

DECEMBER 2011  
£3.80

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TRAVEL EDITION

# Good Housekeeping

*Your best Christmas ever*

**722** new & brilliant festive ideas

Trees, lights, crackers, baubles, cakes, puds, mince pies & treats for everyone

**WE'VE GOT IT ALL SORTED!**



Step-by-step to your family's favourite meals

*Party glamour*

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OR £7,500



**Celebrate with the stars**

- \* Julie Walters \* Fern Britton \* Alexander McCall Smith \* Joanna Lumley
- \* Jilly Cooper \* Arlene Phillips \* Lynda Bellingham \* Aggie MacKenzie \* Angela Hartnett

Fancy a change of scenery or letting someone else cook the turkey this year?

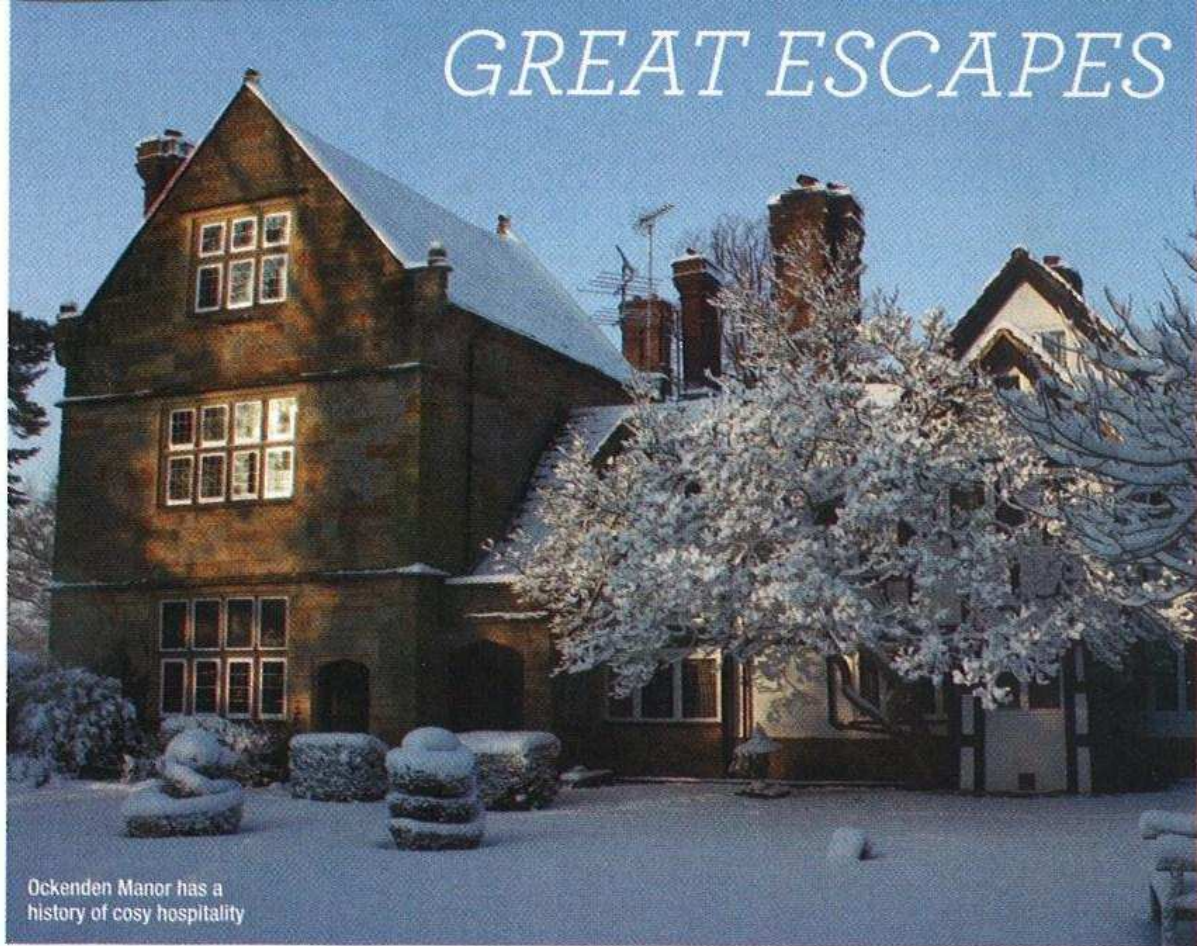
Travel editor David Wickers investigates the best alternatives to staying at home

# Let it snow!

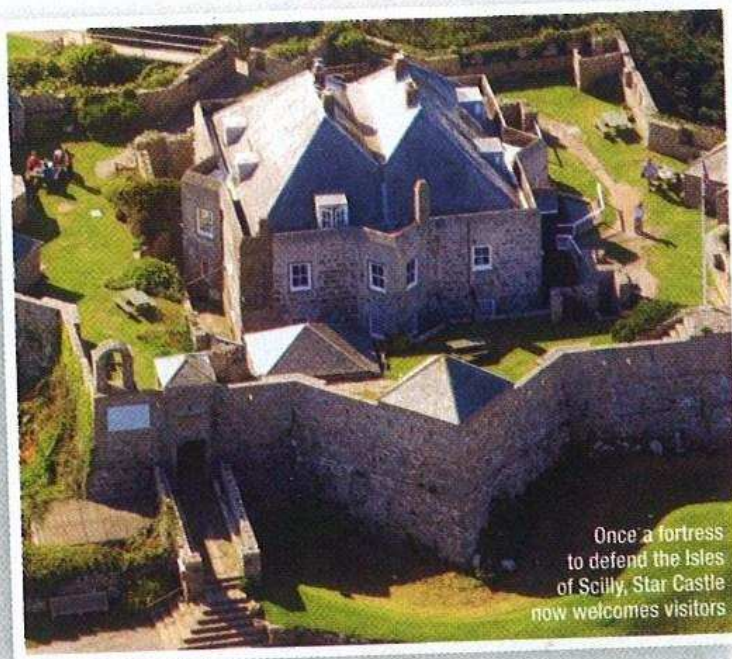


## HERITAGE SUSSEX

A private collection of three historic Sussex hotels has, between them, 20 working open fireplaces, 24 four-poster beds and 1,124 years of hospitality, making them hard to beat for traditional, seasonal cosiness. They include the Spread Eagle Hotel and Spa in Midhurst, a 15th-century coaching inn where QE1 really did sleep, Ockenden Manor, a Tudor villa in Cuckfield, and Bailiffscourt Hotel and Spa by the beach at Climping, built in medieval style by the Guinness family, and now home to an award-winning spa and nine bedrooms with open fires. A two-night stay at Bailiffscourt costs £420 for two with breakfast (01903 723511; [www.hshotels.co.uk](http://www.hshotels.co.uk)).



Ockenden Manor has a history of cosy hospitality



Once a fortress to defend the Isles of Scilly, Star Castle now welcomes visitors

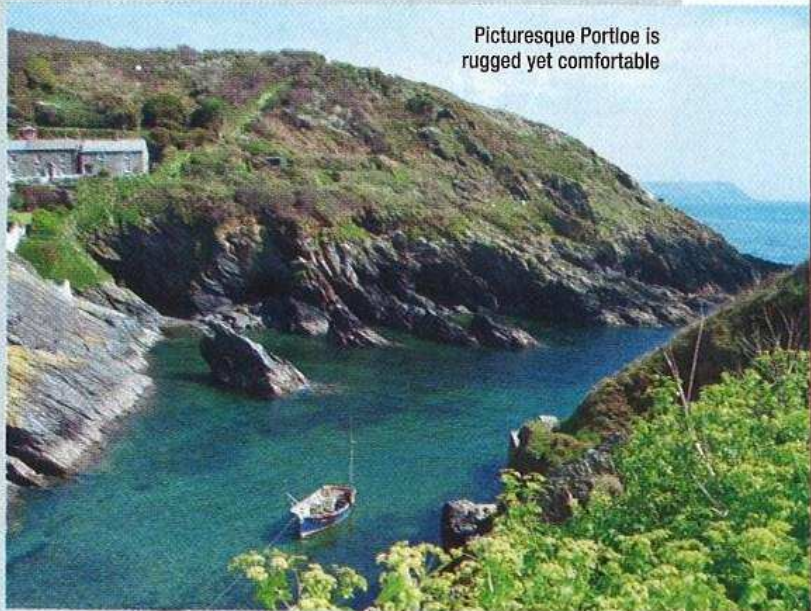
## BEST WEATHER

Situated on St Mary's in the Isles of Scilly, the Star Castle is a 16th-century fort originally built to keep out would-be boarders. It now welcomes them, with some of the guest rooms located within the original structure. Not only are you cosseted by very thick walls – the islands, because of their southerly latitude and the moderating influences of the sea, also happen to be the warmest place in Britain in

December. If you do decide to venture out, the harbour is just a five-minute walk away, and you can catch a boat to visit the other islands, including Tresco and St Martin's. Two nights in one of the Castle rooms in December costs from £398 per person, including breakfast, a helicopter from Penzance and transfers through Prestige Holidays (01425 480400; [www.prestigeholidays.co.uk](http://www.prestigeholidays.co.uk)).

## CORNISH COVE

Part of the pleasure of a winter escape is staying in a wild place that still affords plenty of snug and stylish comfort, plus the back-up of indoor attractions not too far away. The 22-room Luggar Hotel in Portloe, a 17th-century smugglers' inn that overlooks a tiny, ocean-pummelled cove, promises bracing walks along the coast path followed by warming hot toddies in front of the roaring log fire, plus aromatherapy, reflexology or Reiki treatments in the spa. For a day trip, the bio-domes of the Eden Project, the National Maritime Museum in Falmouth and Tate St Ives are all within easy range – and none of them bloated by summer crowds. Rooms at the romantic Luggar (01872 501322; [www.luggarhotel.co.uk](http://www.luggarhotel.co.uk)) cost from £130 a night for two with breakfast.



Picturesque Portloe is rugged yet comfortable

