Property Name:	Whatley Manor - <u>www.whatleymanor.com</u> Easton Grey Malmesbury Wiltshire SN16 0RB Tel: +44 (0) 1666 822 888
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#### **Review of Property:**

Complete relaxation without feeling isolated - Perfect combination of English manor / with modern edge. Basics:

- One hour west of London also accessible by train / taxi.
- Spectacular garden / grounds recently renovated. www.whatleymanor.com/gardens
- 23 rooms all recently renovated all unique in character ranging from Standard to a grande suite with a bath designed by Philippe Stark.
- Spectacular Spa / gym facilities including indoor / outdoor pool www.whatleymanor.com/spa
- 2 restaurants and 2 bars including the Michelin 2-starred "The Dining Room' helmed by award winning chef Martin Burge
- Cinema Screening room
- Welcomes children 12 and above (12-16 must be accompanied by an adult at all times)



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### **Overall:**

On over 12 acres of spectacular English countryside, todays Whatley Manor opened its doors after extensive ground and property renovations in 2003. Having won numerous awards for its gardens and accommodations, Whatley Manor will constantly take your breath away with every turn. And note that Whatley Manor does not rest on the laurels of the property and grounds but also a Spa facility that would relax even the most tightly wound client! The Dining Room Restaurant (rated Michelin 2 star) run by Chef Martin Burge is the perfect culinary experience before returning to your room for what I guarantee will be one of the most restful nights you will ever spend!

# Accommodations:

With only 23 rooms ranging from singles to a Grande 2 floor suite, Whatley Manor can accommodate a honeymooning couple, to a client who travels with an entourage. All rooms have amazing views of the gardens / grounds, newly renovated bathrooms, most with heated tile floors (which is just wonderful to experience in the middle of the night) as well as the necessary internet and media connections There are numerous sitting areas (both indoors and out) to have a drink from the bar or enjoy afternoon tea.

# Ann's thoughts:

The moment we drove thru the gates onto the Whatley Manor estate, I felt transported to a different time, a different world. Whatley Manor oozes English sophistication without feeling pretentious. I instantly had the urge to order a cup of tea with a biscuit on the side while relaxing next to the fireplace in one of the many living room-type areas.

Our wonderful host, Eloise, escorted us on a very thorough tour of the property. Being that every room is different, there were several types of rooms to show us – something for everyone. I was particularly fond of the endless gardens throughout the property. There are exquisite flower beds, perfectly manicured lawns and an herb & vegetable garden most foodies only dream about. After our tour, we had some time to explore before dinner. Being that I had never experienced such gorgeous grounds, I wanted to spend every moment I could outside. I went up to my room, grabbed my book and found a huge shade tree at the edge of the property and completed relaxed. I could hear birds chirping, the wind in the trees and watched butterflies flit about. Pure relaxation in a gorgeous, pristine setting.

Dinner was extraordinary. I was grateful that jw was willing to share some dishes with me because I wanted to try as much of the menu as I possibly could. Roasted pork belly, duck confit, truffled mac & cheese, chocolate lava cake... Yes, please! Perfection. I can only imagine what dinner at The Dining Room would have been like. Next time!

After a perfectly restful night, I awoke to another gorgeous day. Next on the agenda, a La Prairie facial in the Aquarius spa. My face and soul have never been more pampered. I deserved this and even if I didn't, I was pretending I did! I later joined JW in the incredible indoor/outdoor pool. It was the perfect ending to our stay at Whatley Manor.

Before we headed back to London, we spent some time in the little town of Malmesbury a few miles down the road. There, I visited an abbey that was founded in 675 and walked thru the quaint, but lovely town. Malmesbury is one of, if not the oldest, continually inhabited town in England. Stop and have a pint at The Smoking Dog Pub! Definitely worth a visit.

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### jw's thoughts:

I could have sworn I arrived to Whatley Manor with Ann, but after arriving, I lost her to the truly unbelievable grounds. I think she went through 100's of 32g memory cards. But I couldn't blame her. The grounds of Whatley Manor are that of Alice in Wonderland. Truly breathtaking (be sure to ask to look at their book documenting the renovations, amazing to see what was involved!)

We met with Eloise (who I met at ILTM 2009) who is a perfect fit with this classic but modern property and after the tour, I lost Ann again, or she me to the spa facility which had a hydrotherapy pool which had an airbed that literally had me feeling better than I have ever felt. The facility also had a Tepidarium, Clidarium Camomile Steam Grotto, a Laconium and Dry Sauna. Honestly just remembering it calms me. Ahhhh...

The night we were there the 2 star Michelin restaurant 'The Dining Room' wasn't open (open Wendesday – Sunday) so we dined at Le Mazot which with its Swiss Chalet atmosphere, provided the comfort food dining that hit the spot. The room accommodations were perfect. Spacious, warm, all the furniture was inviting, and provided me with one of the most restful sleeps on my entire trip.

In the morning, while Ann was having a spa treatment, I used one of Whately Manor's Skeppshult bikes (a selfshifting bike) and rode along the countryside to a nearby village. Though the day was warm and sunny, even if it had been 'typically overcast and rainy' it would have been perfect. I made sure to get back in time to be able to use the hydrotherapy pool again before leaving.

Overall, I have to say that Whatley Manor provides the kind of peace and tranquility in with all the modern bells and whistles without losing the traditional English Manor feel, which I have not experienced from any other property. Put this high on your list. You won't be disappointed.

