

Escape Routes

Explore England's green and pleasant land



THE OAK SUITE AT FOXHILL MANOR: ONE BATH WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH AGAIN

DISCOVER THE COTSWOLDS' NEW ADDITION

The Cotswolds isn't lacking when it comes to charming hotels, but *Stylist* contributor Sorrel Kinder has discovered a goodie

I haven't really taken on much pregnancy advice yet. I've been thinking I'll work things out as we go along. The only thing I did give some thought to was a 'babymoon', a relaxing trip away with my partner, in the knowledge we won't see the inside of a boutique hotel for a while.

Among my colleagues in the fashion world, the current most-talked-about place is a new opening in the Cotswolds – Foxhill Manor, a Grade II listed country home in the beautiful Vale of Evesham. With the tagline 'the Cotswolds just got personal', Foxhill is an eight-bedroom arts and crafts mansion designed to feel more like you're hanging out at the home of a rock-star friend, with no reception area, no set meal times, just friendly staff that cater to your every whim. It follows that there's edgy artwork everywhere and the walls of the cinema room

are floor-to-ceiling comic strips. Much like its nearby sister hotel, the perennially booked-out Dormy House, Foxhill nails the sort of modern glamour and low-key luxury that stressed-out citybreakers – pregnant or not – clamour for.

The food here is a real highlight, and chef Curtis Stewart talks us through each of his wonderful creations as they are served, from chicken liver on mandarin foam to compressed cucumber with cured trout, with home-made macaroons to finish. But staff are keen to get you exploring too, and the next day, we follow Curtis's advice and head to the Feathered Nest (thefeatherednestinn.co.uk) in Nether Westcote (a 20-minute drive away) for a Sunday roast. From £19 for a main, it's not cheap, but the food is great and the views spectacular.

As this weekend is about being deliciously lazy we spend the afternoon in the spa at Dormy House, where I happily abandon my pessimistic image of a pregnancy massage (lying uncomfortably on a bed while someone rubbed my feet) and sink into bliss. Back at Foxhill, we finish the day in the screening room. Watching *House Of Cards* in squishy seats eating bags of popcorn felt like the ultimate in rock-and-roll decadence, the memory of which will sustain me through many sleepless nights to come...

Doubles at Foxhill Manor (foxhillmanor.com) start from £295 including breakfast, snacks and drinks, and access to the Dormy House Spa

Save Your Pennies: The Wheatsheaf Inn

This Gloucestershire bolthole offers a touch of luxury your purse will love

If you're craving roll-top baths, posh pub fodder and luxurious interiors but can't stretch to Foxhill, this deservedly popular 14-room inn is your best bet. Modern art, battered leather sofas and a pervasive rock-and-roll vibe tick all the mini-break boxes. Take a walk through the countryside then settle down in the courtyard for food that perfectly fills the gap between traditional pub and fine dining, and Lily Allen or Kate Moss might walk in at any moment...

Doubles from £120 per night; cotswoldswheatsheaf.com



RAISING THE BAR: THE WHEATSHEAF INN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE