



# ALL THIS COULD BE YOURS...

*...for one blissful weekend.  
Here are the three best big holiday houses*

## HOUND LODGE, GOODWOOD ESTATE

CHICHESTER, WEST SUSSEX

Normally it's a bad thing to find yourself in the doghouse – but not on the Goodwood Estate. The far-sighted Earl of March and Kinrara has once again proved himself ahead of the pack, transforming Hound Lodge, once part of the estate's much-feted kennels, into a glorious 10-bedroom country retreat.

And what a retreat. With a chauffeured Land Rover, 24-hour butler, brilliant chef and gorgeously smart rooms, it feels grand without being stuffy – a stately home from home. As Lord March points out, it's apt that Hound Lodge should serve as a benchmark for creature comforts. His forebear, the 2nd Duke of Richmond (a grandson of Charles II), doted on his hounds to such an extent that central heating was installed here 100 years before Goodwood House got some. Subsequently, Hound Lodge became known as 'the most luxurious doghouse in the world'.

Now it's one of the most luxurious human houses. Interior designer Cindy Leveson, a close friend of Lord March's, spent years amassing antiques and books to dress the house properly, many of them relating to the local Charlton Hunt. The finished product is modern country-house luxe: dense bookcases and lusty fires meet Bluetooth speakers, monsoon showers and cloud-like beds stuffed with wool from the flock outside your window. You'll see nods to the property's original four-legged tenants throughout, from the rooms themselves (named after the dogs of the 'Glorious Twenty-Three', a legendary 57-mile hunt that took place in 1738) to the series of brick exercise yards that now serve as private terraces for the downstairs bedrooms.

Outside, there are the ancient Valdoe Woods to walk through, the entire 12,000-acre estate to explore, guns to shoot, off-road 4x4s to roar about in and even a Spitfire to fly. If this is a dog's life, we'd happily lead it. **Jonathan Thompson**

**BOOK IT** From £10,000 per night, based on 20 sharing, including breakfast, dinner and 24-hour butler service ([goodwood.com](http://goodwood.com); 01243 755076). □



ABOVE, THE DRAWING ROOM AT HOUND LODGE, WITH MAX THE BEAGLE. ABOVE RIGHT, SPRINGER SPANIEL MANGO IN THE WHELPING KENNELS. RIGHT, THE GROUNDS OF HOUND LODGE