

CLEAN BREAKS

In the words of Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz* 'there's no place like home', and once you've seen our selection of planet-friendly holiday options for the spring, we hope you'll agree...



Merlin Farm

As staycations go, you could do a lot worse than head for North Cornwall, an area whose rugged beauty is matched only by its superlative landmarks. Between King Arthur's Tintagel, Bodmin Moor and The Eden Project, there's something altogether otherworldly about the place. This is echoed by the futuristic wind farm clusters dotted around - iconic representations of a thriving green scene.

If you're keen to follow the region's holiday trail without leaving a carbon footprint, look no further than Merlin Farm. With a background in hotel architecture, owner Darrel Wheeler set about renovating the stables just over two years ago, transforming them into four boutique eco-cottages. The interior design was undertaken by his wife Lucy who has attended to every last detail.



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Set in the backdrop of 27 acres of beautiful countryside overlooking the Vale of Lanherne, sustainability lies at the heart of Merlin Farm, encompassing everything from ground source heat pump underfloor heating to Horace the donkey come organic hedge trimmer! To improve efficiency, Darrel also has plans in the near future to generate his own electricity from solar PV panels.

Darrel and Lucy have hospitality in the blood, the former having taken on the family hotel in Newquay which he eventually sold to buy the farm three years ago. Born and raised in Cornwall, the couple are both well-informed and forthcoming on the best places to visit, and in particular, eat. Just as well then that Merlin Farm is five minutes from Jamie's Fifteen and less than half an hour from Rick Stein's numerous outposts and Nathan Outlaw's two Michelin star setup in Rock.

In his own words, Darrel describes his idyllic corner of the world as "a fantastic place that's still undiscovered". That might be true, but thanks to his tireless efforts to combine low impact leisure with luxury, Merlin Farm is the ideal base from which to start...

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