

WEDDING

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Old Manor Hotel, Bradford-On-Avon

Nestled in the idyllic Wiltshire countryside, Old Manor Hotel sits in the picturesque village of Bradford-On-Avon, only a short drive from the bustling and picturesque city of Bath. The former farmhouse is a gem of a find, boasting its very own walled garden and retaining a lot of its original features, including exposed brickwork and wooden beams, giving a notably old-fashioned yet homely feel. Upon arrival, the warm, open fire and charming décor gives you just a taste of what's to come during your stay. With all produce locally sourced and fruit and vegetables homegrown, you'll be spoilt for choice thanks to the delectable dishes on the menu. The romantic dining area, known as the Milking Parlour, is a restored farm building filled with antique furniture and other vintage touches, and comes complete with a bar and lounge area, perfect for pre-dinner drinks. After enjoying a three-course meal and celebrating with a bottle of champagne, you can guarantee a good night's sleep in your deluxe honeymoon suite, which showcases a four-poster bed and antique furnishings. Meanwhile, if you want to get out and about, venture into nearby Bradford-On-Avon. The pretty chocolate-box town stands on the banks of the River Avon and has been described as a mini-Bath, but it has enough of its own charm to stand alone, with its ancient alleyways, cobbled streets and Roman ancestry. It's packed with lovely restaurants and independent shops, to leisurely explore, and head to the centre of town for a cluster of Tudor buildings known as The Shambles. History-lovers will also be interested in the remarkable Tithe Barn nearby – a 14th century monastic stone building with views of the south downs. Rooms from £135 per night, including breakfast. 01225 777 393, oldmanorhotel.com.



Hotel du Vin, Poole

With a tang of salt in the air and the caw of gulls nearby, there's no mistaking the proximity of the hotel to the sea, but because it's tucked neatly down a cobbled street in Poole's historic Old Town, it's the perfect hideaway for the first night of married life. One of the most recent additions to the Hotel du Vin family, the Grade II listed Georgian house is so plush yet cosy that it feels like a wealthy relative has left town and given you the run of their home. From the richly-carpeted stairs, to the glow of the wall-mounted lights, the whole place breathes understated luxury. The bistro restaurant is the warm, glowing heart at the centre, which features an open kitchen, with moules marinière and perfectly-cooked steaks on the menu. The rooms are a treat as well – each has Egyptian cotton sheets, hand-sprung mattresses, monsoon showers, and deep-soaking baths – just what's needed after the excitement and whirl of your big day. If you have enough time, explore the local quay with its smugglers alleys, cosy seafront pubs and local shops, or take a 20-minute ferry trip across to Brownsea Island. Most of the land there is owned by The National Trust and its woodland is one of the only places where red squirrels can still be found in the wild. Rooms from £131, including breakfast for two. 0845 365 4438, hotelduvin.com.