Phene House

Region: The South West **Sleeps:** 18

Overview

Phene House has never been interested in behaving like a conventional country house.

Behind its handsome 1882 Somerset-stone exterior, gothic arches and original tiled floors meet contemporary art, mid-century furniture and rooms alive with colour and pattern. Gothic arches, tiled floors, old stone and fireplaces remain with contemporary art, mid-century pieces, saturated colour and unexpected pattern. The result feels glamorous without becoming precious; a house assembled with instinct rather than decorated by formula.

Seven individually designed bedrooms are joined by generous drawing and dining spaces, a marble-lined kitchen and the separate Limestone Gem annexe, allowing fourteen or more guests to come together without sacrificing privacy.

Outside, twelve acres unfold around a restored walled garden, where the heated pool sits beneath mature planting. Elsewhere there is a wood-fired sauna and cold plunge, private gym, football pitch and a stretch of the River Mells for wild swimming.

Lunch might begin beside the pool, move to the terrace and finish around the firepit. Dinner can be cooked over the Argentinian grill or left to a private chef. And with Frome, Bruton and Bath within easy reach, Phene House has Somerset at its disposal, though leaving it may prove the harder decision.









Facilities

Historical Sites • Horse Riding • <1hr to Airport • Walk to Village • Working Fireplace/Woodburner • Private Pool • Chef/Cook Available • Special Offer • Has Discount • Ideal for Teens • Cots (Cribs) • Maid Service Available • Heated Pool • Pets on Request • Walk to Restaurant • Wi-Fi/Internet • BBQ • Rural Location • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages • Gym/Fitness Room • Sauna/Steam • Animal farm • Zoo • Caves/Pre-historic site • Ruins • Climbing • Rafting • Kid-friendly museum • Kid-friendly excursions • Pre-Stocked Fridge Available • Yoga Classes Available • Trampoline • High Chair(s)

Interior & Grounds

The House

Phene House offers seven individually designed bedrooms in the main house, alongside Limestone Gem, a self-contained stone annexe included with the stay.

Ground Floor

- Entrance Hall: Grand reception hall with original Victorian tiled floor, decorative plasterwork and original pitch-pine staircase
- Living Room: Generous sitting room with working fireplace
- Family/Media Room: Relaxed second living space with wood-burning stove
- Dining Room: Formal dining room with seating for up to 14 guests
- Kitchen: Bespoke Jo Berryman-designed kitchen with Macchia Vecchia marble work surfaces, sculptural copper extractor hood and integrated Miele appliances
- Garden Room/Private Gym: Dedicated fitness space with Pilates reformer, rowing machine, red light panel, stationary bike, free weights and yoga equipment
- Children's Playroom: Dedicated indoor play space for younger guests
- Utility Room: Laundry and utility facilities
- Wine Cellar: Private wine cellar, which can be stocked ahead of your stay
- Cloakroom: Ground-floor guest cloakroom
- Doors opening onto the rear terrace and gardens

First Floor

All seven bedrooms are individually designed and feature Vispring or Savoir mattresses.

- Bedroom One: Emperor bed (200 x 200 cm) with ensuite shower room
- Bedroom Two: Super-king bed (180 x 200 cm) with ensuite bathroom









- Bedroom Three: Super-king bed with private bathroom located opposite
- Bedroom Four: Four-poster super-king bed with bathroom shared with Bedroom Five
- Bedroom Five: Super-king bed with bathroom shared with Bedroom Four
- The Loft: King-size bed, luxury sofa bed and ensuite shower room, sleeping up to four guests
- Bedroom Seven: Super-king bed with ensuite shower room

Limestone Gem – Separate Annexe

- Self-contained stone annexe located beside the main house, with a private entrance and its own key
- Sleeping Area: King-size bed with additional sofa-bed option
- Bathroom: Private bathroom
- Kitchenette: Private kitchenette for greater independence
- Full access to the main house gardens and facilities
- Particularly well suited to grandparents, a nanny or guests who would appreciate additional privacy

Exterior Grounds

- Grounds: Approximately 12 private acres with mature gardens, established trees and wildflower meadow
- Walled Garden: Restored walled garden with old stone walls, espalier fruit trees and mature planting
- Swimming Pool: Seasonal heated outdoor swimming pool with sun loungers and parasols
- Outdoor Shower: Shower located beside the pool area
- Sauna: Wood-fired sauna housed within a converted horse-box
- Cold Plunge: Cold plunge located alongside the sauna
- River: Private stretch of the River Mells running along the edge of the property, with access for wild swimming subject to natural river conditions
- Outdoor Dining: Terrace with space for outdoor dining
- Barbecue: Argentinian grill for outdoor cooking
- Firepit: Outdoor firepit for evenings in the grounds
- Football: Five-a-side football pitch
- Garden Games: Croquet and lawn games

- Trampoline: Outdoor trampoline
- Parking: Ample gated private parking

Additional Facilities

- High-speed Wi-Fi
- Sonos sound system
- Working fireplace and wood-burning stove
- Books and games
- Laundry facilities
- Private gym and fitness equipment
- Children's playroom
- Wine cellar

Location & Local Information

Phene House sits in twelve private acres at Great Elm, in the kind of Somerset location that makes it possible to spend one day almost entirely at home and the next moving between some of the county's best food, art and historic landscapes.

Frome is around ten minutes away, with independent shops, cafés and a strong food scene that has only become more interesting in recent years. Rye Bakery Cafe is an easy morning stop, while The High Pavement and Bistro Lotte are among the town's established addresses. A 2026 local food guide describes Frome as one of Somerset's most compelling gastronomic towns outside Bath.

Bruton, around fifteen minutes away, brings a different kind of draw. Hauser & Wirth Somerset has helped turn this small town into one of the South West's most recognisable cultural destinations, and the food scene has developed around it. Osip restaurant, now set in a former country inn just outside town, offers a farm-led tasting experience, while Briar and The Old Pharmacy add to the sense that Bruton punches well above its size.

Closer still is Mells, one of Somerset's prettiest villages, where The Talbot Inn combines the atmosphere of a fifteenth-century coaching inn with a kitchen focused on local meat, game, Cornish fish and produce from its own garden.

Further afield, Bath is around half an hour away for Georgian architecture, galleries and restaurants, while Wells, Glastonbury and Stourhead are all within easy reach. The Newt in Somerset also makes a strong day out for gardens, food and design, with The Botanical Rooms offering a more formal dining stop.

The immediate setting, though, is quieter: lawns, mature trees, wildflower meadow and the River Mells running along the edge of the estate. Walks begin from the property, and the wider countryside links easily into local footpaths and cycling routes.

That contrast is one of Phene House's strengths. You can spend the morning by the pool, lunch at a country pub, visit Hauser & Wirth in the afternoon and be back in time for dinner around the marble island or cancel the lot and stay exactly where you are.









What we love

- A heated pool in the walled garden, wood-fired sauna, cold plunge and a private stretch of the River Mells give guests several very different ways to spend a summer afternoon.
- This is a serious entertaining house that still feels relaxed. The marble kitchen, dining room for fourteen, wine cellar, terrace and Argentinian grill make celebrations easy without turning the property into an events venue.
- Different generations can get on with different things. There is a gym and Pilates reformer, football and lawn games, a children's playroom, pool, river and plenty of space to find somewhere quieter.
- Limestone Gem is exceptionally useful. The separate stone annexe gives part of the group genuine independence without detaching them from the stay
- Somerset's best addresses are remarkably close. Frome, Bruton, Bath and Stourhead are all accessible, although Phene House gives guests very little reason to hurry away.

What you should know...

- Please note that a maximum of 14 adults are allowed per booking. On request, up to 4 additional children can be accommodated so please enquire for more details.
- The outdoor swimming pool is seasonal rather than open year-round.
- Wild swimming takes place in the River Mells and is therefore subject to natural conditions.
- Phene House is intended for family gatherings, groups and celebrations.
- The grounds include natural water, a swimming pool and extensive outdoor areas, so children should be supervised appropriately.
- Limestone Gem is separate from the main house and is particularly useful for guests wanting additional privacy.
- Bruton Lodge is a separate neighbouring property and is not included in a standard Phene House booking unless the full estate is reserved.

Terms & Conditions

- **Security deposit:** £1000 charged to client's credit card by Oliver's Travels as a pre-authorisation at least 2 weeks prior to arrival and refunded two weeks after departure, subject to full inspection.

- **Arrival time:** 5:00 pm

- **Departure time:** 10:00 am

- **Energy costs included?:** Yes, included in the rental price.

- **Linen & towels included?:** Yes, included in the rental price.

- **Pets welcome?:** Yes, up to two well behaved dogs are welcome on request only and with prior agreement from the owner. Please enquire at time of booking. If accepted, a pet supplement of £75 per pet per day will apply.

- **Other Ts and Cs:** No parties, weddings or events allowed, Milestone birthday celebrations will be considered. Weddings are only considered where an organiser is involved and are subject to prior discussion.

- **Changeover day:** Flexible.

- **End of stay cleaning:** Extra £500, payable to Oliver's Travels with the balance payment. Guests are required to leave the accommodation clean, tidy and in the same condition as on their arrival. Any extra cleaning, laundry, maintenance and/or rubbish disposal required will be charged against the security deposit.

- **Smoking Allowed?:** No smoking or vaping

- **Other 2:** A maximum of 14 adults are allowed per booking. On request, up to 4 additional children can be accommodated. Enquire for more details.

- **Minimum stay:** 3 nights. 4 nights over the Christmas and New Year period.

- **Heating costs included?:** Yes, included in the rental price.

- **Internet access?:** High speed wi-fi included in the rental price.

- **Pool towels included?:** Yes, included in the rental price.

- **Stag & Hen Do Allowed? :** No stag of hen dos allowed.

- **Noise policy :** No amplified music. Outdoor noise must be kept to a minimum during the evenings. Guests should be considerate of neighbours and the surrounding countryside.