

TARA DE LA MOTTE

H O M E S & G A R D E N S

ISSUE 01 · OCT / DEC 2026

INTERIORS · CHRISTMAS · KITCHEN · ESCAPES

ESCAPE

Rye, Arundel & Petworth

THE KITCHEN

*Coffee & walnut cake,
plum crumble and canapés*

THE DIARY

Christmas markets & RHS Glow

AUTUMN INTO CHRISTMAS

Halloween to Christmas

*Candlelit Halloween styling, a foraged Christmas wreath
and Tara's December at home*

INTERIOR STYLING

Period Style, Shabby Chic & Art Deco

PLUS THE BEST GARDENS, ANTIQUES & GARDEN CENTRES ACROSS ENGLAND AT TARADELAMOTTE.COM



FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome

Tara at Borde Hill Gardens. Stylist, writer and baker, she offers garden styling, interior styling, colour consultancy and an English afternoon tea service. About Tara

Hello, my name is Tara, and welcome to the very first issue of my magazine.

I realised early on that a singular vocation was not for me. My love of the place we call 'home' led me on my journey to find and nurture my many vocations. I am passionate about home and garden styling, and have written for many well-known lifestyle and home and garden magazines.

I want to share with you the things that bring me joy: my home, the food I make, and the mind-blowing natural therapy of gardening. In this busy world, I believe we all need to look to our home comforts and how we can make this personal sanctuary warm and beautiful.

This autumn I have gathered my Halloween and Christmas decorating, my favourite interiors, recipes from my kitchen and the season's best days out. There is so much more on my website, from the Garden & Home Directory to my garden letters and recipe videos. I hope it will be a source of inspiration to you all.

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ON THE COVER From Tara's article on Period Style, page 11. Every article continues at taradelamotte.com/articles

The Diary

Fairs, markets and light trails for the season, from autumn colour to Christmas. Dates are from the organisers; check before you travel.

Autumn

Sheffield Park and Garden

UCKFIELD, EAST SUSSEX (NATIONAL TRUST)

A Capability Brown landscape of lakes and rare trees, famous for its blazing autumn colour reflected in the water.

3 – 4 November 2026

Ardingly International Antiques & Collectors Fair

SOUTH OF ENGLAND SHOWGROUND, ARDINGLY, WEST SUSSEX

One of the great two-day antiques fairs, held several times a year.

*20 November –
22 December 2026*

Winchester Cathedral Christmas Market

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL CLOSE, HAMPSHIRE

Wooden chalets in the cathedral close.

*26 November –
13 December 2026*

Bath Christmas Market

BATH CITY CENTRE, SOMERSET

Chalets through the city streets.

*From 20 November
2026*

RHS Glow

ALL FIVE RHS GARDENS

Winter light trails on selected dates. Pre-booked tickets only at Wisley, which opens on Christmas Eve for the first time this year.

Wisley

20 November 2026 – 3 January 2027

Harlow Carr

26 November – 30 December 2026

Bridgewater

26 November – 30 December 2026

Hyde Hall

26 November – 30 December 2026

Rosemoor

27 November – 30 December 2026

Addresses for the Home

Shops we love for interiors, home comforts and antiques, all from the Garden & Home Directory.

INTERIOR SHOPS

Rae

RYE, EAST SUSSEX

Rustic vintage homeware hand-picked from the UK and Europe, alongside collections from modern independent makers.

Wattle and Daub

GODALMING, SURREY

Ceramics, textiles, furniture and vintage finds in a Tudor house.

Philo & Philo

BRUTON, SOMERSET

Vintage furniture and pieces by local makers, called the country's buzziest interiors store by The Sunday Times.

Stag Interiors

SOUTHWOLD, SUFFOLK

Everything from classic kitchenware to seahorse sculptures, in a playful, modern style.

Arighi Bianchi

MACCLESFIELD, CHESHIRE

HOME COMFORTS

Winter's Moon

CHICHESTER, WEST SUSSEX

One of Chichester's best-loved independent homeware shops.

Moda

FOLKESTONE, KENT

An award-winning independent for home decor, candles and prints.

Graham & Green Bath

WALCOT STREET, BATH

A family-run interiors and homeware store of vintage-inspired finds and statement pieces.

ANTIQUES

Petworth Antiques Market

EAST STREET, PETWORTH, WEST SUSSEX

More than 35 dealers under one roof in the town known as the antiques centre of the South, with fine silver, tableware, furniture and vintage clothing.

Tudor Rose Antiques & Interiors

PETWORTH, WEST SUSSEX

Ten dealers in a former alehouse, a short stroll from the market.

SAVE THE DATE

RHS Chelsea Flower Show

18 – 22 May 2027

ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA, LONDON

The most famous flower show in the world. Tickets for RHS members go on sale on 19 October 2026 and for the public on 21 October 2026.

NEXT YEAR'S SHOWS

RHS Malvern Spring Festival

THREE COUNTIES SHOWGROUND, MALVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE

6 – 9 May 2027

BBC Gardeners' World Live

NEC, BIRMINGHAM

17 – 20 June 2027

RHS Bristol (new for 2027)

BRISTOL

8 – 11 July 2027

RHS Flower Show Tatton Park

TATTON PARK, KNUTSFORD, CHESHIRE

21 – 25 July 2027

Every show and event:

taradelamotte.com/garden-shows

Discover taradelamotte.com

Everything in this magazine continues online, with much more besides: the places, the seasons and the addresses behind a beautiful home and garden.

THE GARDEN & HOME DIRECTORY

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checked listings across the North, East, South and West of England and online: gardens to visit, garden centres, interior shops, antiques, paint, curtains and blinds, kitchens, home comforts, countryside and wildlife, each with its own page.

Shop Online

Online shops we trust for antiques, interiors, plants and home comforts.

taradelamotte.com/directory/online

taradelamotte.com/directory

What's On

Garden shows and events: RHS Glow this winter, then Malvern, Chelsea, the new RHS Bristol and Tatton in 2027.

taradelamotte.com/garden-shows



Villages & Towns

In-depth guides to 43 of the loveliest villages and towns of the South, from Rye and Arundel to Castle Combe and St Ives.

taradelamotte.com/villages

Photo: Saffron Blaze, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Beauty Spots

The New Forest, Richmond Park, Beachy Head and the Seven Sisters, and the great landmarks of the Downs.

taradelamotte.com/beauty-spots

Photo: Diliff, Papa Lima Whiskey, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

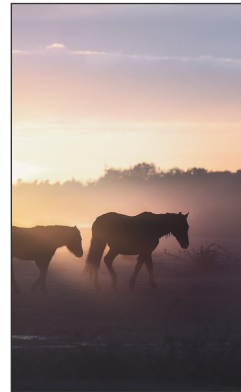


Countryside

The South Downs National Park, with the South Downs Way, 100 miles from Winchester to Eastbourne.

taradelamotte.com/countryside/south-downs

Photo: Andy Li, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons



Wildlife

Zoos, wildlife parks, nature reserves and butterfly houses, region by region, from the storks of Knepp to winter swans.

taradelamotte.com/wildlife

Photo: Joana Kruse joanaimages.com, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Tara's Garden

Twelve monthly letters from Tara's garden, January to December.

taradelamotte.com/taras-garden-january-to-december



Articles

Interior styling, gardening, flowers and recipes: every article in this issue continues online.

taradelamotte.com/articles



Recipe Videos

Tara's recipes on film, presented by Tara de la Motte.

taradelamotte.com/tara-de-la-motte-recipe-videos



Services

Garden styling, interior styling, colour consultancy and Tara's English afternoon tea.

taradelamotte.com/services

A woman with long brown hair is sitting on a wooden floor, leaning against a dark wooden wall. She is wearing a light blue long-sleeved dress with a white collar and a white fedora hat with a dark band. She is looking out a window to her right. The room has warm lighting, with a bright light source on the left creating a strong shadow on the floor. The floor is made of wide wooden planks.

TARA DE LA MOTTE SERVICES

Home is our very own temple

*I believe in creating smart, stylish and individual
interiors without spending a fortune.*

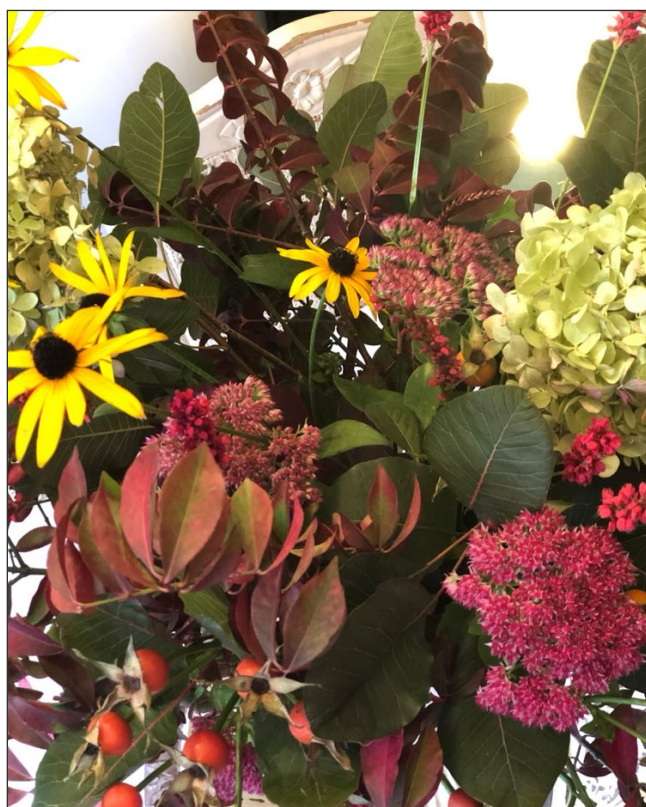
INTERIOR STYLING

ENQUIRE AT TARADELAMOTTE.COM/HOME-AND-INTERIOR-STYLING

FROM TARA

Tara's October Letter

BY TARA DE LA MOTTE



WE ARE NOW IN full autumnal glory, as the trees turn amber and gold before winter arrives. It is one of my favourite times of the year: a season of fire and farewells, with the flaming colours of autumn foliage, berries and flowers at their finest.



Bringing autumn indoors

This is the moment to bring autumn indoors, with vases of birch and crab apple branches, rose hips, hydrangeas and autumn foliage from the garden and nearby hedgerows.



At the beginning of October I start collecting miniature pumpkins, gourds and squashes to dot around the home and decorate the dining table, setting the scene for autumn. It is something I have always done, and it has become a tradition at this time of year.

A season of fire and farewells.

*“It is something I have always done,
and it has become a tradition at this
time of year.”*

My dahlias and rudbeckias are still flourishing outside, and they join the pumpkins on the autumn table. A few coloured glass votives dotted around the table are the final touch.

Two events to look forward to

PAD London, held in October in Berkeley Square in London's Mayfair, is London's leading fair for 20th-century design and decorative arts. It is the sister fair to PAD Paris, which takes place every April in the beautiful surroundings of the Jardin des Tuileries, and it inspires collectors, art consultants, museum experts, interior specialists, design practitioners and the general public alike.

Then there is the 'Spirit of Christmas' fair at Olympia London, one of my favourite end-of-year events: a superb Christmas shopping occasion featuring the best small, independent boutiques and British artisan producers.

Both are well worth the visit, and I look forward to them every year.

Tara recommends

For gardens to visit this autumn, including Sheffield Park and Garden, browse the gardens in our directory.
taradelamotte.com/directory/south/gardens

CONTINUE READING ONLINE
[taradelamotte.com/
post/taras-october-letter](http://taradelamotte.com/post/taras-october-letter)



INTERIOR STYLING

Period Style

To me 'Period Style' is not just for stately homes, museums and other grand places. This is a style that can be translated into our own homes.

BY TARA DE LA MOTTE



HOW THE INTERIORS OF houses have developed through the centuries, how styles have changed and how we might adapt the styles of the past to modern life is a subject of great interest to me.



'Period Style' is not just for stately homes, museums and other grand places. It translates perfectly well into our own homes.



The desire to decorate homes in the most authentic way has never been stronger.

By mixing old and new, authentic and reproduction, and by drawing on the wealth of wallpaper, fabric and flooring available today, creating a period-style home becomes far less daunting.

The style can be achieved with confidence and at sensible cost, while still evoking an atmosphere of grandeur. In my own home, the distressed and the recycled share space with the more elegant and refined, and the mix of old and new is very pleasing to the eye.

If you are thinking of adding a period touch to your home, these are the points to consider:

Colour

Colour can change the character of a house from one era to another. I have a great fondness for the later Georgian period and its palette of muted colours: soft grey, pale green, pale pink and 'dead' white.

In the past, colour was kept for the walls and white was used mainly for the mouldings. In a modern room with dark wood furniture, however, white walls lighten and brighten the space. With so many shades of 'white' available, you will find the one that suits your home best. (Farrow and Ball have a wide selection of period colours.)

Fabric

The great furnishing fabrics of the past were sumptuous and expensive, but similar effects can be achieved today at a far more moderate cost.

Shops such as Ikea stock excellent linen, and you can mix fabrics with floor-length muslin and lace curtains. Curtains should be long, elegant and sweeping the floor.

I once read about a designer who used builders' dust sheets for curtains, and they really do make beautiful curtains; I have them hanging in my own house. The effect is surprisingly elegant. Wash them on a delicate cycle, as they will shrink a little.

“In a modern room with dark wood furniture, however, white walls lighten and brighten the space.”

Furniture

Furniture can be painted or polished. If you are lucky enough to own a piece of antique furniture, however, never attempt to paint it.

Woods need not match, but they should complement each other. The larger charity shops are an excellent source of period pieces.

Almost all of my bedroom furniture, apart from my sleigh bed, came from second-hand shops and is worth much more than I paid for it. I value these pieces for their age, beauty and patina, and would never part with them.

Lighting

Nothing evokes atmosphere like the flicker of candlelight, but we cannot live by candlelight alone, and the crowning glory of any room is a graceful chandelier.

A single chandelier, even in an otherwise empty room, lifts and enhances the whole space. Many reproduction French-style chandeliers can be bought locally for a fraction of the cost of an original, so it is well worth looking around.

Art

No period home is complete without pictures. A painting makes a statement in a room and is an essential ingredient of period style, and artwork can be bought at little cost. When you have time, browse second-hand shops and car boot sales: you may come across an unexpected treasure. We are also fortunate to have excellent artists here in Sussex, most of whom exhibit in local galleries.

If you are starting a collection of paintings or pictures, it makes sense to collect around a theme: pictures of food for the kitchen, perhaps, while nudes are better suited to the bedroom or bathroom and portraits look good in the sitting room. Ultimately there is no right or wrong; choose whatever appeals to you.

Accessories

Many modern or minimalist spaces lack soul and are devoid of accessories, stark and formal, more hotel than home. Beautifully mismatched accessories play a great part in a period home.

The rule is simple: choose accessories that please the eye and have special meaning to you.

China sits well in a period house, as does silverware of every kind, and I am an avid collector of both. Home is where you use your best china and silver.

However your home comes together, it should always contain the essence of comfort and style.

*Tara
recommends*

For period pieces, browse the antiques centres and markets in our directory, region by region.
taradelamotte.com/directory/south/antiques

CONTINUE READING ONLINE
[taradelamotte.com/
post/period-style](http://taradelamotte.com/post/period-style)

Shabby Chic

Comfort, cosiness and relaxation are some of the fundamentals of Shabby Chic – an unpretentious and exquisitely beautiful style

BY TARA DE LA MOTTE



SHABBY CHIC WAS BORN in 1989: not only a brand name but a decorating style founded by Rachel Ashwell

Comfort, cosiness and relaxation are the fundamentals of Shabby Chic, an unpretentious and exquisitely beautiful style. Above all, it is a functional way of living that we can re-create in our own homes on a low budget.



Rachel Ashwell, a single mother of two, originally set out to open a small shop where she could sell 'pretty things'. Her vision and her love of vintage style and second-hand finds struck a chord with customers, who have found her comfortable, relaxed

approach to design both reassuring and achievable.



I have always felt at home with vintage fabrics and artefacts. They carry warmth and a sense of history, which is why this style has always appealed to me.



The Shabby Chic room is peaceful and calm, bright and warm, and flexible enough to be whatever you want to make it. A washed-out, faded look is the key, and every shade of white paint is used. White paint is inexpensive, guarantees a room filled with light and provides a pure, uncluttered backdrop against which old and new furniture blend easily.

The look is entirely practical and committed to no particular era, which means it works in any house.

“Soft romantic fabrics and muted colours are designed to delight the eye and please the senses”

“A child should feel free to put her feet on the sofa, and a guest his cup on the coffee table.”

Unlike decorative styles that work only in certain settings, Shabby Chic is versatile and boundary-free. It is about weeding out the unnecessary, trusting your instincts about what is comfortable and practical, noticing details, experimenting with complementary combinations of colour and fabric, and appreciating imperfection and age for their own particular beauty.

Because the style rewards flexible, creative thinking, you can take advantage of bargains wherever you find them. Just a few signature pieces will create a beautiful home that reflects your own taste and personality.

To get the most from second-hand treasures, be prepared to give them

a new purpose, whether your taste is traditional, retro or modern. A simple coat of paint quickly revives a neglected find, and if you are handy with a sewing machine, vintage and remnant fabrics bought at sale prices make decorative cushions, seat covers and simple curtains.

“A mismatched, eclectic collection can prove to be extremely endearing”

Shabby Chic represents a renewed appreciation for what is useful, well loved and comfortable: for the things some might consider too tattered and worn to be of use or value.

At heart, Shabby Chic is simply a matter of low-cost solutions that make a house both easy to live in and beautiful.

Rachel's philosophy is that nothing should be too precious. A child should feel free to put her feet on the sofa, and a guest his cup on the coffee table. Collecting important, rare and costly objects meant to be seen and not touched is not what Shabby Chic is about.

The style favours things that are inherited rather than shop-bought, and handmade rather than mass-produced. It also values the beauty of process and evolution.

Tara recommends

For vintage finds and interiors shops near you, explore the Garden & Home Directory. taradelamotte.com/directory

CONTINUE READING ONLINE
taradelamotte.com/post/shabby-chic



INTERIOR STYLING

Age of Opulence

Art Deco style is elegant without being too fussy. Achieving this look in our homes today is not a difficult task – all it takes is a little imagination.

BY TARA DE LA MOTTE



ONE OF THE MOST stylish and fascinating periods of the 20th century is the Art Deco age (1910-39), and it is remarkable how well the style sits within our homes and lives in the 21st century.



The term 'Art Deco' comes from the 1925 "Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes" in Paris, which brought together and showed the works of the period's most prominent artists, architects, craftsmen and designers. The exhibition promoted a bright new future for everyone after the misery of World War I.



It was a time of optimism and wealth: the age of jazz, women's right to vote, the arrival of the radio and the first transatlantic flight. The period also gave birth to ground-breaking artistic movements such as cubism and surrealism.

Art Deco is easily recognised by its bold lines. Compared with the styles before it, it was considered radical: grand, colourful, geometric and highly streamlined.

Unexpected materials such as mirrored glass and lacquer gave furniture its 'wow' factor. Art Deco interiors were sparkling, bright, modern, functional and extravagant.

Deco design influenced every field, from art and architecture to jewellery, fashion and transport. The movement was truly international.

Get the Look

Art Deco style is elegant without being fussy, and achieving the look at home today takes only a little imagination. Take time to explore your local second-hand shops, where there is a wealth of Art Deco furniture to be found.

“The period also gave birth to ground-breaking artistic movements such as cubism and surrealism.”

Look out for furniture with straight edges and simple construction, typical of the period.

Lloyd Loom furniture is very stylish and suits the Art Deco home. Chairs, laundry baskets, ottomans and bedside tables can all be found locally in charity shops, or on eBay. A light coat of paint refreshes second-hand Lloyd Loom and adds a touch of Art Deco glamour.

MIRRORED ACCESSORIES

Mirrors were used everywhere in Art Deco design, from mirrored cabinets to lamp bases. Mirrored furniture and accessories are popular again today, and reproductions are made to look like the originals of the era.

ANIMAL PRINT

Splashes of animal print are a must in the Deco home, in throws, cushions or rugs. Zebra and cheetah prints are the most popular.

LIGHTING

Add a sparkling chandelier or two, and your Art Deco home is nearly complete.

To stay true to the period, choose wall lights in a fan or bowl shape, and for side lamps, bases with figurines.

COCKTAILS

Finally, let 1930s Hollywood glamour into your home with a cocktail party. No Art Deco home was complete without a cocktail cabinet, and the cocktail hour meant people could dress up and feel like stars of the silver screen in their own homes.

*“Deco design influenced every field,
from art and architecture to jewellery,
fashion and transport.”*

Tara recommends

For Art Deco treasures, look through the antiques centres across England in our directory.
taradelamotte.com/directory/east/antiques

CONTINUE READING ONLINE
[taradelamotte.com/
post/age-of-opulence](http://taradelamotte.com/post/age-of-opulence)

WHERE TO FIND IT <i>Antiques Centres Worth the Trip</i>	Hemswell An- tique Centres HEMSWELL, LINCOLNSHIRE Hemswell Antiques Centre and Canberra Antiques Centre share one site, which also hosts the Astra An- tiques Fair, in a county rich in antiques fairs and markets.	Elsecar An- tiques Centre ELSECAR HERITAGE CENTRE, NEAR BARNLEY, SOUTH YORKSHIRE More than 100 traders of antiques, vintage and collectables over two packed floors.	St Martins An- tiques Centre STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE More than seventy ex- pert dealers, open sev- en days a week.	Rye House An- tiques WISH STREET, RYE, EAST SUSSEX A specialist in mid-cen- tury pieces.
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Home Sweet Home

*Home is where the heart is...
That very familiar place that we
call home beckons us each time
we are out of its endearing
reach*

BY TARA DE LA MOTTE



HOME IS WHERE THE heart is. That familiar place beckons each time we are out of its reach: wherever we go, however far we travel, we are always glad to return to the comfort of our own sanctuary. It is where we laugh and cry, the place that sees us through good times and bad, our own corner of the world, which we want to make warm, cosy and individual.



"Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful" - William Morris

I am always looking for inspiration for improving and adding to my home, whether from magazines, books or exhibitions. These sources are invaluable for ideas that make a home that little bit more special.



I have a deep affection for all things French, so it is no surprise that I am drawn to French-inspired interiors. Perhaps it comes from my French heritage: my father's ancestors originated from Versailles.

French style rests on a 'more, not less' principle. Modern elements have their place, but they work best when fused with and supported by older pieces. Layering is the key to the look: heaps of cushions in vintage fabrics alongside silk and lace throws, intricately woven rugs faded

by the footsteps of time, and elegant chandeliers whose aged crystals still sparkle in the late afternoon sun.

“Modern elements have their place, but they work best when fused with and supported by older pieces.”

French homes have a time-worn, ethereal beauty, and my own home is filled with objects that are loved and cherished. I source many of them from car boot sales and local charity shops; after all, one man's rubbish is another man's treasure.

With so many beautiful objects waiting to be found here in Sussex, decorating can become a poignant and fulfilling journey, discovering pieces that once belonged to someone else.

Once rediscovered, they can be given new life: refreshed, renewed and recycled.

The treasures you find can be arranged and rearranged into your own beautiful compositions. Simply moving objects from place to place in a room lets you see them in a totally different light. My house is constantly evolving; home, to me, is an ever-changing landscape.

“For our house is our corner of the world... It is our universe, a real cosmos in every sense of the word” – Gaston Bachelard

Even as a child I loved playing house, and I still hold to the same fundamental belief: the place you live can be made beautiful without spending a fortune. My home is a thing of beauty, created with careful thought and sentiment.

Tara recommends

French Loft, with French antiques and decorative pieces, is one of the dealers in our directory.
taradelamotte.com/directory/south/interior-shops/french-loft

CONTINUE READING ONLINE
taradelamotte.com/post/homes-interiors-styling-french

WHERE TO FIND IT <i>French Finds</i>	French Loft ARUNDEL AND PETWORTH, WEST SUSSEX A dealer trading from its own warehouse in Arundel and from Petworth Antiques Market.	The Pantiles Antiques Market THE PANTILES, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT More than 40 selected dealers in the historic Pantiles, with valuations and plenty of places to eat.	Farnham Maltings Antiques Market FARNHAM, SURREY A monthly market, one of the oldest and largest quality markets in Surrey and Hampshire.
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INTERIOR STYLING

The Art of Display

Collecting the ingredients for a display takes years and the satisfaction you get from them is immense.

BY TARA DE LA MOTTE

COLLECTING THE INGREDIENTS FOR a display takes years, and the satisfaction it brings is immense.

Each time you look at a display, it should evoke a special memory. Displays should speak of the homeowner's passions, and that is what I aim for in my own home. It is these personal arrangements that turn a house into a home.



Elegant Accoutrements

An elegant desk inlaid with leather is the perfect place to display useful accoutrements, while leaving ample space for correspondence.

“Displays should speak of the homeowner’s passions, and that is what I aim for in my own home.”

A Touch of Turquoise

On the sophisticated Chippendale cabinet sits a diverse range of decorative pieces to please the eye. Turquoise glassware and pottery provide accents of glorious colour.



Diamonds and Pearls

This beautiful plate is the crowning glory of the display, a small reminder of a time that has passed. The eye is drawn to diamonds, pearls, ornament and literature: in every respect, a perfect mélange.

Your own treasures deserve the same care: integrate them into your home and let them tell your story.

Tara recommends

For treasures to display, spend a day with the antiques dealers of Petworth, with our guide to the town.
taradelamotte.com/villages/petworth

CONTINUE READING ONLINE
taradelamotte.com/post/the-art-of-display



Approach colour with confidence

*I will work with you to create a personalised paint
palette that's perfect for your unique home and style.*

INITIAL BRIEFING · HOME VISIT · YOUR CUSTOM PLAN

COLOUR CONSULTANCY

ENQUIRE AT [TARADELAMOTTE.COM/COLOUR-CONSULTANCY](https://taradelamotte.com/colour-consultancy)



A warm, autumnal still life composition. In the foreground, two lit pillar candles in glass holders cast a soft, golden glow. To their left is a small, ribbed orange pumpkin, and further left is a white pumpkin. In the background, a large orange pumpkin sits on a light-colored surface. To the left of the pumpkins, a decorative pie with a lattice crust is visible. The overall atmosphere is cozy and inviting, typical of Halloween or autumn home styling.

AUTUMN INTO CHRISTMAS

Halloween Styling Ideas for Your Home

*On Halloween night I set the mood for our Halloween
soirée by dimming the lights and lighting lots of candles
and votives*

THE CELTS BELIEVED THAT 31st October was a night of black magic, when witches, ghosts and the spirits of the dead returned to earth.

They lit great bonfires to ward off witches, but also to welcome the ghosts of their ancestors.



Today, for most of us, Halloween is a day for costumes, trick-or-treating, carving pumpkins and hosting parties with plenty of edible treats.



I never pass up an occasion to decorate the home, and Halloween is one of the best.



“They lit great bonfires to ward off witches, but also to welcome the ghosts of their ancestors.”

Dress twigs with lights and hanging pumpkin decorations, and dot the house with mini pumpkins and votives. I always place a couple of larger carved pumpkins on the steps to the front door to welcome visitors.

The mantel is adorned with Halloween decorations, and the dining table is dressed in Halloween style.

On the night itself, set the mood for a Halloween soirée by dimming the lights and lighting plenty of candles and

votives. Our table is filled with Halloween nibbles and sweet treats, all displayed on Halloween-themed tableware collected over the years.

Finally, dot a few more mini pumpkins between the dishes and bowls for a truly festive feel.

With the scene set, it is time to celebrate with family and friends and enjoy the occasion.

“Finally, dot a few more mini pumpkins between the dishes and bowls for a truly festive feel.”

*Tara
recommends*

For autumn and winter days out, from RHS Glow to the great shows of 2027, see What's On. taradelamotte.com/garden-shows

CONTINUE READING ONLINE
[taradelamotte.com/
post/halloween-styling-house](https://taradelamotte.com/post/halloween-styling-house)

WHERE TO FIND IT <i>Autumn Days Out</i>	Sheffield Park and Garden UCKFIELD, EAST SUSSEX (NATIONAL TRUST) A Capability Brown landscape of lakes and rare trees, famous for its blazing autumn colour reflected in the water.	Coolings Wych Cross FOREST ROW, EAST SUSSEX A family-run garden centre on Colemans Hatch Road at the edge of Ashdown Forest, part of a Kent and Sussex business growing since 1913.	Haskins Snowhill COPTHORNE, WEST SUSSEX Named the Garden Centre Association's South East Garden Centre of the Year in 2026, and third in the national destination category.
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AUTUMN INTO CHRISTMAS

Tara's November Letter

BY TARA DE LA MOTTE

NOVEMBER HAS A QUIET charm of its own. There is a stillness in the air, a feeling that nature is winding down, and so are we. It is the time for a walk through the countryside among crisp fallen leaves, as the season gives way to winter.



The last of the dahlias

The garden has been stripped of the last of summer's growth, except for the wondrous dahlias, which should continue to flower for a little while yet, until the first frost. Our dahlias have graced the house all summer long, and so far I have not bought a single flower.



A feeling that nature is winding down, and so are we.

Cosy days indoors

Now the focus turns indoors, to making the home warm and cosy for the colder months ahead. Make sure the house is well stocked with candles and soft throws for the hibernation period.

This is my time for books and writing, for a little rearranging around the home, and for making warming food to enjoy on cosy nights in.

“Make sure the house is well stocked with candles and soft throws for the hibernation period.”

Tara recommends

For cosy things for the home, browse the home comforts shops in our directory.
taradelamotte.com/directory/south/home-comforts

CONTINUE READING ONLINE
taradelamotte.com/post/taras-november-letter

WHERE TO FIND IT <i>Cosy Days</i>	Winter's Moon CHICHESTER, WEST SUSSEX One of Chichester's best-loved independent homeware shops.	Moda FOLKESTONE, KENT An award-winning independent for home decor, candles and prints.	HomeSense Brighton THE QUADRANT, BRIGHTON Homeware, bedding, lighting and tableware from well-known brands at reduced prices; stock changes constantly.	RHS Glow WISLEY, HARLOW CARR, BRIDGEWATER, HYDE HALL, ROSEMOOR Winter light trails at all five RHS gardens on selected dates from late November; Wisley opens on Christmas Eve for the first time.
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Winter Luxe

To celebrate this winter season, here are some tips on how to survive the cold months ahead in comfort and style

BY TARA DE LA MOTTE



I AM NOT A cold-weather person, but I do appreciate the co-siness of winter: a season of feel-good textures and snug comfort.

To celebrate the season, here is how to see out the cold months ahead in comfort and style.



As the dark evenings draw in, lighting becomes all the more important. Create the mood with low-level

lamps and candlelight. Tea lights are a must in my house; they burn constantly through the winter months, and placed in glass dishes or jars they give a warm, welcoming glow.



Surround yourself with warm textures. Choose a throw in silk, satin, velvet or soft cashmere and wool, and drape it over the sofa for added cosiness. Scatter a few winter cushions in deep, rich reds, plums and golds.

Indulge in a few delicacies, such as chocolate and fine champagne, or a glass of Baileys on ice.

Music keeps the shorter, darker days calm. My choice is the greatest hits of Ella Fitzgerald and Andrea Bocelli.

“Indulge in a few delicacies, such as chocolate and fine champagne, or a glass of Baileys on ice.”

Scent creates a warm atmosphere on a winter’s evening. Vanilla and sandalwood are my preference: a few drops in an oil burner let the aroma drift through the home.

Cosy up in front of an open fire. If you don’t have one, group pillar candles of different shapes and sizes together for the same effect, and always remember to be candle-safe.

Bring in a variety of winter foliage; rosemary and lavender cuttings go well together, and the simple eleg-

ance of the pairing suits a vintage vase. Let the fragrance fill the room.

On crisp evenings I like to sit outside with friends, with fairy lights wrapped around the plants for soft lighting and patio heaters for warmth. I cook one of my favourite easy dishes, chilli, and serve it with pitta bread. Casual dining of this kind leaves plenty of time to relax and talk.

Unwind on long, dark evenings with a hot bath. First give the bathroom a good clear-out, so the space is min-

imal and relaxing. Invest in bath oils; lavender essential oil is very soothing. If budget allows, buy luxury white towels and a few products from Acqua di Parma. A couple of candles complete the ritual and are an absolute luxury.

Finally, make the bedroom romantic with plenty of layering in silk, linen, velvet and down. A warming mug of hot chocolate and a good book are all you need for a pleasurable bedtime.

*Tara
recommends*

For winter comforts, browse the home comforts and interiors shops in our directory.
taradelamotte.com/directory/south/home-comforts

CONTINUE READING ONLINE
taradelamotte.com/post/winter-luxe

WHERE TO FIND IT <i>Home Comforts</i>	The Hamble- don WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE A townhouse store, a small department store of homewares, fashion, beauty and stationery.	Winter’s Moon CHICHESTER, WEST SUSSEX One of Chichester’s best-loved independent homeware shops.	HomeSense Tunbridge Wells FOUNTAINS RETAIL PARK, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT TN2 3FB A large HomeSense on the edge of town, open late on weekdays and Saturdays.	RHS Glow WISLEY, HARLOW CARR, BRIDGEWATER, HYDE HALL, ROSEMOOR Winter light trails at all five RHS gardens on selected dates from late November; Wisley opens on Christmas Eve for the first time.
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AUTUMN INTO CHRISTMAS



Christmas Homemade Wreath

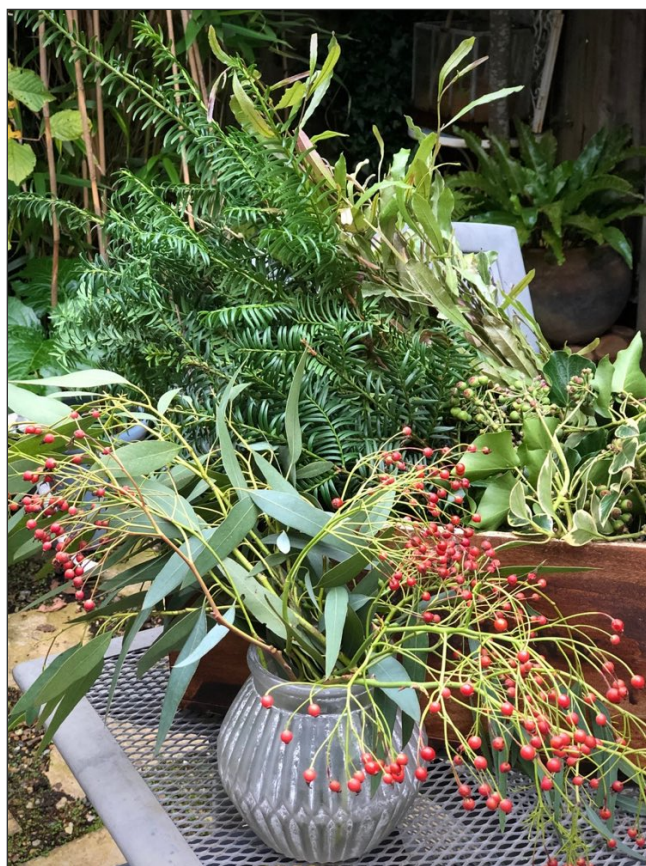
There is nothing more welcoming than a handcrafted wreath for your front door, and creating your very own foraged wreath is far lovelier than buying one

BY TARA DE LA MOTTE

NOTHING IS MORE WELCOMING than a handcrafted wreath on the front door, and a foraged wreath of your own making is far more beautiful than a ready-made one.

I use as many natural materials as possible when making my Christmas wreath, and foraging around the garden for them is one of the great satisfactions of the season.

Even a small garden like mine provides an abundance of moss, ivy, conifer, holly and other evergreen cuttings for the perfect wreath.



“Then add mixed greenery in small bunches, wiring each one to the moss base until the wreath is complete.”

Start with a wire base; mine is reused every year. Cover the base generously with moss, securing it with floristry wire. Then add mixed greenery in small bunches, wiring each one to the moss base until the wreath is complete.



Finish with a beautiful ribbon bow to suit your colour scheme. A wreath is not just for Christmas, either: a sus-

tainable foraged wreath is a wonderful way to celebrate every season.



There is no limit to what nature offers for a bespoke piece of your own.

Dried flowers, seed heads, twigs, grasses and even feathers can all be foraged to embellish your wreath.

Tara recommends

For wreath bases, ribbons and foliage, find a garden centre near you in our directory.
taradelamotte.com/directory/south/garden-centres

CONTINUE READING ONLINE
taradelamotte.com/post/christmas-homemade-wreath

WHERE TO FIND IT <i>Christmas Markets & Fairs</i>	Winchester Cathedral Christmas Market WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL CLOSE, HAMPSHIRE Wooden chalets in the cathedral close, 20 November – 22 December 2026.	Bath Christmas Market BATH CITY CENTRE, SOMERSET Chalets through the city streets, 26 November – 13 December 2026.	Coolings Wych Cross FOREST ROW, EAST SUSSEX A family-run garden centre on Colemans Hatch Road at the edge of Ashdown Forest, part of a Kent and Sussex business growing since 1913.
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AUTUMN INTO CHRISTMAS

Tara's December Letter

BY TARA DE LA MOTTE

THE HOLIDAY SEASON TRULY comes alive in our home when the wreath goes up on the front door. I make my own every year from lush green foliage gathered in the garden. It is a messy business, and perfecting the craft takes practice, but the result is always worth it when it adorns the doorway.



Decorating for Christmas

Decorating for Christmas is a week-long affair in our house. Every room is dressed with festive decorations and the essential elements that capture the spirit of the season. As Christmas draws closer, I add the final touches with more greenery from the garden, decorating mirrors, mantels and pictures.



The kitchen, the heart of the home, is bustling during the holiday season. It is where I spend extra time adding festive touches and displaying my collection of Christmas

china, and it becomes the festive backdrop for all the baking this time of year demands.



The Christmas tree

The most important moment of all is putting up the Christmas tree, a tradition I look forward to every year. Each year new decorations join our sentimental and nostalgic treasures, every one of them holding a memory of Christmases past.

“Amid all the joy and festivity, we must remember that for some, Christmas can be a bittersweet time.”

Let us hope that this Christmas, peace will find a home in every heart.

Yet the magic of Christmas goes beyond the decorations and the delicious smell of baking. It is about spending time with the people we love and cherishing the moments we share.

Amid all the joy and festivity, we must remember that for some, Christmas can be a bittersweet time. Let us hope that this Christmas, peace will find a home in every heart.

Make the most of every moment this season with those you love, wherever you are and however you celebrate, and let the spirit of Christmas bring joy to those around you.

*Tara
recommends*

For RHS Glow and the winter light trails at all five RHS gardens, see What's On. taradelamotte.com/garden-shows

CONTINUE READING ONLINE
[taradelamotte.com/
post/taras-december-letter](https://taradelamotte.com/post/taras-december-letter)



THE KITCHEN

Coffee & Walnut Cake Recipe

A classic coffee and walnut cake with a mascarpone coffee frosting: Tara de la Motte's recipe, with ingredients, method and serving suggestions.

BY TARA DE LA MOTTE

A CLASSIC CAKE THAT pairs coffee and walnut beneath a rich mascarpone frosting.



“The magic of Coffee and walnut”

Coffee and walnut cake has become something of a national treasure in the UK. I have yet to come across a tea room here in Sussex that doesn't serve it.



Its enduring popularity owes much to the surprising pairing of coffee and walnut.

INGREDIENTS

What you will need

- 180g Butter
- 180g Caster Sugar
- 3 Eggs
- 180g Self-Raising Flour
- 2 tsp of Instant Coffee powder dissolved in 1 tbsp of Hot Water
- 60g Walnut Pieces
- 2 x 7-inch Sandwich Tins

Frosting

- 250g Mascarpone Cheese
- 85g icing sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp Instant Coffee powder dissolved in 1 1/2 tsp Hot Water
- Walnut Halves to Decorate

Method

- 1 Preheat oven to 160°C fan / gas 4
- 2 Cream butter & sugar
- 3 Beat in eggs
- 4 Add flour and combine everything

“Its enduring popularity owes much to the surprising pairing of coffee and walnut.”

- 5 Fold in the walnuts and coffee
- 6 Divide mixture between tins and evenly spread out
- 7 Bake for 25 mins
- 8 Check cake is cooked by inserting a skewer and this should come out clean

Frosting

- 1 Mix mascarpone, icing sugar and coffee till creamy

- 2 Spread half the frosting evenly on one cake then place other on top and spread remaining frosting on top

- 3 Decorate with walnut halves to finish

This is a rather sophisticated, impressive cake. Serve it as a dessert at the end of a meal, perhaps with freshly whipped cream laced with a dash of coffee liqueur.

“Coffee and walnut cake has become something of a national treasure in the UK.”

*Tara
recommends*

Watch my recipe videos, from afternoon tea sandwiches to cakes, on the website.
taradelamotte.com/tara-de-la-motte-recipe-videos

CONTINUE READING ONLINE
[taradelamotte.com/
post/coffee-walnut-cake-recipe](http://taradelamotte.com/post/coffee-walnut-cake-recipe)

Plum Crumble with Custard

What better dessert for a lazy Sunday than a comforting crumble? Plum crumble is a family favourite made with juicy ripe plums

BY TARA DE LA MOTTE



FEW DESSERTS SUIT A lazy Sunday better than a comforting crumble. Plum crumble is a family favourite, made with juicy ripe plums beneath a really crunchy topping.



Serve it with creamy custard, and perhaps a spoonful of freshly whipped cream for total indulgence.



Plums come into season in August, and the best of them, for me, grow in my parents' garden. When they are ripe I pick them in abundance for crumbles, jams and tarts.

The finest way to eat them, though, is straight from the tree: mouth-wateringly delicious, full of flavour and grown organically.

“Plums come into season in August, and the best of them, for me, grow in my parents’ garden.”

*Tara
recommends*

For more of my recipes and culinary articles, visit the articles on the website. taradelamotte.com/articles

CONTINUE READING ONLINE
[taradelamotte.com/
post/plum-crumble-with-custard](https://taradelamotte.com/post/plum-crumble-with-custard)



THE KITCHEN

Crackers, Caramelised Onion, Marmalade & Brie

Crackers with caramelised onion marmalade & brie are the perfect party bite – delicious and pleasing to the eye

BY TARA DE LA MOTTE

CRACKERS WITH CARAMELISED ONION marmalade and Brie are the perfect party bite with all manner of drinks: small, delicious and pleasing to the eye.



[illegible]

The one rule to remember with these, or any canapés, is that the base must be sturdy enough to hold the topping, so that each one is easy to pick up and eat.

These are simplicity itself, with no cooking involved. The topping is both sweet and salty, the perfect combination. Another cheese works well if you prefer; Stilton is a good alternative.

- Small Crackers
- A jar of Onion Marmalade
- Brie
- Crushed Walnuts

“Serve hors d’oeuvres on neutral platters wherever possible, so that they really stand out.”

- 1 Spoon a teaspoon of onion marmalade on top of the cracker
- 2 Top it with a slice of brie
- 3 Scatter over crushed walnuts

Serve hors d'oeuvres on neutral platters wherever possible, so that they really stand out.

They are perfect for relaxed drinks with friends and family, leaving plenty of time to talk, enjoy the occasion and make memories.

For a special occasion, my afternoon tea service brings homemade sandwiches, hors d'oeuvres and freshly baked cakes to your home. taradelamotte.com/culinary-delights

CONTINUE READING ONLINE
taradelamotte.com/
post/crackers-with-caramelised-onion-marma
lade-brie



Afternoon Tea at Home

There is nothing more quintessential than an English afternoon tea: homemade finger sandwiches, hors d'oeuvres and beautifully buttery, freshly baked cakes, with a selection of sparkling wines to complement.

CULINARY DELIGHTS

ENQUIRE AT [TARADELAMOTTE.COM/CULINARY-DELIGHTS](https://taradelamotte.com/culinary-delights)

Bouquet of Roses & Lilies

A jewel-toned bouquet of roses and stargazer lilies, why flowers make the best gift, and how to keep a bouquet fresh for longer.

BY TARA DE LA MOTTE



WHEN YOU ARE FAR from your loved ones, few gestures communicate more than a beautiful bouquet of flowers. The language of flowers speaks volumes.



This exotic, jewel-toned bouquet of roses and stargazer lilies was a delight to receive; unboxing it turned an ordinary day into an extraordinary one. Anyone who knows me knows how much I value receiving flowers.



“A bouquet of flowers is a mini garden that you can give”

The bouquet is from ‘eflorist’, who have been delivering flowers for years and whose flowers are always fresh and vibrant. They arrive in bud and bloom within a day or so, last a long time, and their beauty and fragrance are intoxicating.

Nothing enlivens a room more than fresh flowers; they bring light and a touch of romance to any room.

“To make cut flowers last much longer, trim the ends and change the water every couple of days.”

To make cut flowers last much longer, trim the ends and change the water every couple of days. This bouquet from ‘eflorist’ came with an excellent step-by-step care guide.

When looking for a present for a girlfriend, flowers are always my answer.

You can never go wrong sending or giving a bouquet: it is always received with delight and surprise.

“A Lily or a Rose never pretends and its beauty is that it is what it is”

“This bouquet from ‘eflorist’ came with an excellent step-by-step care guide.”

*Tara
recommends*

For more flowers and styling ideas, browse my articles on the website. taradelamotte.com/articles

CONTINUE READING ONLINE
[taradelamotte.com/
post/bouquet-of-roses-and-lilies](https://taradelamotte.com/post/bouquet-of-roses-and-lilies)

Autumn & Winter Days Out

Blazing autumn colour, gardens lit for Christmas and the great winter gatherings of swans and geese: the best of the season, from our directory.

GARDENS & LIGHT TRAILS

RHS Glow

WISLEY, HARLOW CARR, BRIDGEWATER, HYDE HALL AND ROSEMOOR

Winter light trails at all five RHS gardens on selected dates, 20 November 2026 – 3 January 2027 at Wisley and from late November at the others.

Sheffield Park and Garden

UCKFIELD, EAST SUSSEX (NATIONAL TRUST)

A Capability Brown landscape of lakes and rare trees, famous for its blazing autumn colour reflected in the water.

WINTER WILDLIFE

WWT Welney Wetland Centre

WELNEY, NORFOLK

Up to 9,000 wild swans gather in midwinter, Bewick's from Russia and whoopers from Iceland, with floodlit evening feeds in season.

WWT Martin Mere

BURSCOUGH, LANCASHIRE

A large mere and winter-flooded fields where more than 25,000 pink-footed geese and hundreds of whooper and Bewick's swans roost in winter.

RSPB Minsmere

WESTLETON, SUFFOLK

Ducks on the Scrape, Bewick's swans in winter, and a starling roost of up to 50,000 birds by late October; arrive 45 minutes before dark.

RSPB Titchwell Marsh

TITCHWELL, NORFOLK

Overwintering waders such as greenshank and spotted redshank, with long-tailed ducks, wigeon and scoter offshore.

RSPB Pulborough Brooks

PULBOROUGH, WEST SUSSEX

Wet meadows in the Arun valley, beside Amberley Wildbrooks: wonderful for wildfowl in winter and a feeding ground for the storks.

Farne Islands

NORTHUMBERLAND COAST (NATIONAL TRUST)

Reached by boat: some 150,000 pairs of breeding seabirds each summer, and grey seals and their pups in autumn.

FESTIVE LIGHTS

Longleat

NEAR WARMINSTER, WILTSHIRE

The UK's first safari park, opened in 1966, with a drive-through safari and a winter festival of lights.

Tong Garden Centre

TONG, BRADFORD, WEST YORKSHIRE

One of Yorkshire's biggest independent garden centres, on a 17-acre site, named the GCA's best in the North East for Christmas displays six times.

Tara recommends

For more gardens to visit in every region, with their own pages and maps, browse the gardens in the Garden & Home Directory. taradelamotte.com/directory/south/gardens



TARA DE LA MOTTE SERVICES

GARDEN STYLING

*“He who
plants a
garden, plants
happiness”*

I can create pots brimming with seasonal colour that are both eye-catching and welcoming, and beautifully transform your front door.

ENQUIRE AT [TARADELAMOTTE.COM/GARDEN-STYLING](https://taradelamotte.com/garden-styling)

ESCAPE

THREE SUSSEX TOWNS



Mermaid Street, Rye. Photo: Christopher Hilton, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

ESCAPE · EAST SUSSEX

Rye

Cobbled Mermaid Street, a Cinque Port that lost its sea, and Henry James at Lamb House

RYE SITS ON a small sandstone hill above the Romney Marsh, its red roofs and church tower rising out of flat green levels that were once open sea. It is one of the best-preserved medieval towns in England, small enough to walk end to end in twenty minutes and rich enough in history to fill a whole weekend.

What makes Rye special is how complete it feels. Cobbled lanes climb between timber-framed houses, the old town gate still guards the road in, and around almost every corner there is a view out over the marsh to the sea.

It is also a wonderfully good town for browsing. Independent bookshops, galleries, antiques dealers and interiors shops fill the streets around the High Street and the Strand, and the food scene has grown into one of the best in Sussex.

Rye's story begins with the sea. In Saxon times it was part of the manor of Rameslie, which King Ethelred gave to the Benedictine abbey of Fécamp in Normandy, and it stayed in Norman hands until 1247. The Domesday Book of 1086 already records 189 households here, a large settlement for its day.

Start at the Landgate and walk up to the church of St Mary, whose tower gives the best view over the rooftops and the marsh. From there it is a short stroll to the Ypres Tower, now home to Rye Castle Museum, and its gun garden above the river.

Mermaid Street is the classic Rye picture: steep cobbles, overhanging timbers and the Mermaid Inn halfway down. Church Square, ringed by old houses, is the quietest and loveliest corner of the town. Lamb House and its walled garden are cared for by the National Trust; check opening days before you go.

Down on the Strand, old warehouses now hold antiques, vintage shops and cafés. For antiques, Rye House Antiques on Wish Street is a good first stop, and for interiors, linen and homeware, Rae is one of the town's best shops.



The Ypres Tower, built in 1249, now Rye Castle Museum. Photo: DeFacto, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



The gun garden below the Ypres Tower. Photo: DimiTalen, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons

OUR ADVICE

Park below the town and walk up through the Landgate, climb the church tower for the view, then lose yourself in the lanes. Combine Rye with Great Dixter for a perfect day of history and gardens.

GETTING THERE

Rye station, a short walk from the old town, is on the Marshlink line between Ashford International and Hastings.

The full guide: taradelamotte.com/villages/rye



Arundel Castle, seat of the Dukes of Norfolk. Photo: Egjoni98, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

ESCAPE · WEST SUSSEX

Arundel

A castle town on the River Arun, home of the Dukes of Norfolk for centuries

ARUNDEL CLIMBS A steep hillside above the River Arun, crowned by a great castle and the soaring Gothic spire of its cathedral. Seen from the water meadows below, it looks almost too perfect to be real, and it is one of the most rewarding small towns in Sussex to explore.

Arundel is a much-conserved market town with more listed buildings than anywhere in West Sussex except Chichester. Its steep High Street and side streets are full of independent shops, antiques and interiors, cafés and old pubs.

And it sits right on the edge of the South Downs, with river walks, wetland birds and downland views a few minutes from the town centre.

The castle was established by Roger de Montgomery, who began work in around 1067, soon after the Norman Conquest. Since the 11th century it has been the seat of the Earls of Arundel and the Dukes of Norfolk, and the same family still lives there today.

Arundel Castle and its gardens open to visitors from spring to autumn (check dates). Inside are grand rooms, the Barons' Hall and the library, and outside is the Collector Earl's Garden, opened in 2008 by the then Prince of Wales, a playful, formal garden that is one of the most original in the South.

Visit the cathedral at the top of the town, then wander down the High Street and Tarrant Street for antiques and homeware, with tea rooms and cafés to stop in along the way. French Loft, with French antiques and decorative pieces, has a shop here. Arundel Museum, by the river, tells the town's story. Markets and fairs are held in the town through the year; check the town council's website for dates.

Just north of the castle lies Arundel Park, an old deer park on the chalk of the Downs, open to walkers. At its foot is Swanbourne Lake, an ancient artificial lake, where you can stroll the lakeside path, feed the ducks or hire a rowing boat in summer. The park is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, described by Natural England as one of the most important sites in the country for invertebrates, and on the hill above the lake stands Hiorne's Tower, a folly built for the 11th Duke by Francis Hiorne.



Arundel Cathedral. Photo: Michael Garlick, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons



The High Street, Arundel. Photo: Martin Dawes, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

OUR ADVICE

Visit the castle on a weekday in spring or early summer, walk the river path out to the wetlands, and save time for the shops on the High Street and Tarrant Street.

GETTING THERE

Arundel station is on the Arun Valley line from London Victoria, about ten minutes' walk from the town centre across the river.

The full guide: taradelamotte.com/villages/arundel



Petworth House from the west, across the park. Photo: Martinvl, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

ESCAPE · WEST SUSSEX

Petworth

The antiques town of the South, at the gates of Petworth House and Turner's deer park

PETWORTH IS A small market town of narrow lanes and old houses in the heart of West Sussex, about twelve miles north-east of Chichester. It is best known for two things: one of the greatest country houses in England, right on its doorstep, and one of the finest concentrations of antiques dealers anywhere in the country.

For anyone who loves antiques and interiors, Petworth is a destination in itself. The streets around the Market Square and East Street are lined with dealers in furniture, lighting, textiles and decorative pieces, so a morning here can easily become a whole day.

And beyond the town wall lies Petworth Park, a great landscaped deer park with views across the Weald to the South Downs.

Petworth is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 with 44 households, woodland, ploughland and meadows. Its annual fair is so old that travelling justices of Edward I decided in 1275 that it had existed since time immemorial and needed no royal charter.

Petworth House holds paintings by Turner, Van Dyck and Reynolds, carvings by Grinling Gibbons and a terrestrial globe by Emery Molyneux believed to be the only one in the world in its original 1592 state. The 700-acre park, with its large herd of fallow deer, is open for walks.

For antiques, start at Petworth Antiques Market on East Street, then visit Tudor Rose Antiques & Interiors and French Loft. Browse the dealers around the Market Square and finish with tea in one of the town's cafés.



Petworth town centre. Photo: Len Williams, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Pound Street, Petworth. Photo: David Howard, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

OUR ADVICE

Spend the morning with the antiques dealers, have lunch in the town, then walk through the park to the lake in the afternoon light that Turner loved.

GETTING THERE

The nearest railway station is Pulborough, on the Arun Valley line, about five miles away; Petworth's own station closed to passengers in 1955.

The full guide: taradelamotte.com/villages/petworth

The Address Book

Our pick of the antiques centres, gardens and garden centres across England, region by region. Every address is in the Garden & Home Directory, with more in each category and a page for each: taradelamotte.com/directory.

ANTIQUES CENTRES & FAIRS

North

Elsecar Antiques Centre

ELSECAR HERITAGE CENTRE, NEAR BARNSELY, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

More than 100 traders of antiques, vintage and collectables over two packed floors.

Antiques on High Harrogate

MONTPELLIER MEWS, HARROGATE

York Antiques Centre

Pieces from Ancient Rome to Georgian, Victorian, Edwardian, Art Deco and contemporary.

Red House Antiques Centre

Ten showrooms on three floors in the city centre.

Priestley's at No. 36

BOOTHAM, YORK

Dagfields Craft and Antiques Centre

Crafts and antiques together, open seven days a week.

East

Newark International Antiques & Collectors Fair

NEWARK SHOWGROUND, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Billed as the largest antiques fair in Europe, with up to 2,000 stalls.

St Martins Antiques Centre

STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE

More than seventy expert dealers, open seven days a week.

Long Melford Antiques Fair

VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL, LONG MELFORD, SUFFOLK

Holt Antiques & Interiors Centre

HOLT, NORFOLK

Some 30 dealers of vintage, industrial, country, painted and antique furniture under one roof.

South

Hungerford Arcade

HUNGERFORD, BERKSHIRE

Over 100 dealers under one roof in a family-owned arcade, open since 1972, with a tearoom upstairs.

Rye House Antiques

WISH STREET, RYE, EAST SUSSEX

A specialist in mid-century pieces.

Ardingly International Antiques & Collectors Fair

SOUTH OF ENGLAND SHOWGROUND, ARDINGLY, WEST SUSSEX

One of the great two-day antiques fairs, held several times a year.

The Pantiles Antiques Market

THE PANTILES, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT

More than 40 selected dealers in the historic Pantiles, with valuations and plenty of places to eat.

West

Huntington Antiques

STOW-ON-THE-WOLD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

One of Stow's best-known dealers, with one of the largest stocks of quality antiques in England.

Baggott Church Street

STOW-ON-THE-WOLD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Shepton Mallet Antiques & Collectors Fair

ROYAL BATH & WEST SHOWGROUND, SOMERSET

The largest antiques fair in the West of England, with more than 600 stands in four halls, held six times a year.

Lostwithiel Antiques Centre

MILL HILL, LOSTWITHIEL, CORNWALL

Lostwithiel Antique and Collectors Market

A monthly market on the first Saturday, with silver, jewellery, books, glass and ceramics.

GARDENS TO VISIT

North

The Alnwick Garden
ALNWICK, NORTHUMBERLAND

RHS Garden Harlow Carr
HARROGATE, NORTH YORKSHIRE

RHS Garden Bridgewater
WORSLEY, SALFORD, GREATER MANCHESTER

Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Water Garden
NEAR RIPON, NORTH YORKSHIRE (NATIONAL TRUST)

East

Chatsworth
BAKEWELL, DERBYSHIRE

RHS Garden Hyde Hall
RETTENDON, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX

Beth Chatto Gardens
ELMSTEAD MARKET, COLCHESTER, ESSEX

Anglesey Abbey
LODE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE (NATIONAL TRUST)
A garden with something to see in every season, among the National Trust's best in the East of England.

South

Sheffield Park and Garden
UCKFIELD, EAST SUSSEX (NATIONAL TRUST)
A Capability Brown landscape of lakes and rare trees, famous for its blazing autumn colour reflected in the water.

Nymans
HANDCROSS, WEST SUSSEX (NATIONAL TRUST)

Borde Hill Garden
HAYWARDS HEATH, WEST SUSSEX
A plant hunter's garden of rare trees and shrubs.

West Dean Gardens
CHICHESTER, WEST SUSSEX
A 300-foot pergola, restored Victorian glasshouses and one of the finest walled kitchen gardens in the country.

West

Stourhead
STOURTON, WILTSHIRE (NATIONAL TRUST)

The Lost Gardens of Heligan
NEAR MEVAGISSEY, CORNWALL

Eden Project
NEAR ST AUSTELL, CORNWALL

Hidcote
NEAR CHIPPING CAMPDEN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE (NATIONAL TRUST)
A celebrated Cotswold garden, one of the highest-rated in a Which?

GARDEN CENTRES

North

Bents Garden & Home
GLAZEBURY, NEAR WARRINGTON, CHESHIRE

Gordale Garden & Home Centre
BURTON, WIRRAL, CHESHIRE

Barton Grange Garden Centre
BROCK, NEAR PRESTON, LANCASHIRE

Fairways Garden Centre
MACCLESFIELD, CHESHIRE
A runner-up for the Garden Centre Association's North Local Garden Centre of the Year in 2026.

East

Perrywood Tiptree
TIPTREE, ESSEX

Poplars Garden Centre
TODDINGTON, BEDFORDSHIRE
Named the GCA's East Garden Centre of the Year in 2026, and a customer service award winner in 2025.

Pennells Garden Centre
SLEAFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE
The GCA's East Local Garden Centre of the Year in 2026.

Notcutts Woodbridge
WOODBIDGE, SUFFOLK
A centre of Notcutts, the family-owned group of 19 garden centres whose nurseries won 50 gold medals at RHS Chelsea.

South

Haskins Snowhill
COPTHORNE, WEST SUSSEX

Coolings Wych Cross
FOREST ROW, EAST SUSSEX

Garsons Esher
ESHER, SURREY
A 2026 finalist in the Garden Centre Association's South East awards.

Garsons Titchfield
TITCHFIELD, HAMPSHIRE
Garsons' Hampshire centre, also a 2026 finalist in the South East awards.

West

Planters Garden Centre
TAMWORTH, STAFFORDSHIRE
The Garden Centre Association's Midlands, Wales & West Destination Garden Centre of the Year in 2026.

Webbs Wychbold
WYCHBOLD, NEAR DROITWICH, WORCESTERSHIRE

Poundbury Gardens
POUNDBURY, DORSET
Named the GCA's Midlands, Wales & West Local Garden Centre of the Year in 2026.

Smith's Garden Centre
BAGINTON, WARWICKSHIRE
A runner-up for the GCA's regional Local Garden Centre of the Year in 2026.



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