



HUMPHREYS

CONCIERGE AT ITS FINEST



EXPERIENCE THE STATELY FAMILY HOME OF STONOR PARK

Look behind the scenes at this amazing property, which has been in the Stonor family for 850 years.

THE MAGNIFICENT STONOR PARK



STEP BACK IN TIME AT STONOR PARK

Stonor Park has been the Stonor family's residence for 850 years. Making it one of the oldest family homes still lived in today. Step back in time with us for an experience like no other!

When you visit, you will see why. It's beautiful. The historic building and sweeping grounds are breath taking. And the family collection of art and artefacts is extraordinary. It's fascinating. You can view the work of St. Edmund Campion, created when he was given refuge here in 1581. And outside sits our oldest resident: a perfectly preserved prehistoric stone circle.

The real history of Stonor is a history of characters. For over 850 years the family have left their mark in both private and public life. The faces looking out from the portraits around the house tell stories of service to the country, family life and great curiosity of the expanding world.

The first mention of Stonor is 'Stanora Lege', or 'stony hill', appearing in AD 774 with the first recorded family member, Robert De Stanora, living there during the late 12th Century.

Throughout the next three centuries the family prospered, acquiring lands and titles, administering lucrative wardships and farming their flocks of sheep. Stonors fought in great battles, held high office and displayed an uncanny knack of marrying rich heiresses from powerful local families.



DISCOVER THE STORY OF STONOR PARK

“The faces looking out from the portraits around the house tell stories of service to the country, family life and great curiosity of the expanding world.” This expansion was curtailed with Henry VIII’s Act of Supremacy as the Catholic Stonors refused to accept the monarch as head of the church. This unwavering commitment to their faith came at a great cost, and by 1650 all of the Stonor estates, barring the Stonor Valley, had been sold to pay recusancy fines.

After generations of lobbying, the Catholic Emancipation Act was eventually passed in 1829 at which point the 3rd Lord Camoys once more embraced government and public life. The current Lord Camoys served as Lord Chamberlain to the Queen until 2000 while his son William served in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Stonor is now home to three generations of the Stonor family – the Lord and Lady Camoys reside in the recently restored 14th Century Wool House, and the Hon. William and Lady Ailsa Stonor reside in the main house with their three children.

Home to the Stonor family for over 850 years, Stonor Park is one of the oldest family homes still lived in today - but it’s no museum.



SEE THE HISTORY OF STONOR PARK

Behind the warm red brick façade, Stonor is actually a collection of much older buildings. In fact its origins go back to Medieval times. The area now housing our cosy Stonor Pantry cafe dates from the late 12th Century, with the Chapel added around a hundred years later. Since then a series of additions and renovations, including the adoption of the E-shape in around 1540 have evolved into the extraordinary building you can see and explore today.

Highlights include the grand Gothic revival hall, atmospheric 17th century library and the dramatic long gallery opening on to beautiful Italianate gardens.

The fortunes of the house and chapel are strongly tied to the travails of the Catholics in Britain. When Henry VIII formed the Church of England in the 1530s Catholics, including the Stonor family were forced to take a much reduced part in public life. Crippling fines were levied and many were persecuted and forced to go into hiding.

At Stonor there is a poignant reminder of these times in the roof space and priest hole where Sir Edmund Campion hid whilst printing the famous 'Ten Reasons' pamphlet in the 1580s.



THE LANDSCAPE OF STONOR PARK

We recommend taking in the natural wonder of the surrounding parkland, with its lush green slopes fringed by a host of centuries-old beech and ash trees. This verdant habitat is the home of our ancient herd of fallow deer who have supplied venison to countless Kings and Queens throughout history. Living alongside the deer are badgers, hares, rabbits, pheasant, soaring red kites, ravens and buzzards.

Stone Circle

Older even than Stonor House is the stone circle, made from the very stones that give the valley its name. Formed of giant boulders left behind at the end of the last Ice Age, prehistoric man believed in the mystical powers of these visitors and placed them on end to form a ritual circle.

In 601 AD, Pope Gregory the Great called on the missionary priests in England to adopt Pagan sites of worship for the Catholic faith and The Chapel at Stonor was subsequently built on the site of the circle. You can see one of the original stones symbolically supporting the corner of the Chapel where it was incorporated into the foundations.



STEP BACK IN TIME AT STONOR PARK

You are invited to explore our three gardens – from the ponds and fountains of the 17th Century Italianate Pleasure Garden to the old Kitchen Garden designed and nurtured by Lady Camoys and the eclectically treed Arboretum.

The Italianate Pleasure Garden

You will love the serenity of the Renaissance ponds, fountains and our curious little Japanese hideaway. You will love to wander amongst the ancient yews, clipped box hedges and abundant plants and flowers. Across the herbaceous border and through the iron gates, you can glimpse of an area known simply as Grandmother's Garden – a seasonal bloom of colour!

The Old Kitchen Garden

Spring and Summer in The Old Kitchen Garden is really quite beautiful. Lined with apple and plum trees which blossoms sensationally in the spring. Dazzling displays of May-flowering irises, June-blooming peonies and heritage roses create a timeless beauty.

The Arboretum

Wandering through the Arboretum you will meet mature and young trees alike. The malus, mulberries and ornamental cherries are under-planted with dapples of primroses and narcissi, splashing colour onto the landscape – a majestic sight in the spring when the cherry-blossoms fall.



Daily Itinerary

DATE - EXPLORE STONOR PARK

Reference: Client Name
Date: Arrival Day – Departure Day
Experience: Exquisite England
Connoisseur: Samantha Evans

10:00

Arrival at Stonor Park where you will be greeted with tea, coffee and homemade pastries.

10:00 – 12:30

You will be escorted on a private tour of the manor house and grounds before returning to a delicious home cooked lunch, accompanied by Hon William Stonor and Lady Ailsa, served in the private Green Dining room.

14:00 – 16:00

Enjoy an afternoon undertaking traditional country pursuits such as falconry, clay pigeon shooting and archery.

16:30

Return to the manor house for a traditional afternoon tea before the Stonor family make their farewells.

Your chauffeur will be happy to return you to your hotel when you are ready.

Daily Itinerary

DATE -

A MAGICAL EVENING AT STONOR PARK

Reference: Client Name

Date: Arrival Day – Departure Day

Experience: Exquisite England

Connoisseur: Samantha Evans

17:30

Arrival at Stonor Park where you will be greeted by the butler and escorted into the Gothic Hall for champagne reception and harpist accompaniment.

18:00 – 19:30

You will be taken on a private tour of the manor house accompanied by Hon William Stonor and Lady Ailsa

19:30 – 21:30

You will be called for dinner by the butler who will show you to the private dining room. Enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by estate chefs with expert wine pairing.

During dessert, be entertained by a wonderful magician.

22:30

Your chauffeur will be happy to return you to your hotel when you are ready.

Samantha Evans
Founder and
Exquisite England Connoisseur



We excite and
delight our visitors
with quintessentially
English experiences
in the countryside.

WELCOME TO HUMPHREYS OF HENLEY.

I was inspired to launch Humphreys of Henley by my love of the English countryside, I was brought up in the Cotswolds and live in the Chilterns, and my desire to share the hidden wonders that are so often missed by visitors.

Our guests provide our proudest moments, when we see their eyes widen in amazement at the majesty of a hawk in full flight, or their absolute joy when they shoot their first clay from the skies.

When we plan your itinerary with you, we identify each detail that will make the day totally memorable for you: your passions and interests are at the heart of the itinerary and will create fabulous countryside experiences.

Our guests tell us that they value the knowledge that they can trust us to deliver exactly what we promise...and more. They value the break from decision making in their busy lives, the only decisions that you will make on the day is what to wear and what to eat.

Let us do the research, coordination and planning so that you can optimise every moment of your precious leisure time, it's what we love doing and, I'm proud to say, we are very good at it.

My team and I look forward to creating your memorable experiences for you and welcoming you to our favourite place in the world.

CREATE YOUR LUXURY EXPERIENCE

PLEASE SHARE YOUR PREFERENCES WITH US, AND IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO PLEASE TELEPHONE US AND WE CAN INSPIRE YOU WITH SOME FABULOUS IDEAS!

History & Culture

Windsor Castle
Blenheim Palace
Highclere Castle
Exploring Oxford
Sandringham Estate
Buckingham Palace
Hampton Court

Privileged access to Stunning
Stately Homes and Private
Estates across the Chilterns
and Cotswolds

Country activities & Sports

Falconry
Clay Shooting
Archery
Game shooting
Horse riding
Polo lessons
Hunting
Fishing
Croquet

Special Passions

Tiger Moth or Spitfire flying
Foraging & Dining
From Mini to Aston Martin
Boating & River Cruising
Garden Tours
Literary Tours
Vineyard and Brewery's
Guided Cycle or Walking
Yours
Hot Air Ballooning
Rowing
Canoe and Kayaking

Family Fun

Themed Treasure Hunts
Guided Cycle or walking
tours
Carriage Tours in Windsor
Great Park
Exploring mazes and
tunnels in stately homes
Segway driving
Rowing
Canoe and Kayaking
River Cruise

Britain - Film & TV

Harry Potter
Morse & Lewis
Midsomer Murders
James Bond
Poldark
Paddington
Pride & Prejudice
Downton Abbey
The Queen
The King Speech
Robin Hood
Mr Selfridge
Game of Thrones

Contact us and we will start the process of planning your fabulous itinerary

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You can also make a booking via the website www.humphreysofhenley.co.uk