

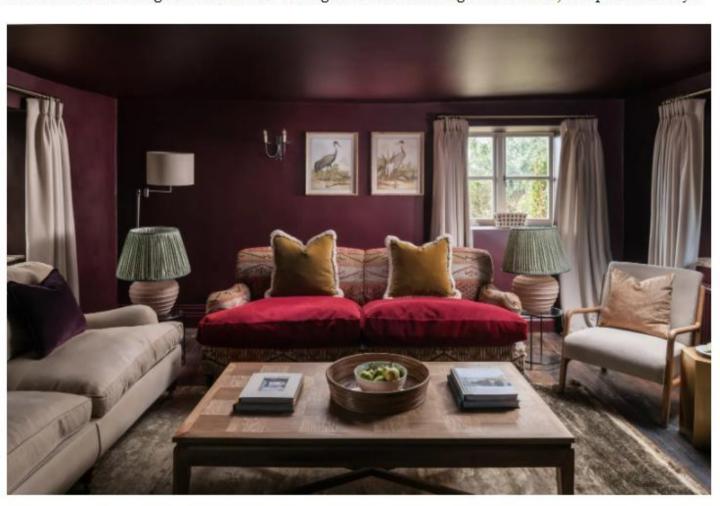
GRAND DETOURS

Fantasy Escapes: The Marlings

Step inside the ultimate country retreat in the Cotswolds.



It's almost exactly the time of year that most of start thinking about two very specific things: Cameron Diaz and a certain snow-covered cottage in Surrey. Yes, it's *The Holiday* season. But this year, we're dreaming a little bigger, inspired by a particularly luxurious self-catering property in the Cotswolds. It's called The Marlings and is available through the masters of high-end rentals, Unique Homestays.



It's much more than a cottage—in fact, it's a sprawling cluster of barns and cottages on the outskirts of Stroud with a pool, hot tub, playground and tennis court to keep its temporary inhabitants entertained. Immaculately finished, it sleeps up to 25 and has every cosy farmhouse touch imaginable, from a five-door Aga to a bona fide banqueting hall fit for the grandest of celebrations. Each room is more plush and charming than the next, with sumptuous suites and attic hideouts that make squabbles over room allocations a thing of the past.

