



PRESS RELEASE

January 2005

PAMPER TO YOUR GREEN-FINGERED FANCIES AND TAKE A BLOOMIN' GOOD LOOK AT THE SPRING GARDENS OF THE WEST COUNTRY

Take a unique and luxurious route along the 'plant-lovers' trail, visiting the paradise gardens scattered from the tip to the toe of the West County. Unique Home Stays presents a tantalising array of garden tours that include secret gardens, horticultural gems, exquisite accommodation and sumptuous cuisine.

Choose from:

- 1. Informal garden visits staying at your choice of unique home stays*
- 2. A formal, guided garden tour*
- 3. Informal garden tours and aristocratic accommodation for small groups*

1. Informal garden visits staying at your choice of unique home stays:

Stay in unique country houses and take a tour of some of the most beautiful gardens in the West Country. From secluded valleys to enchanting acreage of sub-tropical jungle, the gardens of Cornwall are a spectacular profusion of colour in bloom. Through the ages, plants from all over the world have found their way back to the region and thrived in the mild, maritime climate.

Explore paradise from the most beautiful houses in the region and open the doors to a handful of private plots hidden off the beaten gardens trail. Your hosts will invite you into their exquisite lodgings, treat you to intimate hospitality and welcome you to wander in their paradise settings. From our special selection of Unique Home Stays – luxurious, private house accommodation in stunning locations – you can indulge in the beauty of Cornwall's gardens at your leisure.

Explore the treasures of Bonython, Bosahan and Poldowrian gardens, basing yourself at the stunning **Landewednack House** (www.landewednack.uniquehomestays.com) – a former rectory boasting dazzling sea views from its location just a stone's throw from the UK's most southerly point. Its private garden flaunts an array of exotic trees and plants in a radiant, secluded plot that could rival some of Cornwall's most beautifully manicured gardens. Here you can curl-up in the cradle of the sub-tropical atmosphere and enjoy the heated swimming pool, summerhouse, walled garden, water features and secluded corners.

Make yourself at home in **Drym Farm** (www.drymfarm.uniquehomestays.com), Helston, a stylish 18th Century farmhouse from where you can easily access the historical gardens of St Michael's Mount, that spiral from the foot of their private island up to the walls of a grand 12th Century fortress.

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If you want to visit the mind-blowing domes of the Eden Project, choose to rest your head in the charming **Gardens Cottage** (www.gardenscottage.uniquehomestays.com), nestled in the secluded Luxulyan Valley just a mile away. Or opt for the luxury of **Anchorage House** (www.anchoragehouse.uniquehomestays.com), extravagant lodgings, twice awarded Britain's Best B&B award by Les Routiers, for its huge beds, warm hospitality and wood-panelled interior clad with antiques and Persian carpets.

For an exclusive stay for two, treat yourself to a four-poster bed in the exquisite Elizabethan and gothic splendour of **Prideaux Place** (www.prideaux.uniquehomestays.com), Padstow. Savour extensive views over the Camel Estuary and Bodmin Moor and explore beautiful gardens that were refashioned in the style of Capability Brown. As well as an 80-tree lined avenue and woodland walks, features include a classical temple, a grotto, a stunning knot garden, and large areas are now rife with camellias, magnolias, rhododendrons, field maples, beech, oak and cherry trees.

From any of the Unique Home Stays you will be accessible to a vast array of Cornwall's horticultural gems – whether you choose to explore The Lost Gardens of Heligan, Glendurgan, Trebah, Trelissick, Pencarrow or any of the range of over 70 gardens. We also have a handful of unique houses in Devon, including **Kingston House** (www.kingston.uniquehomestays.com), **Higher Beneknowle** (www.beneknowle.uniquehomestays.com), **Byleat** (www.byleat.uniquehomestays.com), **Winsford Walled Garden** (www.winsford.uniquehomestays.com) from which to explore the gems of Rosemoor, Cotehele and Abbey House and Gardens.

2: Unique Home Stays has teamed up with The English Manner to create a formal, guided garden tour of the West Country's horticultural gems:

You will depart from London by private minibus, accompanied by gardens expert Franki McCabe and Blue Badge Guide Laurie Prideaux. En route to your luxury homestay accommodation in the heart of historic Dartmoor, you will witness thousands of roses and tulips erupting from the paradise gardens of Abbey House, and take afternoon tea at a medieval manor in Somerset.

On day two you will visit the world famous gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society at Rosemoor, and the magnificent 18th Century Palladian House, Castle Hill, home of Lady Arran, and known as the 'most beautiful house in Devon'. On subsequent days you will visit the likes of the stunning gardens at Cotehele estate and Hestercombe, and a rare plant nursery at Curry Mallet.

Informal lectures, guided tours and informative discussions throughout the trip will quench your green-fingered passions and leave you brimming with horticultural information. For those who may enjoy a slightly longer stay, there is the opportunity to enjoy a privately guided tour of some of the finest gardens Cornwall has to offer.

3: Informal garden tours and aristocratic accommodation for small groups

For small groups who fancy a taste of aristocracy whilst visiting Devon's Rosemoor and Cotehele, we have two extraordinary properties boasting their own stunning gardens. Stay in an exclusive ancestral stately home featuring Capability Brown designed parkland, a Victorian Conservatory and 18th Century Orangery (<http://chudleigh.uniquehomestays.com>), or an 18th Century Palladian Castle in north Devon, set in rolling parkland with beautiful formal and woodland gardens (<http://barnstaple.uniquehomestays.com>) Private parties of between 10-18 people will be looked after by a butler and private chef, as your gardens tour allows you to indulge in the life of a true aristocrat.

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For an informal and flexible garden tour, or a glitzy, guided tour with all the trimmings, Unique Home Stays offers the perfect way to see the beautiful blooms of the West Country.

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1. Details of all of the **Unique Home Stays** can be found on www.uniquehomestays.com
Prices range from £40pp - £450pp per night.

2. Booking info for the guided tour with Unique Home Stays and The English Manner:
Unique Home Stays can organise accommodation and informal visits to the West Country gardens from March to October. Dates for guided tours in 2006 are 30th April, 1st June and 23rd June (for a minimum of 2 couples, single supplement on request). Prices start from £1,750 for 3 days.

3. Aristocratic accommodation for small groups costs from £350 pp per night inclusive of all hospitality.

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Notes to Editors:

- Unique Home Stays range from romantic hideaways for couples, to unique properties and 'exclusive' stately homes for small and medium-sized groups. Our fresh approach to providing the highest quality accommodation offers 'Classic Chic' in hand-selected private houses. Prices range from £40 - £450 pp per night. For more information see: www.uniquehomestays.com
- A selection of high-resolution images is available.
- We work alongside a handful of professional journalists who can provide bespoke write-ups if required.
- Launched in 2001, Unique Home Stays offers the crème de la crème of privately hosted accommodation that offers a unique alternative to run-of-the mill hotels. Having travelled the world, MD Sarah Stanley knew what she expected from top quality accommodation: Intimate and luxury hospitality, pristine homes oozing with character, excellent regional cuisine and comfortable bedrooms with all the trimmings. Today Unique Home Stays offers superior accommodation in over 100 homes scattered over 14 different countries. The properties include castles, priories, rectories, windmills, water mills, townhouses, coastal homes and even a house in the sea.