

STAYCATION

# INGENIOUS PLOTS

NEW DESIGN-LED ENGLISH HOUSES FOR THE SMARTEST SLEEPOVERS

## ORPHEUS, SUFFOLK

Orpheus was already a classic Georgian gem blessed with soaring sashes and cool flagstone floors when owners Steven and Evin Hancock – the latter an interior designer – got their hands on it. From the listed beauty of the house, gently sloping lawns segue into meadows ensconced in northeast Suffolk's Sotterley Estate. Over these past two and a half years, the couple's meticulous restoration has embellished the warren of rooms with decorative plasterwork, plush velvet curtains and 18th-century wall hangings. There are Sotheby's-sourced crystal chandeliers and bespoke designs from wallpaper supremo Adam Ellis, including a sweeping pastoral complete with swooping birds of prey that graces the curving walls of the main hall. The overall effect is of grand opulence, with cool Georgian meeting frothy Rococo. All of this is combined with state-of-the-art tech, so that the entire house can seemingly be run from an iPad. On the top floor, there's a deeply cossetting cinema with a Dolby Atmos sound system, as well as a gym and spa with a sauna, steam room and loungers that offer far-reaching vistas of the rolling Suffolk landscape. The seven bedrooms include a sumptuous master with double-aspect views; the exquisite four-poster one has an in-room bath. From here, it's only 15 minutes to the heritage coast at Southwold or Covehithe, with its sandy beaches, but it's tempting to hunker down and survey the estate from a palatial Catchpole & Rye roll-top bath to the distant bleating of the local flock. CLARE COULSON  
*Short breaks from £11,250, weeks from £14,995, sleeps 14; [uniquehomestays.com](http://uniquehomestays.com)*

