

HOUSE & GARDEN

April
2017
£4.30

SHOP SMART

THE NEW
SPRING FABRIC
COLLECTIONS

FABULOUS
FLOOR LAMP

THE VERY
BEST BEDSIDE
TABLES

GARDEN
SERIES
HOW TO
GROW
FLOWERS
FOR
CUTTING

BATHROOMS
TO INSPIRE
ELEGANT
DESIGNS
AND EXPERT
ADVICE



SPLENDID CELEBRATIONS

The joy of the Kidz@TheRitz programme at The Ritz London is that, in the majestic Louis XVI-style surroundings, it feels utterly decadent yet welcoming. V.I.Ks (Very Important Kids) are welcomed with Ritz teddies, embossed bathrobes and slippers, ice cream, in-room games, books and DVDs. For a memorable celebration, afternoon tea in the Palm Court is charming. Stray crumbs from little hands disappear as seamlessly as glasses of Champagne appear in front of grown-up guests, leaving everyone to enjoy the classical music from the resident pianist and harpist. *Traditional afternoon tea at The Ritz London costs from £30 per child. theritzlondon.com*

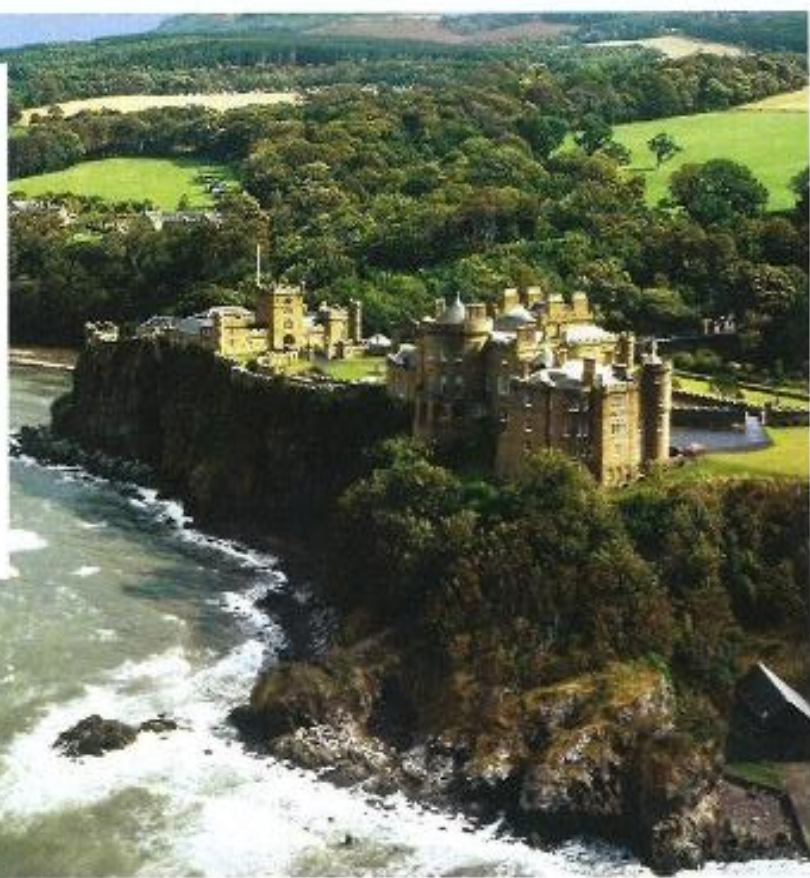


Farmyard Fun

Little ones will love the Tractor Ted Big Machines weekend at Bowood House and Gardens in Wiltshire this May. Watch chicks hatch, meet the farm animals and play on the mini tractor track in the digger den before lunch in the Treehouse café. The outdoor adventure playground has high-rise walks and slides. Adults can explore the Georgian stately home and Capability Brown-designed parkland (guided tours of the private walled garden and the 60-acre woodland garden, full of rhododendrons and azaleas, are both highlights) and book in for a night at the Bowood Hotel, spa and golf resort on the estate. *Tractor Ted Big Machines weekend runs from May 27-29 with entrance as part of the admission price to Bowood House and Gardens; £12.50 per adult; from £7.50 for a child; family tickets (maximum two adults) £37.50. bowood.org/bowood-house*

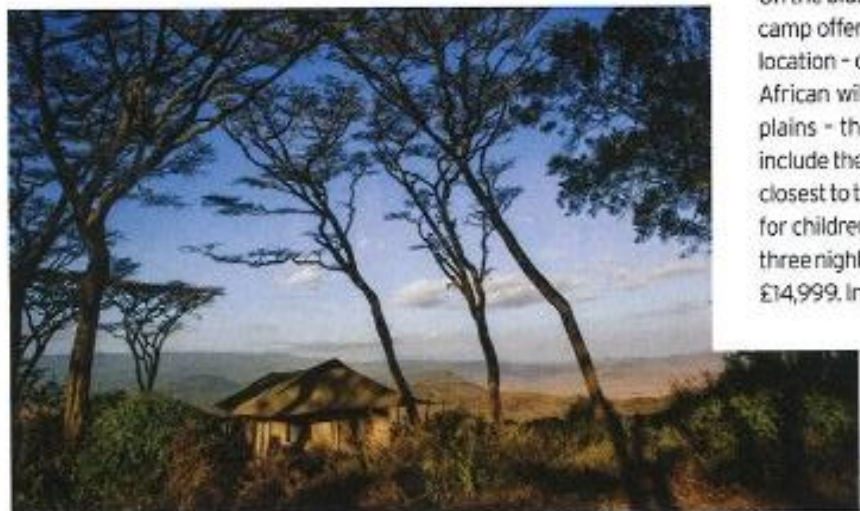
KING OF THE CASTLE

A castle might not seem like the most obvious destination for a family-friendly break but Glenapp, in the Ayrshire countryside in Scotland, is surrounded by 36 acres of private gardens and woodlands where children can let off steam. There are mountain bike trails around the estate and through the adjacent glens, croquet lawns, tennis courts and boules, as well as giant pick-up sticks, quoits and a fun treasure hunt. Enjoy fish and chips in the award-winning restaurant before bedding down in a family suite with interconnecting rooms overlooking the garden or sea. Travelling from London and want the adventure to continue after check-out? Book onto the Caledonian Sleeper train - it's a thrilling way to journey home. *Garden view room from £325, including dinner, bed and breakfast. glenappcastle.com*



MINI MASTERCHEFS New to Chewton Glen Hotel & Spa is 'The Kitchen', a cookery school overseen by chef James Martin. Children aged eight and over can learn about seasonality, sustainability and well-being on professionally equipped cooking stations with views over the kitchen garden. From £15 for a half-day course. chewtonglen.com ▷

FURTHER AFIELD



Game changer

On the blustery rim of the Ngorongoro Crater in Tanzania, the new Entamanu camp offers a really wild experience for adventurous families. By virtue of its location - one side overlooks the vast volcanic caldera (with its microcosm of African wildlife inside, including the Big Five), and, the other, the Serengeti plains - this high-altitude tented safari camp is utterly original. Highlights include the early morning game drives in the deserted crater (the camp is the closest to the park entrance) and the rim hike with a local Masai guide. Suitable for children age eight upwards. A 10-night safari for a family of four, including three nights all-inclusive at Entamanu and seven nights in Zanzibar, costs from £14,999. Includes all flights and transfers. turquoiseholidays.co.uk



Creature comforts

Sri Lanka is a family friendly gem of beautiful beaches, wildlife, culture and charming hotels, all just a 10-hour flight from London. Luxury travel specialist Abercrombie & Kent's family itinerary includes a visit to a tea plantation in Ella, relaxing on beaches near Galle and cycling around the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, refuelling with fresh coconuts along the way. Look out for leopards, elephants and birds in Yala National Park. From £2,995 per adult and £2,745 per child for 14 nights, including international flights; abercrombiekent.co.uk/srilanka



ROCK ON

Grand Cayman is a natural playground. The newest attraction is the Crystal Caves, set in a lush tropical forest on the north side of the island. Mini-explorers can expect spectacular stalagmites and stalactites, swooping bats and tales of swashbuckling pirates and buried treasure here. From \$30 for children 12 and under; caymancrystalcaves.com

CASTAWAY PLAY

The joy of the Soneva resorts - Soneva Kiri in Thailand, Soneva Fushi and the recently opened Soneva Jani, both in the Maldives - is that they are romantic and stylish yet still brilliant for families. All three have excellent children's dens: the original, at Soneva Kiri, is a bamboo-framed structure in the shape of a manta ray, while at Soneva Jani, the just-opened kids club is on stilts with slides into the water. At Soneva Fushi, teens can try DJing while littles enjoy the Lego room and pirate ship. In fact, there's so much fun to be had here, from building sand castles to star spotting, that you'll find it hard to drag them away. soneva.com



PRINTS CHARMING Kids UV swimwear brand Sunuva has added a pop of neon to Liberty's iconic floral design. The Liberty Floral capsule collection includes towelling onesies, hats and rompers for babies aged three to 24 months and dresses for girls aged one to 14 years. From £19 for a hat. sunuva.com □