

NORWICH

★ WINNER ★

**NATIVE**

**NEW MANCHESTER** 11 12 & £

This aparthotel is making self-catering sexy. The grade II listed converted Victorian warehouse near Piccadilly station has a vast lobby/bar with vaulted brick arches, chunky metal columns, blond wood and glass ceiling panels. Rooms range from generous studios to two-bedroom flats; all have gorgeous kitchenettes in blue and brass. The fit-out is by Conran and the rugged industrial feel is lightened with pops of colour in the linen and cushions. There are also eight palatial penthouses with terraces and a luxe art-deco look. Downstairs is Cultureplex, run by the east London restaurant Bistrottheque. It has a buzzing bar, a small cinema and a sophisticated brasserie serving steak tartare, miso sea trout and a wondrously wobbly panna cotta. Work off the excess with a class at Blok, the trendy in-house gym. Studios from £81, two-bedroom flats from £118; mains from £13; nativeplaces.com

**LOCK & KEY NEW**

**LIVERPOOL** 11 12 & £

What this newly converted grade II listed Georgian townhouse on Duke Street lacks in size, it makes up for in style. The 14 rooms have wallpaper with floral motifs, black-and-white zigzag carpets, velvet headboards and scallop-shaped cocktail chairs. The restaurant is hip, too, with bare-brick walls, parquet floors, velvet banquettes and a fabulous brunch featuring stacks of American pancakes and Mexican scrambled eggs. Want it in bed? They'll bring it up for no extra charge. In fact, it's the service that makes Lock & Key stand out: expect a pre-arrival phone call for any requests, and to be greeted like an old friend. Doubles from £60; mains from £6.50; lockandkeyhotels.com

**MANOR HOUSE LINDLEY**

**WEST YORKSHIRE** 11 12 & ££

The furniture and interior designer Sara Presley fell for this grade II listed Georgian manor in Huddersfield while out jogging. It opened 18 months ago after a £5.5m makeover, with stained glass and sumptuous fabrics blending with floor-to-ceiling windows and eclectic art. The 11 luxury rooms have William Morris wallpaper, Temple Spa toiletries, rolltop baths and Persian rugs. There are several bars and cafes, and the rooftop terrace draws the locals for cocktails, Yorkshire ales and live music. The highlight, though, is a seasonal tasting menu featuring dishes such as Whitby crab flecked with chilli, eaten beneath the vast opal chandelier in the Lantern Room. Doubles from £159, B&B; mains from £20; manorhouselindley.co.uk

**THE ANGEL AT HETTON**

**NORTH YORKSHIRE** 11 12 & £

Run by Michael Wignall, this Yorkshire Dales inn is about fun, not fine dining – it has just won a Michelin star for dishes you can enjoy in jeans and muddy boots. At £65 for six courses, the menu is half the price of the one at Wignall's previous base, Gidleigh Park, and signature plates such as salt-baked celeriac, hen of the woods mushrooms and smoked ricotta have travelled north with him to the four interconnecting dining rooms, which have 15th-century beams and pared-back decor. The nine bedrooms are awaiting a Scandi makeover in January – Dyson hairdryers and Lauden chocolates hint at the luxury to come. Doubles from £250, including dinner and breakfast; mains from £22.95; angelhetton.co.uk

**BEST FOODIE HOTEL**



**NIP DOWN TO THE SPA** Lodore Falls, Cumbria

**GRANTLEY HALL NEW**

**NORTH YORKSHIRE** 11 12 & £££

Take a run-down grade II listed Palladian mansion near Ripon, add a high-energy multimillionaire and you get a country-house hotel that offers the best wellness facilities in Britain. Grantley opened in July, with an oak-panelled bar, three restaurants and 26 elegant rooms in the main house. The new wing has 21 more contemporary bedrooms, an Ila spa, a sauna, a steam room, a 60ft indoor pool and a gym headed up by the Atlantic rower Duncan Roy. Facilities include a cryotherapy chamber, an underwater treadmill and an altitude studio. Doubles from £275, B&B; grantleyhall.co.uk

**BEST WELLNESS HOTEL**

**THE TALBOT NEW**

**NORTH YORKSHIRE** 11 12 & £

Georgie and Sam Pearman, the design duo who worked for the Lucky Onion hotel, restaurant and pub group, have migrated from the Cotswolds to Malton, Yorkshire's foodie capital, to transform a 17th-century coaching inn. They've introduced hot-mustard velvet armchairs, herb-filled terracotta pots and open fires in the bar and snug. Meals are a flexible affair: you could have sharing plates in the bar, pie and mash in a nook off the lobby or chargrilled mackerel in the pretty



dining room. The 26 bedrooms have blue and green panelled walls, vintage dressers and bathrooms with rolltop tubs and full-size bottles of 100 Acres toiletries. Doubles from £100, B&B; mains from £12; talbotmalton.co.uk

**LODORE FALLS HOTEL & SPA**

**CUMBRIA** 11 12 & £££

In November last year, this 150-year-old hotel by Derwentwater opened its new £13m spa annexe and shifted from staid to stylish. The new wing has 18 cavernous suites, treatment rooms, a hydrotherapy pool, steam rooms, saunas and a champagne bar. The decor in the rooms features splashes of purples and greys,

with oversized chairs and TV screens creating a sense of grandeur. In the main building, there's Mizu, a pan-Asian restaurant serving salmon sashimi, veggie nigiri and fiery Thai green curry. Spa suites from £460, B&B; mains at Mizu from £17; lakedistricthotels.net/lodorefalls

**THE YAN NEW**

**CUMBRIA** 11 12 & £

This boutique hotel in a 17th-century farmhouse is a salt-of-the-earth place: warm and brimming with laughter. Up the road from Grasmere, it has seven rooms with super-king beds, glass dressing tables and grey wool midcentury-style sofas. The nerve centre is the bistro, with low ceilings, a slate floor and tables of polished planks, where groups share huge platters of Cumberland sausage ring with creamy mash, or whole lemon chicken with pesto potatoes. Breakfast is courgette frittata with a shard of hash brown so crispy, the crunch echoes around the nearby hills. Doubles from £100; theyan.co.uk

**THE SAMLING**

**CUMBRIA** 11 12 & £££

There's a new star on the Lake District dining scene. Robby Jenks's creations – caramelised hazelnuts with foie gras, pork loin with roasted onions – taste even better in the Samling's new dining room, a glass-walled oblong box that breaks out of the side of the 19th-century house and presents a sweeping panorama of Windermere. The 12 bedrooms have super-king or emperor beds, Beaumont & Brown sheets and splashes of vibrant colour, including shimmering art-deco greens. This isn't a place for Gore-Tex – the food and that view are all you need. Doubles from £280, B&B; three-course dinner £65; thesamlinghotel.co.uk

**THE BLACK BULL NEW**

**CUMBRIA** 11 12 & ££

The owners of this 17th-century coaching inn in Sedbergh have brought discreet modernity to the Yorkshire Dales – brushed-steel lighting, vivid photography on the walls and stylish wool blankets from a local loom. The food is elevated pub fare: platters of superb local cheeses



**COSY CHIC** The Black Bull, Cumbria

Continued on page 20 →