



between the sheets

Maxine Ashford stayed at the Wilton Court Hotel, Ross-on-Wye.

MIX a blend of 16th Century culture with an award-winning menu, add a splash of first class hospitality and a dash of beautiful scenery and you have the perfect recipe for a lovely short break.

All these ingredients can be found just 40 minutes from Cardiff in idyllic Ross-on-Wye at the Wilton Court Hotel.

Nestled on the banks of the River Wye, the beautifully-restored former magistrates' building has 10 individually-decorated en suite bedrooms with spectacular views either across the river or the hotel's finely-kept gardens.

From the moment you enter the hotel, the welcome could not be warmer, with a cool glass of lemonade or a bottle of chilled bubbly by the river, which is often frequented by swans and otters. The hotel is owned and run by Roger and Helen Wynn, who have years of experience working in some of the world's leading hotels like Hong Kong's Shangri-La and the Dorchester in London.

All that expertise and experience has been invested in the Wilton Court Hotel and the result is a relaxed atmosphere where attention to detail is everything and service and quality is nothing short of five-star.

The Wilton Court is one of a handful of hotels to have been awarded two AA Rosettes for its cuisine and the hotel prides itself on using the finest local produce from Hereford and the surrounding counties. This passion for food, quality and service has resulted in a menu guaranteed to whet the appetite.

I sampled the tiger prawns starter served with garlic butter, red chillies, fresh ginger and parsley served in a puff pastry pillow. This was followed by fillet of Atlantic monkfish with roasted pepper and garlic, with homemade bread and butter pudding with a hint of lemon to finish. I have to confess it was the finest three-course dinner I have tasted for some time and very reasonably priced too.

It is this outstanding quality along with the beautiful decor and picturesque setting that sees guests constantly re-booking for another visit to the Wilton Court – I'm already checking my diary!

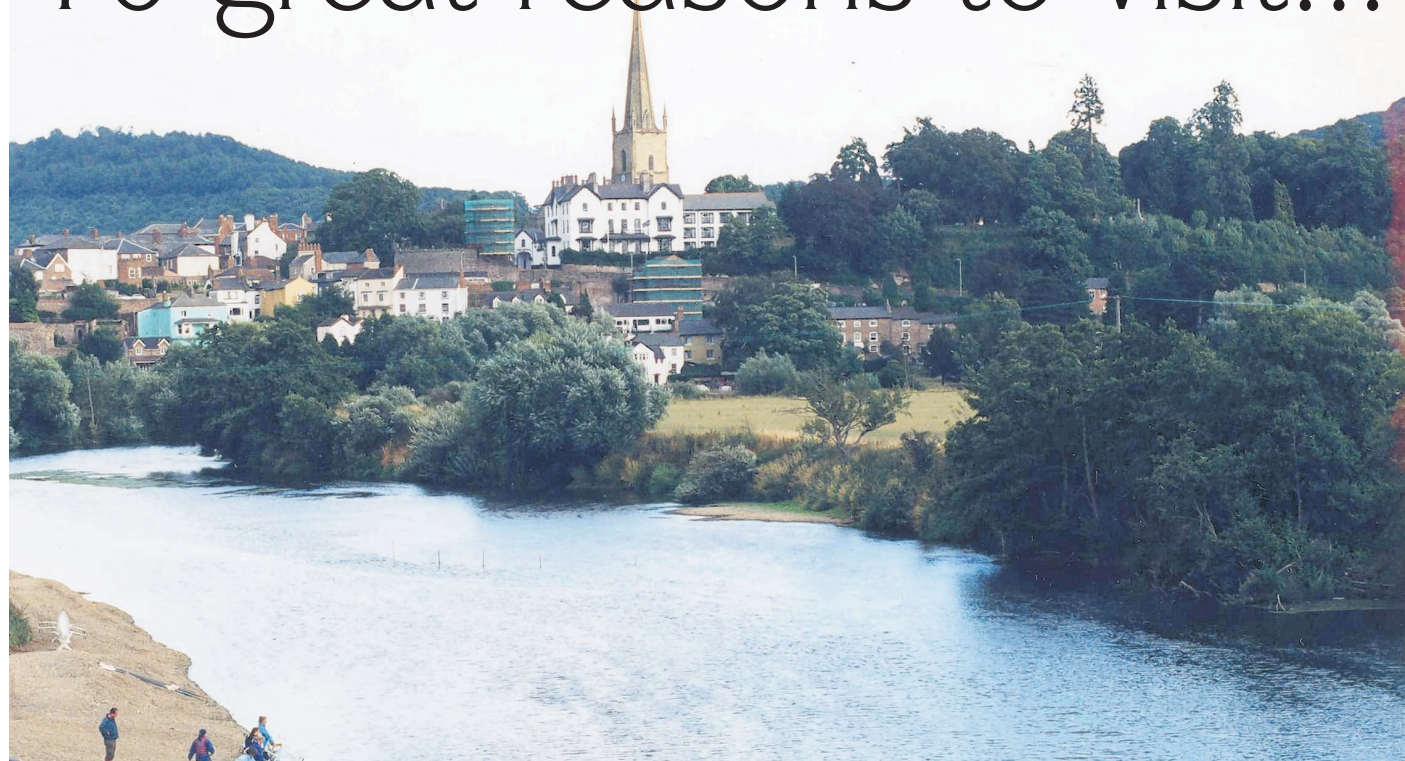
THE LOWDOWN

Easy to find? From Cardiff, driving to the Wilton Court Hotel could not be easier. From the M4 take junction 24 onto the A449 towards Monmouth and then the A40. When you arrive at the main Ross-on-Wye roundabout, turn right and then first right before the bridge – the hotel is on the right facing the river.

How much? Prices range from £70 to £110 for single occupancy to £120 to £150 for suites. (Prices include a full English breakfast). There are also seasonal rates plus all-inclusive two-night packages available and the hotel can be hired out completely for wedding parties too.

Contact: Roger and Helen Wynn at the Wilton Court Hotel. Telephone 01989 562569, e-mail info@wiltoncourthotel.com website: www.wiltoncourthotel.com

10 great reasons to visit...



Ross-on-Wye

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

High on a sandstone cliff overlooking a large loop in the River Wye is the historic market town of Ross-on-Wye. The spire of 13th Century St Mary's Church is visible for miles around and the river attracts canoeists, rafters and rowers. Less strenuous pursuits include fishing and walking along the banks enjoying the peace and tranquility of the river or exploring the many intriguing shops in the town centre.

THE AMAZING HEDGE PUZZLE

This is just the place for a bit of light-hearted entertainment. If you think you know how to solve mazes, then think again.

There are a host of activities to try including the unicycle or juggling.

MESS ABOUT ON THE RIVER

Symonds Yat is world famous for its natural river scenery. The river winds its way through Symonds Yat gorge and village, dividing it into East and West. River trips, which start from Symonds Yat East and last around 40 minutes, are available. There is full commentary telling of the natural beauty and



ON THE RIVER Top, the scenic beauty of Ross-on-Wye. Above, the market square. Left, the beautiful setting of the Wilton Court Hotel.

history of the area and light refreshments available.

Evening trips with bar and buffet for parties can be arranged. The Kingfisher seats 32 and the Wye Pride seats 50 and trips run from March to the end of October.

GOODRICH CASTLE

High above the River Wye, Goodrich Castle is still largely intact and protected by wide and deep ditches

audio explanation of the development of the area is available in English, German and French.

WYE VALLEY BUTTERFLY ZOO

You can see some of the world's most beautiful and delicate creatures. Watch as they emerge from their chrysalides, court, lay eggs and suck nectar from the many spectacular tropical plants.

CIDER FESTIVAL

There are a number of events taking place during the Cider Festival from Friday, August 31, to Sunday, September 2, 2007. There will be plenty of live music and tickets are available ranging from £5 for part of the celebrations to £10 for the whole weekend.

MARKET DAY

There is a general market each Thursday and Saturday, plus a cattle market on a Monday.

PARKFIELDS GALLERY

A diverse and extensive range of high quality art and contemporary crafts, ranging from paintings and prints to ceramics, glassware, sculpture, furniture, fashion textiles and jewellery.

GRANDMA PEGGY'S

A traditional sweet shop and family life museum in the town centre where you are invited to sample the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the 1930s.

THE HISTORY

The story of Ross and the Wye Valley is displayed in the famous sandstone Market House of 1650 where there are frequently changing community exhibitions and hands-on displays. An

