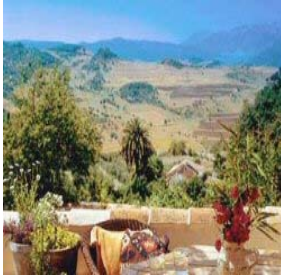




Unique Home Stays... unique accommodation for hen parties

PRESS RELEASE

April 2005



HAVENS FOR HEN PARTIES

*Do you fancy doing something unique for your hen party? How about something a bit more girly, luxurious and glamorous than a night out on the lash in Newquay? Book you and your girlfriends into one of **Unique Home Stays'** havens for hen parties, and enjoy a treat of a weekend that you and your best friends will cherish forever. Whether it's fine food and wine, luxuriating beauty treatments or a tippie in town that tickles your fancy, we can offer the perfect location and a unique experience especially for you.*

How about a party in a lighthouse, a trip to Italy to learn the secrets of Italian cuisine, or a yoga weekend in a luxury cliff-top barn conversion in North Cornwall? Perhaps you fancy something a bit more formal... a lavish dinner party in a country manor house, or an indulgent spa weekend? Here's what Unique Home Stays has in store to make your hen weekend an event to remember:

West Wing of a Victorian Castle, Northern Ireland (sleeps up to 11)

Play the Queen of your very own castle when you take up exclusive residence in a wing of this grand 19th Century Victorian castle set in vast acreage of tranquil National Trust Land. Four-poster beds, roaring log fires, historic charm and glamorous décor, invite you and your friends to indulge in an ambience of elegant luxury. You can take the self-catering option if you fancy making it your home and entertaining yourselves, or choose to be treated like royalty and opt for the fully-catered option including lavish dinner parties in the dining hall.

www.newtownbutler.uniquehomestays.com, (*From £2500 per weekend for 11 people*).

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Vallicorte, Tuscany, Italy (sleeps 8)

It's a hen weekend, so why not get downright girly and get on an Italian cookery course under the tuition of Mama Italia herself – local Tuscan chef Gianlucca Pardini. Knead bread, roll fresh pasta, discover how olive oil is pressed, pecorino is produced and prosciutto is cured; and enjoy the taste of Italy in an oasis of stunning tranquillity with views across the pine woods to the sea. With a private pool in the wild garden you can afford to eat like a true Italian, and when you fancy a break from all that food, Florence is just half-an-hour away for a shopping spree.

www.vallicorte.uniquehomestays.com *(From £35pppn, chef and cooking courses not included.)*

El Tejar, Malaga Province, Spain (sleeps 8)

Hop on a flight to Malaga and land in the arms of luxury when you reach the highest house in the charming white-washed village of Montecorto. El Tejar is a stylish Andalusian home boasting incredible views to the peaks of the Grazalema Park. Indulge in delectable tapas and Spanish wines whilst keeping trim for the wedding by making full use of the pool sheltered by bamboo, olive, quince and almond trees. And if you fancy a girly daytrip with a twist, why not do some shopping in Africa? Just skip half-an-hour down to the coast, take a fast ferry from Gibraltar or Tarifa, and you'll be in Morocco in time for brunch.

www.eltejar.uniquehomestays.com *(From £800 per week self-catering/ £50pn B&B)*

Culeaze, Wareham, Dorset (sleeps 8 in the house + 6 in the hunting lodge).

This is the dream hen weekend venue for horse owners. Take your horses and your best mates on holiday to a country estate. Up to six horses can be stabled comfortably in the stunning grounds, whilst you stay in the four beautiful manor-house bedrooms, or the spacious hunting lodge that leads down to the river and the meadows. This is a mellow escape for those of you who fancy a chilled out country weekend teamed with stunning riding opportunities and lavish home-cooked feasts prepared from trout, pheasant and duck sourced on the estate.

www.culeaze.uniquehomestays.com *(House party of 14, £770.00pn including dinner.)*

Landewednack House, Lizard Peninsula, Cornwall (Sleeps 9-15 including coach house)

How about a coastal retreat with a real difference? Landewednack House is in a spectacular location on Cornwall's Lizard Peninsula, just footsteps away from the UK's most southerly tip. A former rectory perched on the edge of the stunning Church Cove, this luxurious house is steeped in history and heritage; yet its traditional feel is complimented by all mod cons, a beautiful, heated outdoor pool and some of the finest food and wine available in the West Country. Your private chef will serve up sumptuous feasts created from the freshest local fare – freshly caught seafood, meat from the village butcher and veg plucked straight from the garden. Take this opportunity to walk some of the south west coast path, or just curl-up in the sub-tropical gardens, siesta in summerhouse and spend the evenings exploring the contents of well-stocked wine cellar.

www.landewednack.uniquehomestays.com *(From £120.00 per room per night.)*

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Pennard Hill Farm, Shepton Mallet, Somerset (Sleeps 3 + 15)

Choose an uplifting experience for your hen weekend, with a cocktail of outdoor activities, pool therapy, beauty treatments and a low GI diet, all served in a tranquil environment. Pennard Hill Farm Estate is in a stunning position on the southernmost ridge of the Mendip hills, and provides a truly relaxing and healthy getaway for brides-to-be in need of some energizing time out with friends. The accommodation offers privacy, amazing décor, balanced cuisine, and a superb, heated indoor pool with a gothic window looking out to the hills and beyond. There's walking, cycling, fishing and riding on the doorstep, and you're not far from Glastonbury, Wells and Bath if you fancy a day out.

www.pennardhill.uniquehomestays.com (*From £55pppn for B&B*)

Seaview Villa, Lynmouth, Devon (sleeps 9)

This is *the* location for the glamour puss that wants a stylish private party weekend. Uninterrupted luxury extends from champagne-corked essential oils and gold-smudged furniture, to shag-pile carpet that begs for bare-foot appreciation. But here you are truly invited to make yourself at home – there is music to be listened to, sofas to sink into, and your favourite tippie on tap. 'Nourish, Taste and Indulge' is a theme strictly adhered to from breakfast through to dinner... whatever you choose from the menu will be dressed exquisitely for the occasion, and in the evening will be accompanied by candle-light, fine wines and lavish hospitality. During the daytime, your hosts Steve and Chris can organise an exciting four-wheel drive safari on Exmoor, surfing lessons in Woolacombe, or luxurious in-house beauty treatments.

www.seaview.uniquehomestays.com (*Rooms from £84; four-course dinner £27.50pp*)

Caradoc of Tregardock, Nr Port Isaac, Cornwall (sleeps 8 + 4 in the cottage)

Yoga is believed to align the mind, body and spirit – all of which may need a bit of fine tuning in the hectic run up to your wedding. You're not expected to wrap your legs around your head, and a luxury yoga weekend at Tregardock is suitable for all levels. The ethos here is all about getting away from it all, ensconcing yourself in a luxury barn-conversion on the remote cliff tops of North Cornwall, and indulging in some of Janet's fine home-cooked feasts in a cosy farmhouse atmosphere. Of course, there are yoga classes each morning and evening, as well as some spectacular coastal walks on the doorstep. But no one will bat an eyelid if you choose to curl-up by the log fire, take a jaunt down to one of Rick Stein's haunts in Padstow, or just watch the sunset over the ocean.

www.tregardock.uniquehomestays.com (*From £35pppn, dinner by arrangement*)

Kingston House, Totnes, Devon (sleeps up to 6 in the main house, + 38 self-catering)

For those of you wishing to pose as veritable ladies in the absence of their lords, there is nowhere more gracious and elegant to spend a hen weekend than in one of the UK's finest homes –

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Kingston House. Every detail – from the marble entrance and marquetry staircase, to the four-poster beds and lavish dining hall – is both exquisite and grand. There are just three bedrooms in the house, and 9 deluxe cottages nestled in the beautiful grounds. And the treats extend beyond your glamorous chambers – there's a pool, spa and sauna where the pampering continues.
www.kingston.uniquehomestays.com (From £130 per room; cottages from £338 for a weekend)

Thomas Roberts House, Hatherleigh, Devon (sleeps 6)

Indulge in a spa weekend, throw a bespoke dinner party, and learn the art of silk scarf making... Thomas Roberts House offers an action-packed hen weekend with a lady-like twist. Bunk up in queen-sized and super-king-sized beds in this historical home in mid-Devon, and pamper yourselves in its glorious surroundings. A masseuse will be at your disposal, there is a hot tub for your use in the back garden, cream teas will be served in afternoon, and your host will throw an intimate dinner party to remember. And for that ladies touch and something a bit different, why not spend a day learning to dye silk scarves – they make a wonderful accessory or gift, but you can't all give them to the bride!

www.thomasroberts.uniquehomestays.com (From £35pppn, dinner and courses not included)

West Usk Lighthouse, Newport, Gwent, Wales (sleeps 6)

Throw an exclusive hen party in a lighthouse... the only question will be which of your favourite friends to invite to this intimate abode. Situated between Newport and Cardiff, West Usk is only a couple of hours drive from London, and offers panoramic views out to sea. An elegant spiral staircase rises to the bedrooms, and even higher up is a roof terrace with palm trees and vines, where you can relax and watch the sunset and sunrise. And as well as the spectacular location, West Usk also offers special beauty treatments to leave you and your friends glowing in time for the wedding: relax in the flotation tank, enjoy a full-body massage or indulge in some reflexology. Or, if you really fancy a raucous night as well as the perfect retreat, Cardiff is just ten minutes away... so go on, get your glad-rags on. www.westusk.uniquehomestays.com (From £85pn per room)

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Please contact Unique Home Stays in the event of using us in one of your features. A selection of high-resolution images is available.

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Notes to Editors:

- This is a small selection of our unique home stays. Please see our website for more ideas and accommodation to suit your market. We have properties in the UK, USA, Spain, South Africa, Portugal, New Zealand, Italy, India, Greece, Germany and France.
- Please mention Unique Home Stays in any features that are published as a result of this press release.

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- 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.