

WAKE UP HERE

University Arms

Cambridge, England

Words by OLIVIA SQUIRE

“Have you been to Cambridge before?” the manager asks. “Oh yes! The last time was after my interview, when I cried into the river under the Mathematical Bridge because I knew I hadn’t got in!” I reply brightly. To give him credit, he only looks bamboozled for a second before responding, “Well! I hope your stay with us will be MUCH more enjoyable.”

Reader, it is. Despite immortalising the crest of my failed alma mater in stained glass, the University Arms is a bibliophile’s bliss that you don’t need a Cambridge degree to decipher. A former coaching inn that had morphed into a Frankenstein of architectural add-ons, last year it was licked into shape by architect John Simpson and interior designer Martin Brudnizki. The result is a bookish homage to the city’s history spiked with English eccentricity – the carpets are patterned with university ties, the wallpaper is made of old tomes and there’s a recording of Alan Bennett reading *The Wind in the Willows* in the loo.

Its 192 rooms include 12 suites named after alumni such as Newton, Byron and Tennyson. I snuggle up in Hawking, where a psychedelic print of the man himself oversees a covetable bookshelf curated by Mayfair bookshop Heywood Hill. In the library lounge you can thumb through classics by authors including Virginia Woolf, Alan Turing and William Wordsworth, and illustrated pocket maps highlight notable literary locations such as where Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes first met, best reached on one of the hotel’s vintage, powder-blue bicycles.

For nourishment I head to Parker’s Tavern, the in-house restaurant dedicated to souped-up British classics. Chef Tristan Welch’s dishes deserve their own volumes of rhapsodic prose, with special chapters on the slow-cooked truffled duck egg and rice-pudding soufflé. I’m sent packing with a slice of Duke of Cambridge tart that leaves me wiping away morsels of burnt sugar on the train home, those tears a dim and distant memory.

Rooms from £143; suites from £419
universityarms.com



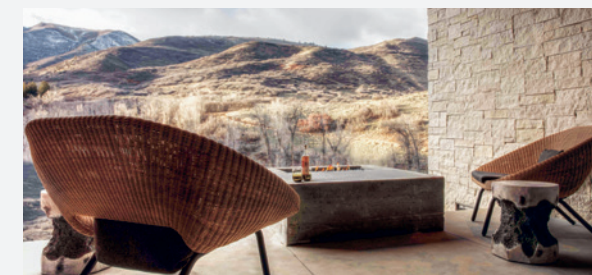
Words by OLIVIA MORELLI



THE WRITER'S VILLA AT BRODYLAND

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

This European writer’s retreat is one of several properties belonging to Budapest membership concept BrodyLand. Tumbling vines cascade down balconies overlooking a Zsolnay fountain and stone pathways lead back to various reading rooms. Spend the day reading and writing before retiring to a delicately designed bedroom themed around philosophers and authors.



THE LODGE AT BLUE SKY

UTAH, USA

The Wasatch Range mountains are echoed in the earthy tones of this secluded resort. Channel the spirit of old Westerns by riding horseback across 3,500 acres of untouched land – or if you’d rather leave the adventure to the fictional heroes, walk a few miles up the bubbling creek to discover a library complete with a log-burning fire and a wide selection of whiskeys.



SIR SAVIGNY

BERLIN, GERMANY

The suites in this eclectic hotel, located in Berlin’s literary quarter of Charlottenburg, come with a private terrace, snug reading nook and a headboard composed of pages covered in bespoke illustrations. When you’re finished contemplating, hit the “dial-a-burger” button to order a bun from the restaurant downstairs.