



Press Release

Issued on behalf of Visit Kent

Fall in Love with Kent

With Valentines Day around the corner, it is time to start planning something special for the one you love. So what can be better than a weekend break in the heart of the beautiful countryside surrounded by fine restaurants and historic castles? Kent is now even easier to get to with the introduction of the high speed rail link from London, cutting journey times significantly to the county, so whisking that special someone away for a romantic mini break or a slap-up meal has never been easier.

Eastwell Manor, near Ashford

With its origins dating back to the Norman conquest, Eastwell Manor is a superb stately residence situated in a beautiful country setting. The hotel restaurant, which has been awarded two AA rosettes for exceptional cuisine, offers an assortment of English dishes. The hotel boasts an impressive spa with a variety of indulgent treatments, a hydrotherapy pool, Jacuzzi, sauna and steam room.

For something extra special, take the time to relax and spend some quality time together by treating your loved one to a 'Romantic Weekend Break' with champagne and roses. Prices vary depending on room, please contact reservations.

www.eastwellmanor.co.uk

Wallett's Court, near Dover

Wallett's Court is a pretty Jacobean manor house surrounded by converted Kentish barns. Rooms in the main manor boast deluxe four-poster beds, and cosy log fires. The spa itself, with an indoor pool, sauna, steam room and Jacuzzi, is in one of the barns but treatments can be carried out in your own cabin in the woods, overlooking the rolling hills.

A special weekend break for Valentines includes two nights stay, with dinner on both evenings, Champagne and chocolates. From £199 per person.

A Mini Spa break (£129) includes B&B, dinner in their award-winning restaurant and one treatment. A Spa Day (£99) includes 90 minutes worth of treatments and lunch.

www.wallettscourthotel.com

Abode Hotel, Canterbury

Perfectly situated in the city centre, ABode Canterbury combines tradition and quality throughout the hotel in all the luxurious bedrooms, exciting dining locations and private

function suites. The hotel retains many stunning features alongside contemporary design. Each room is unique, with attention to fine details that make any stay unforgettable. ABode Canterbury boasts a choice of dining locations; Michael Caines Restaurant, the Old Brewery Tavern and the Champagne Bar. There is also the Chefs' Table private room for exclusive dining.

This Valentine's Day the Michael Caines Restaurant is offering a six course tasting menu with a single red rose for £65.00 per person. For something a little more relaxed, The Brewery Tavern is planning a four course menu with a single red rose for £40.00 per person, both must be pre-booked.

www.abodehotels.co.uk

Rowhill Grange, Dartford

Often called Kent's hidden secret, Rowhill Grange Hotel & Utopia Spa is the perfect place to unwind and enjoy indulgent spa treatments, fine dining and fresh, country air. The property enjoys stunning views over the glorious Kent countryside and is surrounded by 15 acres of private grounds with rolling lawns, manicured gardens and even a small lake with a family of ducks and black swans. With two restaurants, an award winning spa and 38 individually designed bedrooms, including two master suites with four-poster beds, the hotel is the ideal setting for a romantic weekend break.

<http://www.alexanderhotels.co.uk/rowhill/>

Freedom Holiday Homes

For something a little more private, the following property is perfect for couples that want to get away from it all. All Freedom Holiday Homes are situated in glorious rural settings.

Acorn Barn, Bilsington

This exceptional barn conversion is set on the edge of rolling countryside and the wide, folding glass doors in the living area give uninterrupted panoramic views. There are countless walks across farmland and unspoilt countryside with the village only a quarter of a mile away. £188 for a short break.

www.freedomholidayhomes.co.uk

Mulberry Cottages

Choose from a simple fisherman's cottage on a tranquil beach to a beautiful five-star stone cottage within minutes of the surf. Or perhaps you'd prefer the seclusion of a rustic Hansel and Gretel hideaway or a medieval cottage worthy of a Miss Marple film set for you and your Valentine to enjoy.

Crow Cottage, near Faversham

This is a really special holiday cottage ideal for a romantic break or peaceful weeks away. The cottage is tucked away in a very rural setting in Kent, surrounded by fields with lots of walks, and a couple of village pubs within easy range. Inside the cottage is a good size with a pretty conservatory and a charming garden that surrounds the cottage giving it privacy and peace. Free access to visit Belmont House, near Faversham and its gardens is included in the rental as the cottage is part of the estate. Both the trendy seaside town of Whitstable and the pretty market town of Faversham are within easy reach with fresh fish direct from the fisherman on sale, the oldest brewery in the country to visit and a range of water sports to try - all in all this Kentish cottage would make an ideal holiday.

<http://www.mulberrycottages.com/cottage/holiday-cottages-in-kent/13777-crow-cottage/>

Ramada Hotel, Dover

A modern 4 star hotel set in a quiet garden between Dover and Canterbury. It is just a five minute drive to the Dover Ferry and Cruise Terminals, the Castle, Town and the World Famous White Cliffs. The hotel offers the highest quality accommodation, personal service and facilities which include Bleriot's restaurant. The hotel is offering a Valentine's overnight break on Saturday 13 February. A glass of Champagne is followed by a romantic four course dinner whilst being entertained by well known entertainer Rebecca Robinson and a rose and chocolates for the ladies. At the end of the evening retire to your four star guest room. In the morning, enjoy an excellent English Breakfast buffet before returning home. £135 per couple for package.

Valentines dinner only £34.95 per person

www.ramadadover.co.uk

The Bell Hotel, Sandwich

For those who like the space and quiet of country and coast, Sandwich is the perfect location for a romantic short break. This historic old walled town and Cinque port and riverside location is within 20 minutes of Canterbury. Stay in one of the fabulous refurbished rooms the perfect place to snuggle up and relax. In all of the 34 bedrooms, some with balconies and views over the river, you will find Egyptian cotton sheets, fluffy towels and spa therapy toiletries.

In The Bell Restaurant, enjoy seafood and fish straight from Sandwich Bay, lamb from nearby Romney Marsh and vegetables, salads and herbs supplied locally.

The Valentine's offer includes two nights bed & breakfast, a bottle of Chapel Down's gorgeous Sparkling Brut, Valentine's dinner menu on either Friday or Saturday in our recently refurbished dining room and our own home made chocolates. Prices start from £270 based on two people sharing.

If you would like to stay Sunday 14 February for one night, Valentines Dinner, Bed & Breakfast is available from £165.00.

www.bellhotelsandwich.co.uk

Chapel Down Vineyard

The Chapel Down Winery is home to the largest producer of English wines.

Visitors to Chapel Down are invited to wander in the wine and fine food store, landscaped grounds, herb garden or vineyards themselves. Visitors can book a guided tour to learn about the history of English Wines and the challenges of growing grapes in a cool climate. Celebrity chef Richard Phillips has teamed up with Chapel Down to launch his own restaurant on site boasting some of the finest cuisine in the county, perfect for a romantic meal.

On Valentine's Day the vineyard will have a selection of great gifts including their lovely sparkling wine artisan truffles. Presentation packs and hampers are also available.

www.chapeldownwines.co.uk

Elvey Farm, Pluckley

At the end of a twisting, winding little lane, nestled amongst 75 acres of farmland in the prettiest countryside in Kent is Elvey Farm. As far as the eye can see, there are fields, orchards and hills, so whether you're sipping Champagne on the veranda outside your suite or exploring Pluckley's charming village square and shops, you'll be surrounded by the quietest, most idyllic Darling Buds countryside in Kent.

Expect stylish contemporary bathrooms in the stable block, fully renovated rooms with every comfort, and a friendly, personal service. Elvey Farm restaurant will be serving a special five course Valentine's menu priced at £37.95 per person.

www.elveyfarm.co.uk

Something A Little Different

Quex House, near Margate

For something a little different why not visit the Hannah Suite restaurant at the Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex House and Gardens. They are hosting an Aphrodisiac Week from Monday 8 February – Sunday 14 February. There will be a sumptuous six course aphrodisiac menu to sample using exotic herbs.

£40 per person.

Quex House is a beautiful regency country residence with the added attraction of a world-class private museum. Collections include stunning objects and animals from Africa and Asia, weaponry, cannon, local archaeology, and rare Chinese and European porcelain.

www.quexmuseum.org

Dickens World

Dickens World takes visitors on a journey through Dickens' lifetime as you step back into Dickensian England and are immersed in the streets, sounds and smells of the 19th century.

Dickens World is hosting a Valentines Day Special at the Porters Restaurant on Sunday 14th February, which includes a three course meal in intimate surroundings with a glass of bubbly and red rose for every lady.

www.dickensworld.co.uk

Ashford Designer Outlet, Ashford

For a touch of retail therapy with your partner, Ashford Designer Outlet is host to a huge range of designer shops all with attractive discounts. All Valentine's Day promotions will be brand led by individual stores. For further information about special offers and promotions at the centre in the run up to Valentine's Day please visit the website.

www.ashforddesigneroutlet.com

Theatre Royal, Margate

This historic theatre is known as southern England's most haunted theatre and with nearly five hundred patrons, the theatre has been associated with many famous actors.

On Valentine's Day the Theatre is showing The Cheeky Guide To Love - a sketch show from The Ornate Johnsons. This 'hugely talented, slick sketch act' (The Times) fresh from their acclaimed BBC4 special, bring sketches, anecdotes and deeply embarrassing

personal revelations. They make merry with every aspect of amour - from first love to blind dates, matrimony to infidelity, and internet dating to mail order brides.

www.theatroyalmargate.com

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For enquiries please contact Sarah Whelband on 01732 779087 or sarahw@westgatecomms.com

About Visit Kent:

Visit Kent Limited is a public/private sector partnership supported by Kent County Council, Medway Council, the district and borough councils, Tourism South East and the leading sector tourism businesses in Kent. Visit Kent champions Kent's £2.5 billion tourism industry by targeting UK and overseas markets. For further information visit www.visitkentbusiness.co.uk.

Visit Kent and Southeastern are currently running a 2FOR1 campaign. Aimed particularly at the London market, the campaign aims to get people out of London on the train to experience the best of what Kent has to offer. Attractions participating in the campaign include Canterbury Cathedral, Leeds Castle and Dover Castle. For more information see www.visitkentbytrain.co.uk or contact lynette.clark@visitkent.co.uk