

Thyme out

A secluded Cotswolds escape offers cosy luxury, seasonal cuisine and blissful distance from the siren call of your inbox

Discovering there's no mobile signal can fill the business leader with dread but, for those arriving at the Gloucestershire village of Southrop, the tranquil and picturesque surroundings of Thyme will make it hard to care about the connectivity cut-off.

This quintessentially British boutique hotel was once a group of derelict Cotswolds stone barns, which were restored over the course of 12 years by founder and creative director Caryn Hibbert and her family. Finally, in 2015, it opened its doors as a hotel. Today there are eight bedroom suites in Thyme House – each individually designed and named after herbs found in the kitchen gardens – plus three double cottage suites and two cottages for larger groups and families.

All food served at Thyme is harvested from the garden and farm, and the hotel's award-winning cookery school offers demonstrations, tastings,



excursions and skill-based classes such as 'seasonal foraging' and 'flavours of Tuscany and Umbria'.

Breakfast is served in the authentic medieval Tithe Barn and features hearty options such as smoked salmon with kitchen garden chard and scrambled eggs, and lighter bites including homemade granola and homemade preserves. Dinner is taken at the estate's 17th-century village pub The Swan, a two-minute stroll from the hotel, with a menu that celebrates the

local and the seasonal. Meanwhile, for hot drinks and cakes during the day, or something stronger in the evening, head to ovine-themed The Baa, a comfy guest drawing room decorated with colourful sofas and sheep statues – the cocktails are botanical-themed and delicious (*Director* can vouch for the Lime Blossom daiquiri).

Should you overindulge, cycles are available to hire from reception or guests are welcome to bring their own and explore the area – there are maps available for local trails and walks showcasing the beautiful countryside. Before you know it you'll be hoping that mobile signal never comes back. **1** *Midweek rooms from £260 per night and weekend rooms from £350 per night. Cookery school classes start from £145.*



To find out more about this Cotswolds retreat, visit thyme.co.uk



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The Tithe Barn and courtyard at Thyme in Gloucestershire. Top: a luxurious bedroom at the hotel

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