

Hotel Endsleigh

Hotel Endsleigh is a Grade I historic house set in 100 acres of fairy tale woodland, follies and grottos created by Humphry Repton, the last great English landscape designer of the eighteenth century. The Duke of Bedford, who owned a third of Devon, laid the first stone in 1814 for his fishing and hunting lodge, ideally situated on the edge of Dartmoor, as he thought it the prettiest part of his estate.

In 2004 Olga Polizzi bought Endsleigh and together with her daughter Alex restored it as a luxury hotel. Many of the bedrooms have magnificent views of the gardens, the river Tamar at the bottom of the lawn and the forests stretching beyond into Cornwall.

Endsleigh has 17 rooms and suites, designed for maximum comfort with the original purpose of the house in mind. Much of the furniture dates from the period with some contemporary touches. There are rolltop bathtubs, book-lined shelves and generous armchairs.

There are three family suites and the thatched Gatekeeper's Lodge is a favourite with children and their parents.

The dining room is panelled and incorporates the crests of the Bedford family and their friends and relatives. There is a wonderful terrace with a vista of the valley and the longest continuous border in England; a smaller arbour, paved with sheep's knuckles, overlooks the children's parterre.

The cooking takes its inspiration from the surrounding countryside, and includes rabbit, venison and beef, and even fish from the Tamar. In keeping with tradition, afternoon tea is the highlight of every day. Each afternoon the library table is set with an array of cakes, scones and sandwiches.

Fishing has always been at the heart of Endsleigh. Our ghillie is always happy to show even a novice the ropes. There is also a very good pheasant shoot around the hotel.

Nearby is Tavistock, an interesting town, much of it also built by the Bedfords, with a very good farmers' market.

There are not many places left with no aircraft or vehicle noise, and the lack of light pollution allows you to truly see the sky at night. Reading, walking and the peace to day dream make Endsleigh one of the last true escapes from the modern world in England.

After Endsleigh, continue south, towards the ever-appealing Cornish coastline and Hotel Tresanton, Olga Polizzi's other Westcountry hotel.



Pictures

hotelendsleigh.com/press

Press info

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Key facts

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- Opened 2005
- 4 hours from London by car and 2 and a half hours by train
- 17 rooms and suites
- From £200 per night
- Dogs welcome
- 40 cover restaurant
- 40 cover terrace
- Bar
- Sitting room
- Function room
- 100 acre Repton designed garden
- Two miles of Tamar
- Three fishing rods

Olga Polizzi

Olga Polizzi is the eldest daughter of the late Lord Forte, arguably the world's best-known hotelier. She is the Deputy Chairman and Director of Design at Rocco Forte Hotels, a company she created with her brother Rocco Forte, which owns hotels worldwide including Brown's in London and the Hotel de Russie in Rome.

Olga is married to the author William Shawcross. She has two daughters, Charlie who owns and runs Onda, a boutique in St Mawes, and Alex who is Channel 5's Hotel Inspector.