

TRAVEL

The country house hotels worth escaping to this weekend

A home-from-home in the Cotswolds or a secluded stone house in the Lake District? Here is the definitive list



Aquila

Bampton, Lake District



UNIQUE HOME STAYS

The Lake District in August can seem as busy as central London, but where it's not like this, is Aquila. A sensationally beautiful, secluded stone house perched on the edge of the Haweswater reservoir in the eastern Lake District, at the end of a long road. It's utterly peaceful, apart from the odd chap ambling past walking his spaniel. And the house itself (which sleeps six) not only comes with nice things like underfloor heating, a luxury hamper filled with scones and bacon to greet you, and a deck on which you can have breakfast overlooking the reservoir - it also has the most comfortable, award-worthy beds. If you feel like being adventurous and going out for a drink after all that lounging about, the Haweswater Hotel's art-deco bar is 100 yards down the road, but equally you could stay put, and recline in front of a TV the size of a cinema screen with an impressive DVD collection, *Sense and Sensibility* et al.