



THE OLD BELL HOTEL

Welcoming guests since 1220

Where delicious food, designer interiors and Cotswold hospitality combine

For those looking for the ultimate Cotswolds experience and then some, look no further than England's oldest hotel, The Old Bell Hotel. Set in the chocolate box borough of Malmesbury, The Old Bell Hotel first opened its doors over 800 years ago, in 1220. These days however, expect to be delighted by its spectacularly unique and stylish interiors following its top to toe refurbishment in 2021 by its owners Kim Hanks and her husband, renowned antiques dealer and collector, Whit Hanks.



The hotel boasts 34 exquisite bedrooms, each individually designed and furnished with colourful wallcoverings as well as two stunning bar concepts – the 1220 bar and the fabulous, terraced aviary-like Tyger Bar.

With its Malmesbury home being the oldest borough in the UK, the Old Bell Hotel has stayed stylistically true to its unique history but, under the guidance of its owners, is completely unique and in ways eccentric interiors, makes this hotel a total one-off and certainly one of the most glamorous and luxurious places to stay in The Cotswolds. The Old Bell is full of quirky antiques and treasures from the owners' travels around the globe and this is part of what makes it so personal and so different from other Cotswold boltholes.



The on-site fine dining restaurant, Abbey Row, is headed up by their ever talented and multi award winning Executive Chef, Leigh Evans. With hyper seasonal and local ingredients being his biggest inspiration, Leigh has the privilege of working directly with The Old Bell Hotel's gardeners who grow much of the kitchen's produce from their stunning kitchen garden at Abbey Garden.

Guests can expect dishes such as *Beetroot Gazpacho - goats cheese mousse, Abbey Garden beetroots*; *Chicken Liver Parfait - savoury waffle, pickled cherries, cherry compote, chicken skin granola*; *Halibut Fillet - Thai green sauce, sticky coconut rice, peanut, radish salad, bok choy, pickled ginger*; *Stonebass - crispy squid, squid ink couscous, black olive, confit tomato & peppers* and *Crème Caramel - pickled nectarines, blue cheese croissant*.



To view their full menus from A La Carte, Tasting and Afternoon Tea Menus,
[please click here](#)

For the ultimate private dining experience, the newly renovated outhouse or gazebo can be hired by couples or groups for a truly special dining experience. With spectacular views across the Wiltshire countryside, this romantic and creatively inspiring site can even be hired by groups such as those on a writing retreat, perhaps those looking to hold an intimate yoga class, painting class and more. An incredibly special hidden gem that can be personalised and privately catered for guests needs.



As well as being the perfect stay for couples, families, friends or lone travellers, The Old Bell Hotel loves to welcome canine friends as well, meaning nobody gets left behind. Guests and their dogs will all receive the VIP treatment from the moment they step through their impressive front doors.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

LOCATION

The Old Bell Hotel is located in the vibrant market town of Malmesbury, steeped in history and charm.

Malmesbury is accessible by car (2 hours from London, 1 hour from Bristol and 40 minutes from Bath) and train (1 hour from London Paddington to Chippenham). The Old Bell Hotel can be reached from Chippenham station by taxi in 20 minutes.

Close to Bath, Bristol, Cirencester and The Cotswolds, Malmesbury is perfectly placed and there are many wonderful places to visit nearby such as Westonbirt Arboretum, Highgrove and The Cotswold Water Park.

HISTORY

In 1220, Abbot Loring erected a hostelry for visiting dignitaries to Malmesbury Abbey, then an important and powerful seat of learning. The Old Bell Hotel, nowadays a mix of architecture - mainly Edwardian, has welcomed guests continuously since then, earning itself the accolade of 'Oldest hotel in England'. There are traces of every century throughout the hotel, including a hooded stone fireplace in the Bar which dates from 1220.

ACCOMODATION

The 34 rooms are named after local historical figures and previous owners of this Grade 1 listed hotel. Each room has luxury bathrobes, Bramley toiletries, Dyson hairdryer, smart screen TVs, free Wi-Fi, gooseneck kettles and cafetieres.

The two Master Suites are spacious, luxurious, and inviting. Both are located on the first floor in the main house. They are furnished with soft seating living spaces along with a desk area. These are rooms with stunning views over the garden and the ancient town of Malmesbury.

All five Junior Masters are in the main house on either the first or second floor. The Junior Master suites are uniquely decorated, and each brim with personality, perfect spaces to unwind after a busy a day.

Situated in the main house, on the first and second floors, Classic rooms are each personally crafted with beautifully designed wallpaper and soft furnishings.

The five Character rooms are in the main house, split over the first and second floor, full of character of course and full of the signature style.

Gloriously stylish, both Master Cosy rooms are in our coach house. One is located on the ground floor and the other is on the first floor. The rooms benefit from a lounge space with a sofa bed and one of the Master Cosy rooms comes with a ground floor patio.

Cosy by name but packed full of style, these rooms are in the coach house, which adjoins the main house. Some of the Cosy rooms can be made into twin rooms and interconnecting cosy rooms are also available on the ground floor or first floor.

The 4 single bedrooms are perfect for the solo traveler. These rooms don't skimp on style and personality.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

Delicious, fresh, local and seasonal dishes are served in Abbey Row restaurant. The restaurant was beautifully refurbished at the start of 2023.

The menu changes regularly and has a selection of classics and smaller plates alongside decadent dishes full of wonderful flavours. Executive Chef Leigh Evans likes to choose the best quality ingredients and every plate is a celebration of seasonal produce.

On Friday and Saturday evenings a seven-course tasting menu is offered in the restaurant. The hotels signature Afternoon Tea is served daily in the three lounges, all beautifully curated in the hotels whimsical style.

There are two bars - The 1220 Bar, which is home to the original fireplace from 1220 and the outdoor Tyger Bar both are perfect for enjoying a craft cocktail or a local beer.

DÉCOR

The Old Bell Hotel is filled to the brim with quirky curiosities, collected from the owners travels around the world. Wallpapers by Lewis and Wood, Melissa White, Thibaut and Zardi and Zardi are showcased throughout the property, providing slightly eccentric but beautifully sophisticated interiors

MEETING AND EVENTS

The mix of different size spaces provide the perfect place for everything from business meetings to dinner parties, with flexible room and seating options from 4 to 70. The largest of the spaces is light and airy Garden Room, or for smaller

groups there is delightfully intimate Library. All of the spaces have been decorated in the signature style.

MALMESBURY

Malmesbury itself is a historic, vibrant, and charming market town with much to discover. A visit to the stunning 12th Century Abbey next door to the hotel is a must, along with a visit to view the Turner watercolour of Malmesbury Abbey displayed in the Athelstan Museum. Malmesbury is home to many music, history and arts event & festivals listed on www.discovermalmesbury.life or in the Tourist Information Centre. The charming High Street has many unique, independent shops to browse and walks along the beautiful River Avon are a joy.

ABOUT THE OWNERS

As CEO of Whim Hospitality, Kim Hanks has grown her business from a small rental company in Dripping Springs, Texas to one of the largest and fastest growing female-led businesses in the US. The diverse and ever-growing range of services has put the business on the Austin Business Journal's Fast 50 and the Inc. 5000 list for four-consecutive years. Under Kim's leadership, Whim Hospitality has won local and national awards for their quality of service for rentals, florals, catering, and event management. In addition to being named one of the top women business leaders in Central Texas by the Austin Business Journal, Kim was honoured with one of their Best CEO Awards in 2017.

Whit Hanks founded a successful antiques business, specialising in architectural and international antiques in the mid-1980s while also working as real estate developer in the Central Texas region. He began acquiring property in the Dripping Springs area in 1985, started developing Camp Lucy in 2008, and co-founded Whim Hospitality with Kim in 2012. Whit's sharp eye for beautiful heritage pieces has helped create the unique setting of the Camp Lucy resort and established Whim Hospitality as one of the premier event services providers in the US. In addition to his responsibilities at Whim and Camp Lucy, Whit serves as the co-founder and Chairman of Pioneer Bank and has served on the Historic Preservation Commission and Economic Development Committee for the City of Dripping Springs.

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For more information, high-res images and review opportunities, please contact Red Kite PR at theoldbell@redkitepr.com