



● **AFTER** an adults-only glamping getaway? Longnor Wood Holiday Park in the Peak District is the best of the bunch, according to campsites.co.uk. The five-star rural retreat, near Buxton, took home the prize for the UK's Best Adult Only Site in the 2023 Camping and Glamping Awards and was commended for its "pristine facilities, quiet

environment and great location in the heart of the Peak District". The dog-friendly site has ensuite glamping pods, luxury lodges and caravan homes with outdoor hot tubs, as well as all-weather pitches for camping. Other categories in the annual awards included Best Campsite, Best Caravan Park, Best Coastal Campsite and Best Newcomer.



● **LIFE** will certainly be sweet if you book into one of Greece's newest hotels — Quattro Suites in Monemvasia, in the Peloponnese. The boutique hotel has just 28 suites, spread across four buildings, and each decorated in minimalist designs, offering privacy and tranquillity. A highlight of Quattro Suites is its stunning salt-water swimming pool for simply lounging, cooling off and savouring some of the dishes served daily, with breathtaking views of the sea and the mountains. Nearby there are uncrowded beaches with golden sands and crystal clear waters and the hotel is just a short distance from the medieval castle town of Monemvasia. The boho-chic hotel opens in March with rooms from £145 a night, two sharing. See quattrosuites.gr

hot spot MAURITIUS is 31C – seven nights half board at the 5★ Le Meridien Ile Maurice, including free room upgrade, is from £1,761pp leaving Edinburgh on selected dates between January 19-31. Book by January 5 at awayholidays.co.uk

hot spot IT'S 21C in Spain – seven nights self-catering at Villa Anna Moraira in Alicante, Costa Blanca is from £429pp, leaving Edinburgh on February 29. The price is based on six sharing and includes car hire. See jet2holidays.com

Edited by **HEATHER LOWRIE**

travel



HEAVEN IS A PLACE IN PERTH ON AN AUTUMN BREAK



ESTATE OF GRACE ... Lynedoch Suite at Murrayshall, Hen of the Wood pie and John & Ivanna

Seasons to be cheerful



I'VE never been a big fan of autumn. It's really just a time to prepare for winter isn't it?

The days get shorter and the nights get colder. And in Scotland, it typically rains. What's to like? Well this year I discovered autumn is actually the perfect time to wrap up warm, enjoy some good grub and get some respite after I booked a surprise romantic night away. After searching the web, reading plenty of reviews and generally driving myself nuts, I finally found the perfect spot – Murrayshall Country Estate in Perth and it didn't disappoint. My jaw literally hit the floor when my fiancée Ivanna and I were shown to our plush room. Well I say room but in fact we'd lucked out and bagged ourselves the Lynedoch Suite. It had a huge living room, gorgeous bedroom and fabulous ensuite. Before you could say result, we'd made ourselves at home on the huge couch with a coffee, savouring a Tunnocks caramel wafer, before we freshened up for dinner. A warm, roaring fire in the Bar-

GO: PERTH

ROOMS at Murrayshall Country Estate start from £199 a night, bed and breakfast. See murrayshall.co.uk

ossa Bar welcomed us as we sat down to enjoy an aperitif and a glass of bubbly. It was bliss. We'd booked dinner at the hotel's award-winning Eolas restaurant, which has spectacular views of the huge sprawling estate, although to be fair best seen at brekkie or lunch during our dark winters. The restaurant's friendly staff greeted us and took us to a cosy and romantic table for two by the window, and the amazing smells gave us a hint of the tasty treats to come. The service was nothing short of first-class. From the moment we entered we were waited on hand and foot. While we browsed the extensive menu, Ivanna ordered a glass of white wine while I opted for a lemonade. This was going to take some time, there was so much on offer.

I opted for the duck terrine, which came with a doughnut, and plum sauce. It was a wonderful combination of flavours and was gone before you could say 'quack'. I followed it up with Hen of the Wood Pie, with pickled mushrooms, and jus. It might have been vegetarian (not generally my first choice) but it was one of the best pies I have ever tasted. I could be converted yet! Ok, I'll be honest I had been expecting meat, as I mistook Hen of the Wood for an exotic piece of chicken or game. I know, I know, a pie with just mushrooms, but it was a delightful mistake. For dessert, the pear crumble soufflé, accompanied by vanilla custard and ice cream, hit the mark, providing a sweet conclusion to a marvelous meal. Ivanna had chosen the smoked salmon, celery, apple and caviar starter which she gave a huge thumbs-up to, then followed that with a classic of steak and chips, accompanied by caramelised onions and brown sauce, before devouring a handmade selection of sweet treats.

Her main was the star of the show she said, with the steak superbly cooked, just the right colour for her liking, and yummy chips. After stuffing ourselves, we were ready to hit the hay. And when it comes to a good night's sleep, Murrayshall made it easy. With wonderful king-sized beds providing the utmost comfort, I barely moved until it was time for brekkie in the morning. And what a breakfast buffet it was. It's an old cliché that it had something for everyone – but it truly did. Fresh fruit, cereal, full cooked, eggs Benedict, the list just goes on and on. After a fabulous feast we just wanted to curl up on a chair and read a book but for those with more get up and go, there's so much to enjoy at Murrayshall – a spa, round of golf, countryside walks. The weather might not always play ball, but that doesn't matter because you'll be spoilt at this luxury hotel. It definitely changed my mind about autumn. Now it's a season I fully embrace.

JOHN GLOVER

CRUISE CAPITAL

FAREHAM in Hampshire is a hotspot for cruise lovers, with residents here booking more trips than any other town or city in the UK last year. The market town sits between the two popular cruise ports of Southampton and Portsmouth, giving locals easy access to no-fly cruises. Southampton itself, which has five terminals and handles around 1.8million cruise passengers per year, was the second cruise hotspot of the UK, followed by Chichester in West Sussex.



HOTTEST TICKETS

BRITS are itching to get to Amsterdam, Paris, above, and Geneva next year – with flights being snapped up in the first week of easyJet's Big Orange Sale. The low-cost airline looked at recent bookings data and saw that the capital cities of the Netherlands and France look set to be huge in 2024. Meanwhile, Hurgada in Egypt and Rovaniemi in Finnish Lapland saw the biggest rise in popularity compared to last year. An increasing number of us have been booking trips to these must-see destinations. According to the data, package holidays look set to remain popular, with seven-night all-inclusive breaks being in the highest demand during the first week of the sale. Tenerife, Lanzarote and Hurgada were the biggest beach break spots, while Paris, Amsterdam and Iceland proved to be the most popular for city escapes. Flights in January have been the most popular in the first week of the sale. And flights to winter sun destinations have soared. Geneva, Lyon and Innsbruck were popular ski destination choices.