

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

# Living

MARCH 2018

COMPLIMENTARY

## MUM'S THE WORD

Treat her with afternoon tea

## TREASURE TROVE

Meet the man who turns scrap into stunning statement pieces

# RIVERSIDE RESIDENCE

A home worth splashing out on





#### HARTWELL HOUSE

Hartwell House, a stately home renowned for its history of elegant hospitality and royal residents, serves afternoon tea in its beautifully furnished drawing rooms. These reek of Georgian elegance, with fine ornate ceilings, masses of fresh flowers and deep sofas. Tall windows look out over Capability Brown-designed parkland. Tea here has all the time-honoured elements – dainty finger sandwiches, scones with jam and cream, cakes, plus some extra special patisserie such as a cherry and cardamom mousse on pistachio sponge with white chocolate glaze. As you would expect from one of the top 10 tea (and cake) rooms in the south-east (*Square Meal's* verdict), the service is attentive, the china is pretty, the atmosphere tranquil. It's simply the quintessential country house tea experience.

#### CLIVEDEN

There's a long tradition of afternoon teas at Cliveden, where aristocrats and the famous and infamous were invited to mingle with its illustrious hosts at glittering house parties.

Today you don't need to be on Lady Astor's guest list to ride past the stunning marble fountain to the grand mansion. The hotel serves afternoon tea in the oak-panelled grand hall, with its historic tapestries and coat of arms, or in the elegant library overlooking the parterre and panorama beyond. Lean back into the plumped-up cushions and join the Cliveden set for an afternoon. A number of venues suggest a glass of champagne with tea. Cliveden lives up to its decadently extravagant past, offering a 66 Cocktail finished with 24 carat gold leaf. The tea menu is a blend of the traditional and the refined, with a range of savoury finger sandwiches, dainty scones with cream and homemade jam, and elegant cakes and patisserie. It's served on a bone china service recreated from Lady Astor's original design.

This taste of Cliveden's glamorous past ends all too soon.



#### MORE TEAS TO PLEASE

For an outing with a young family, 1269 Restaurant at the Crowne Plaza, Gerrards Cross has a Roald Dahl-themed Afternoon Tea. Kids can drink George's Marvellous Medicine (it changes flavours as you drink) and enjoy a Golden Egg filled with pannacotta and passion fruit – and of course a Wonka bar.

#### THE LITTLE STARS AFTERNOON

Tea at Stoke Park will please under-12s, including teddy bear biscuits, hot chocolate and milkshakes. There is also a super-indulgent Chocolate Afternoon Tea. A spicy option comes with the aptly named Not So Traditional Afternoon Tea served at the Spice Merchant restaurants in Beaconsfield, Cookham and Henley: a selection of Indian finger foods, plus cakes, lassi drinks and scones, with a vegetarian option.