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'Nothing can prepare you for the experience of coming eye to eye with a mountain gorilla'

Sue Watt explores the jungles of Rwanda

PAUL WILKINSON



Great British hotels for summer

From a country house in Cornwall to a treehouse in Scotland, we pick the 50 best places to book now

Best for gardens

1 Hotel Endsleigh Milton Abbot, Devon

Surrounded by 100 acres of woodland, the Endsleigh is the creation of the hotelier Olga Polizzi, who has made sure that as much care has been taken in restoring the garden as the house;

tours are available with the head gardener, Ben Ruscombe-King (£50). The 18 rooms are spacious and uncluttered but for the ultimate horticulturalist's treat, book the thatched Gatekeeper's Lodge, which has its own private garden. **Details** B&B doubles cost from £240 a night (01822 870000, hotelendsleigh.com)

2 Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons Great Milton, Oxfordshire

The gardens at Raymond Blanc's hotel make it as much a draw for horticulturalists as it is for foodies (the restaurant has two Michelin stars). The Japanese tea garden and English water garden are beautiful, while the vegetable garden, and orchard provide ingredients for the restaurant. Guests can join a garden tour on weekdays at 10am for £30pp. Two suites, L'Orangerie and Opium, have private gardens. **Details** B&B doubles cost from £697 (01844 278881, belmond.com)



3 Gravetye Manor West Hoathly, West Sussex

The 35 acres of gardens at Gravetye are some of the most influential in Britain. In 1884 the former manor house became home to the gardener William Robinson, whose ideas changed English gardens. Guests can stroll through the seas of bulbs in spring and herbaceous borders ablaze with colour in summer. The 17 bedrooms ooze country-house chic, while the restaurant uses ingredients from the kitchen garden. **Details** B&B doubles cost from £325 (01342 810567, www.gravetyemanor.co.uk) ▶