

# 20 places in Britain to throw a Gatsby-worthy house party

A relaxation in the rules, enabling larger groups to reunite, makes now the perfect time to plan a big house party, with family or friends

With Sajid Javid now in post, it's looking increasingly likely that, from July 19, we will be able to officially mingle with friends and family once more. The word "exciting" barely covers it. So why not start planning those big get-togethers – both the long overdue ones and brand spanking new ones?

Obviously many of us would love to go abroad and re-group somewhere fabulously sun-drenched and hot, but with all the uncertainty still surrounding overseas travel, it would be nice to have something in the diary that you can feel pretty confident will go ahead.

So why not pop that passport back in the drawer and gather everyone together on home turf in a lovely great big country house with lots of space, fresh air and great walks?

There has never been a better time in recent memory to book that stately rental you've had your eye on and head to with your favourite people post July 19. Whether you're looking for a cute country cottage, a historic manor house or perhaps a modernist mansion, you will find the very best on our shores. And some have enough room to welcome everyone you could possibly want to catch up with – with space to spare.

Plus you may notice, when you start looking, that more and more rental companies, as well as individual houses, have upped their game over the past few years with the add-ons they offer. Want a private chef who can come in and rustle up a celebratory feast, or maybe even just breakfast? Not a problem. Tennis lessons or axe throwing workshops? Coming right up.

Most excitingly of all, if you can wait until a little later in the year, some of the nicest houses still have availability this autumn, winter and, of course, next year, which will be around before we know it, so you haven't missed the boat. And for those who can travel outside school holidays, there is even more choice.

Yes, Great British House Party, this is your moment to shine. Here are 20 of the best.

## The Pandy House, Snowdonia, Wales

**Sleeps:** 8 adults

You cross a private bridge over the Afon Roe to get to this postcard-pretty wool mill-turned-luxuriously flamboyant country house on the western slopes of the Conwy valley in Snowdonia. Ideal for bringing people together, the five-bedroom home from home has a big open-plan kitchen-dining-living area and series of smaller snugs. Expect psychedelic William Morris wallpaper, a summerhouse filled with beanbags and arcade games, a garden with an outdoor kitchen, dining area and day beds and a light-festooned, wood-fired hot tub.

*From £2,895 for a short break; [uniquehomestays.com](http://uniquehomestays.com)*

## Viola, Somerset

**Sleeps:** 12

One thing everyone in my household really missed during the lockdowns was being able to go swimming. So how better to celebrate your get-together than by renting a house with a fabulous pool? In rolling hills near Glastonbury, six-bedroom Viola is an elegant, honey-coloured house of fun with the most glorious year-round heated outdoor swimming pool with plunge pool – as well as a three-hole golf course, tennis court, sauna, Jacuzzi, a lake for rowing and a games room with a bar and a Formula 1 racing simulator. There's also a big open-plan kitchen-diner and multiple rooms in which to lounge.

*From £6,995 for a three-night weekend or four-night mid-week break;*  
[uniquehomestays.com](http://uniquehomestays.com)