

Tracy's Tips

Hartwell House has plenty to celebrate

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Set in over 90 acres of exquisite English countryside Hartwell House is presently celebrating its 30th anniversary since restoration with its history spanning almost a thousand years. Once the lavish home of King Louis XVIII of France, today guests and visitors can enjoy the stunning grade one listed stately home adorned with antiques, fine

paintings and spectacular views of the gardens, parkland and lake.

Fascinatingly, during the Second World War the house served as a billet and training ground for British and American troops and by 1956 was used as a highly principled international finishing school and secretarial college for girls. In 1963 a fire caused extensive damage and destruction to much of the architectural details and ceilings of the former dining room, library and stairs leading to its sympathetic restoration in 1986 by Historic House Hotels.

Hartwell's saviour was Richard Broyd who commissioned Aylesbury based architect Eric Throssell in 1987 to remodel and restore the best of what was left of Hartwell after the



fire and the redecoration of its interiors creating a beautifully traditional country house style that sees guest travel from far

and wide to enjoy. In 2008 Richard Broyd gave his interests in Hartwell House to the National Trust who are lovingly committed to maintaining the historic buildings and grounds as well as defending Hartwell against the proposed high-speed rail line set to run from London to Birmingham.

Hartwell House is undoubtedly a marvellous feast for the senses; everywhere you look there are paintings, ornate mirrors, sensational floral displays, chandeliers, wood panelling, glorious antiques, classical architecture and affluent history. It's not often we come across such luxury and culture in our day to day lives and something I highly recommend you experience at least once for a spot of afternoon tea in the



public rooms, a relaxing spa day or long weekend. The renowned Hartwell Spa is housed within a picturesque orangery offering luxurious treatments from facials, body and salt massages to cosmetic care, manicures, pedicures, waxing and bronzing which are just as popular for men as they are women and their gift vouchers extremely popular for birthday, Valentine's Day and Christmas gifts.

I found working up a sweat in the gym, swimming the tropical blue waters of the indoor heated pool and finishing up with a blissful

steam and sauna is the ideal way to build an appetite. The restaurant has been awarded two AA Rosettes and is open daily for lunch and dinner with Head Chef Daniel Richardson using fresh herbs and produce from the extensive kitchen gardens across all of his menus.

Hartwell House has a quintessential English beauty with the distinguished service and meticulous attention to detail creating a seamlessly relaxing, elegant and memorable experience for all who visit; happy anniversary!

www.hartwell-house.com

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