

London's country estate:

The Grove



The Grove is more than just a luxury five star hotel, it is set in 300 acres of Hertfordshire countryside only 18 miles from central London. It is the most unique venue for weddings, celebrations and meetings. **Louise Alexander-O'Loughlin** finds out more.

Turning into the entrance of the Grove is like driving on to the set of a period drama. The impressive driveway leads to a stunning country estate which stands proud, surrounding itself with 300 acres of rolling Hertfordshire countryside. This is a golfers' paradise with perfectly manicured open fairways.

This five-star hotel and award-winning spa is the perfect setting for a country wedding and is most definitely the place to be seen.

Guests are greeted by a valet parking attendant who ushers you to the reception in the main house, a unique environment bringing together the very best of twenty first century living, with all that makes a country estate so beguiling and attractive: the peace of the countryside, a personal



welcome, a sense of sanctuary and refuge – a country estate with a modern twist.

Lovingly restored, the property fuses contemporary design and original period

architecture with exceptionally caring and professional service to revolutionise the English country-house experience.

The Grove has an atmosphere that is informal, unstuffy and relaxed. Visitors sink into gorgeous, 'groovy grand' interiors, stuffed with antique and modern furniture and art, even in its 217 deeply comfortable rooms with views over the estate.

The three restaurants have their own bar, with the sophisticated Colette's having breath taking views across Charlotte's Vale; The Glasshouse, the Grove's international theatre of cooking, where you can watch a team of chefs freshly prepare dishes in front of your eyes, or perhaps enjoy informal, delicious food at The Stables in a relaxing and informal atmosphere in the original stable block.



The River Gade and the Grand Union Canal both run through the estate, which also includes an impressive walled garden woodland, meadowlands, a wetland area, two lakes and where you can listen to the gentle buzz of beehives producing Grove Honey.

The Mansion Lounges offer four elegant drawing rooms for hotel guests leading onto private terraces, as well as an outstanding choice of 23 flexible rooms, perfect for meetings, events, private parties, weddings and launches accommodating from one to 1,000 guests.

For the more active, enjoy a challenging round on the stunning 18-hole championship golf course. The 7,152 yard course was designed by the distinguished international architect Kyle Philips, who combines modern game strategies with the great traditions of British golf course architecture. The layout is kept in

immaculate condition and follows a majestic route through the rolling, leafy Hertfordshire landscape with fully integrated cart paths open all year round. Select the course length for your ability, thanks to the expansive tees. In 2006, only three years after opening, The Grove welcomed the world's top 64 players to compete in the World Golf Championships, won by Tiger Woods.

As for the Spa... Sequoia has 13 treatment rooms including a VIP suite for couples, therapeutic saline water vitality pool, large (22m) indoor swimming pool, fitness studio, aerobic studio, Jacuzzi, separate male and female heat experiences and luxurious relaxation rooms. Not forgetting two large swimming pools, the croquet lawn and tennis courts in the Walled Garden.

Children have their own bolthole, Anouska's Kids Club, (graded Outstanding by OFSTED) with its own swimming pool.

Teenagers are not forgotten at The Grove – over 16s can use Sequoia Spa and play on the championship golf course, with golf lessons in the summer holidays. There is also tennis, croquet, volleyball, swimming, snooker, table tennis, a giant chessboard and Jenga in the Walled Garden.



What truly makes The Grove special are its grounds and guests can escape into the romantic formal gardens designed by the Chelsea Gold Medallist and judge, Michael Balston; spend time in the original Walled Garden with its glamorous open-air pool and urban beach, tennis courts, croquet lawn and kitchen garden.

Since opening in 2003, The Grove has been named AA Hotel of the Year within 12 months of opening, voted Favourite UK Hotel Spa by the readers of Condé Nast Traveller and Best Spa in the World in the Telegraph Ultratravel Awards, amongst many other accolades. The hotel's interiors won 'Best New Hotel' in the European Hotel Design Awards and it was the first hotel to be featured on the cover of British House & Garden magazine. ●

essence info

The Grove

Chandler's Cross, Hertfordshire WD3 4TG

Telephone: +44 (0)1923 807807

Website: www.thegrove.co.uk

Email: reservations@thegrove.co.uk