



## Splash out on luxury

Make like a celebrity and head to the country to stay in splendid grandeur. Words by Karen Bate



**N**orth Cadbury Court in Yeovil may look fit for lords and ladies, but this stately pile is a sought-after venue for parties, weddings, a good old fashioned family reunion or much-needed getaways to us mere mortals wanting to live like a celebrity.

Owned by the Montgomery family, North Cadbury Court was reinvented by Archie Montgomery several years ago, who lovingly refurbished this stunning house to five star standard. Now it's not just A-listers who are letting their hair down in the splendid sticks, but we all have the chance to raise a toast on a sprawling lawn in splendid grandeur.

The house is steeped in history, boasting family links to Charles Darwin and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, but it is not cold or a stuffy museum piece, rather North Cadbury Court is warm and homely in a luxurious and elegant sort of way.

Visitors, without exception, want to return as often as they are able – a desire echoed in the visitors book, which is bursting with glowing messages.

Archie, his brother Jamie and sister Katherine grew up in the house, living in just a few rooms with the remaining house “empty and freezing”, a far cry from the warm and comfortable home it is today with its stream of quirky and fun features continually added by Archie.

Archie has recently added a Yacht Club on the lake, which is a two-storey building with a





bar and balcony, for a string of remote control yachts, pedalos and a Canadian canoe to enjoy on the water. For golf lovers, Archie has built a rooftop golf tee on the house so visitors are able to have a swing or two on to the greens on the lawns while drinking in the views of the Somerset hills and King Arthur's Camelot, while sipping a glass of something cold. There is a basement casino, croquet, tennis and an airstrip, to name but a few additions.

The Montgomery family are famed for Cheddar-making, so guests are able to embark on a cheese-tasting event with wines from local wine companies and enjoy a tour of the maturing Cheddar stores. The family also farm the cows on Cadbury Castle, the site of King Arthur's Camelot.

Archie Montgomery said: "North Cadbury Court has been our family home for 100 years, which has a history dating back 700 years to 1300. It was first a medieval hall built by the de Moels and the original magnificent roof trusses are visible in several rooms today.

"North Cadbury Court remains to this day a key part of our farmed estate, the custodianship of which our family remains passionate about. The lovely house is as iconic as the hill we farm, Cadbury Castle, visible from its windows, and we hope that the Court's future will be as enduring as those legends of King Arthur. In 1910 the house

and estate was purchased by my grandfather Sir Archibald Langman, who as a Londoner yearned for the rural pursuits, and he, with his young wife Eleanor, became active on the farm, and started making the Cheddar cheese for which the estate is now world famous."

North Cadbury Court has 25 bedrooms, mostly boasting four-poster beds and can sleep up to 50 people in comfort and style. There is scope for 250 people to spend the days in luxury and comfort. A library and ballroom, a pool and spa and a host of sitting rooms provide a stunning setting to bring a group of friends together for a memorable getaway.

Many London guests hire a luxury coach or bright red double decker bus to bring their group to this stunning stately home, which may be let exclusively to take over the entire house, or use a butler or the small and friendly Cadbury Court team can be on hand to help organise suppliers and activities.

And for midweek bookings the prices are hardly different to staying in a beautiful hotel once divided amongst a group. Archie is passionate there should be no "nasty surprises" with additional costs, so there is nothing else to pay on top of your rental – its all yours to use.

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**W:** [northcadburycourt.co.uk](http://northcadburycourt.co.uk)

