

PASSPORTS & PÉRIGNON

SCONES AND EGYPTIAN COTTON PERCALE SHEETS



How do socialites spend their summer? Idling their weekends away with a cup of tea and a good book at the Baker House in the Hamptons, naturally.

From the moment we arrived at the Baker House 1650, we knew that a long line of socialites preceding us had revelled in all that this old-world retreat has to offer (perhaps it has something to do with the fact that it has consistently been rated by Conde Nast Johanssen as the most 'Excellent Inn of the Americas').

From the warmth of the bookshelf-lined reading lounges (which exude a sense of 'barefoot luxury') to the firelit, evening turndowns and the charming 'inn-style breakfast pancakes' (served with a steaming cup of freshly roasted coffee), Baker House is everything one imagines when envisioning the old-world superfluity of the Hamptons.

Nestled in the quaint historic village of East Hampton, The Baker House 1650 is a masterpiece of 17th century Cotswold-inspired architecture. Whilst possessing the homey, yet majestic feel of an old English Manor (think afternoon tea and scones), The Baker House offers her guests all the conveniences of modernity.

Our room, which can be found at the top of a magnificent colonial revival staircase, felt like home the moment we entered. Beautifully decorated and fitted with the finest Frette linens, it had us feeling like Elizabeth Bennett on holiday in the Cotswolds (post marriage to Mr Darcy, of course). Once surrounded by large fireplaces and antique wooden floors, the presence of modern technology is sure to be the chagrin of every baseball fan's wife.

However, regardless of whether your hubby wants to waste the weekend watching sports, once you enter the en-suite bathrooms, all your frustration is sure to disappear upon discovering the large sink-into-me bathtubs. Accompanied by L'Occitane products, your bath time luxury at the Baker House comes complete with the most recent edition of your favourite fashion magazine (found in the library downstairs). Give Nabokov or Camus a rest and catch up on US Weekly's scoop around the impending Royal nuptials instead (with a glass Veuve Clicquot in hand, obviously).

Mornings are an affair all on their own at the Baker House as the day starts with breakfast that is worthy of a Queen. Guests have the option of enjoying their meal in the garden, the breakfast room, or in their bedrooms (for those who wish to lie in). Fresh, local, and organic farm produce is prepared and presented to perfection; served along with your choice of the morning paper.

After breakfast, guests are encouraged to indulge in the amenities available at the Baker Spa. Completed in the fall

of 2000, the spa boasts a swimming pool, sauna, steam shower, Jacuzzi tub and the option to make a reservation for any of the spa's treatments – all free of charge in the evenings. Guests also receive complimentary access to the fully equipped East Hampton gym nearby.

For those craving a little more privacy, the Baker Carriage House is perfectly hidden in the sanctuary of the garden and offers more of a modern feel than the main house. Although newly restored, the Carriage House retains the charm of its original features; including barn doors, a wrought-iron spiral staircase and its slate and wooden floors. The bedrooms boast wooden sleigh beds, writing desks, plush seating and beautiful antique rugs. It also has its own private pool, surrounded by a beautiful bluestone patio.

Surrounded by so much luxury, one has very little desire to explore past the walls of the Baker House 1650. Why buy a house in the Hamptons when you can enjoy the finest one there? Inclusive, of course, of house staff that make our blueberry pancakes just the way we like them.

www.bakerhouse1650.com