Andy and Julian Banner-Price once ran in Caernarfon — they have a framed photograph of them with HRH to prove it. Yet for all their success in Snowdonia, the couple wanted to downsize and offer a more personalised service. This adults-only, six-bedroom place is the result, and it's bursting with personality.

One room, Torre, has black and white stripes to match the zebra's head mounted on its wall (he's called Frank), and they've added dollops of yellow to soften the monochrome moodboard. Oddicombe takes its inspiration from a flame-coloured gerbera, with a close-up frieze of dew-draped tangerine petals across the wall behind the wrought-iron bed. There's a tangerine chest of drawers, a tangerine Nespresso machine, a tangerine pen with the notepad on the desk and a dainty original fireplace, topped by a vase of gerberas on the mantelpiece. Take a wild guess at their colour. All rooms have king-size or superking beds, smart TVs with movies on demand, mood lighting, iPads loaded with local tourist information and swanky bathrooms with mist-free mirrors and Elemis toiletries.

Downstairs is more subdued. The sitting room is in restful champagne shades and the breakfast room has delicate floral wallpaper. Their award-winning breakfast menu features all the usual suspects, from full English to eggs Benedict, as well as smoothies made by Julian. The biggest surprise at the 25 is the location; it's in staid, old-fashioned Torquay. Yet the couple will assure you that it's all change on the English Riviera, with the former two-

Michelin-starred chef John Burton-Race recently opening a restaurant near the seafront, and bar staff who don't look blankly at patrons who ask for craft beer and cosmopolitans.

Doubles from £120, B&B; the25.uk