

40 cool cottages for spring

Old beams, thatch and wonky walls give these bolt holes authentic charm, but their interiors show design savvy too



1. Aquila, Haweswater, Cumbria

Stylish isolation

Splendid isolation awaits at Aquila, set just below a no-through road along Haweswater. Inside, it's a designery dream of cracked leather armchairs, parquet floors and iron bedsteads. Outside, the Lake District is in operatic mood, with one of Cumbria's finest relic oak woodlands tumbling down to the reservoir below and the long ridge of High Street looming on the western horizon.

Details Seven nights' self-catering for six from £1,950 (uniquehomestays.com)



35. Tincture, Powys

Fairytale mountain retreat

It's hard to picture a more storybook cottage than this mountainside retreat with its sturdy stone walls, gabled windows and green valley views stretching to the horizon. Tincture is just the medicine for a family digital detox, with days spent hiking in the Cambrian Mountains — often called one of Britain's last wildernesses — and evenings unwinding in the understated farmhouse-chic interiors. Expect distressed wooden furniture, stone walls and hanging plants, styled to perfection.

Details Seven nights' self-catering for four from £1,650 (uniquehomestays.com)