



## Manors Maketh the Man...

...so think what a Sophie Conran-catered stay at Temple Guiting Manor could do for you. **ANTONIA METHUEN** finds the perfect mental detox away from the City at a Cotswolds haven

**THEY DON'T RUSH** things at Temple Guiting Manor. They've been around long enough to have confidence in their Grade I-listed house and estate – to be able to sit back and enjoy what they have.

And that's exactly what you should be doing. Sophie Conran – of the famous

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Conran design and restaurant dynasty – has brought something new and exciting to the manor and estate, first mentioned in the Domesday Book and in the heart of the Cotswolds. (Chocolate-box village Stow-on-the-Wold is a hop and a skip away.)

In the grounds of the Manor House, Sophie Conran has taken the barn and made it a space in complete sympathy with the estate's heritage – old wooden beams traverse the building's ceilings – yet thoroughly luxurious and contemporary. Floor-to-ceiling windows make the barn an airy oasis, and the five suites are individually, sumptuously designed by Sophie herself. As well as being able to book the barn for a perfect weekend party, though, Temple Guiting puts together some of the best themed weekend packages you're likely to come across.

These range from foraging for mushrooms with Mark Hix (of his eponymous Oyster & Chop House, Farrington, fame) to learning nose-to-tail butchery with Fergus Henderson (of the neighbouring St John restaurant).

For something that will make a welcome change from heading for the near-freezing expanses of Caledonia to bag some birds this autumn, Temple Guiting has put together the shooting party package *par excellence*. An eight-gun, 120-bird shoot laid on at the historic Sudeley Estate (with lunch at Sudeley Castle) sets the weekend up, while the following day – back in the warmth and cosiness of the barn – come cookery lessons with Michelin-starred chef Eric Chavot, and the mother of all dinner parties. Now that's shooting for the hip... **H** [sophieconrantg.com](http://sophieconrantg.com); 0207 706 1309