

SHOPPING SECRETS DISCOVER FRANCE'S BEST BROCANTES

WIN!  
LUXURY ART BREAK  
TO THE ROYAL ACADEMY

# HOMES & ANTIQUES

INSTANT WEEKEND

THE WHITE HART,  
SOMERTON, SOMERSET

*This idyllic hotel, situated on the Somerset Levels, is steeped in history*



With rural pubs shutting in alarming numbers, it's good to see a success story.

On a chilly Friday evening at 6.30pm, The White Hart was full to its elegantly unvarnished rafters. At the heart of the pretty Somerset market town of Somerton, the pub had a style-savvy revamp at the tail end of last year and now boasts an attractive, cosy bar, a beamed restaurant and eight well-decorated en suite rooms, with plush towels, big beds, real coffee and locally made toiletries. Dinner was several notches above pub grub, with ex-River Cottage head chef Tom Blake at the helm producing dishes such as locally sourced pork shoulder with cider ragu. Handy for both Bruton (where the world-class Hauser & Wirth gallery opens in July) and the antiques shops of Wells (Wells Reclamation is mind-blowing), Somerton is no slouch when it comes to vintiquing. After a hearty breakfast, we were off over the road to Market Cross Antiques, where 25 dealers sell everything from jewellery to furniture. Up to Broad Street and Anne Fisher's charming shop The Vintage Linen Press was bulging with fabrics and vintage knick-knacks. Around the corner is New Street is Life, where old and new are mixed with aplomb, with some of H&A's favourite fabric brands thrown in. Finally, in the unlikely setting of Somerton's pint-sized industrial estate, Vintage Country Interiors stocks an appealing mix of gardenalia and statement pieces.

◆ Prices start at £85 for a double room.  
01458 272273; [whitehartsomerton.com](http://whitehartsomerton.com)