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### Gulliver's Hall | Cotswolds | UK

Rarely in a holiday let do you feel the presence of its owners as strongly as you do in Gulliver's Hall. There is nothing remotely generic about this Cotswold stone farmhouse in the pint-sized village of Bisley, thanks to the vision of its owners

Martin and Kate Bankes, who have made each room come alive with colour and pattern, providing the perfect backdrop for portraits of Martin's relatives. In the snug (left), you can see Martin's ancestor William Bankes in pride of place above the fireplace against the bright pink gloss chosen to reflect the explorer, antiques collector and Egyptologist's famously lavish taste. Upstairs in the main bedroom, there is a huge 'Paradise' bed (top left) commissioned by James Bankes, another distant relation, in 1605 and modelled on Henry VII's marriage bed.

Sitting comfortably among contemporary additions, much of the furniture was brought down from the former Bankes family estate, Winstanley Hall in Wigan, while, outside, curious bronze resin sculptures by Martin's father appear in unexpected places amid the 300-acre grounds – be it in the manicured garden or on the roof of the pool house, which was once his studio. Now it stores three bedrooms, a games area and kitchen, which opens onto the heated pool and jacuzzi.

In the surrounding fields, grazing cows are joined by the occasional walker exploring one of the many picturesque routes that pass by the house. Gulliver's Hall sleeps 21 and costs from £7,550 a week. [uniquehomestays.com](http://uniquehomestays.com)