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# TRAVELER

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THE BEST SHORT TRIPS IN THE WORLD - EDITED by SHEILA F. BUCKMASTER

## THE LONG WEEKEND



### The Lord—and Lures—of the Manor

Casting for trout on Lord Edward Manners's estate is a rare, jolly good treat. By ANNE Z. COOKE

**A**lthough author Charlotte Brontë had North Lees Hall in mind when she described the gloomy tower in *Jane Eyre*, the 2007 PBS series was actually shot at Haddon Hall, in the Derbyshire Dales. And it's accessible to today's traveler. Lord Edward Manners, owner of this handsome Tudor pile, keeps the tax man happy partly by accommodating filmmakers and partly by opening the manor for guided tours, April to October. His lordship offers yet another pleasure for travelers, this one dearer

to his heart: fly-fishing on the estate. To cast a fly onto the Rivers Wye and Lathkill—on the lord's "private beat," as it is called—is a pleasure usually reserved for family and friends. But anglers who are willing to splurge on three days of fishing

**With pink roses climbing weathered stone walls, Haddon Hall symbolizes archetypal old England: elegant, imposing, and graciously inviting.**

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#### The Long Weekend

at Haddon Hall can get a peek into England's world of privilege. (Day-trippers can rent a rod and go fishing for one day on a lower stretch of the River Wye.)

"Conservation is our primary concern, so we limit the number of rods [anglers]," says Lord Edward.

Though most estate owners in the area permit grazing (which can be destructive to stream banks) and stock their streams with trout, Lord Edward does neither. Indeed, he restored the estate's rivers, encouraging the return of native grasses, flowers, birds, and small mammals. Without competition from stocked fish, the wild trout—native browns and winter-spawned rainbows—quickly rebounded.

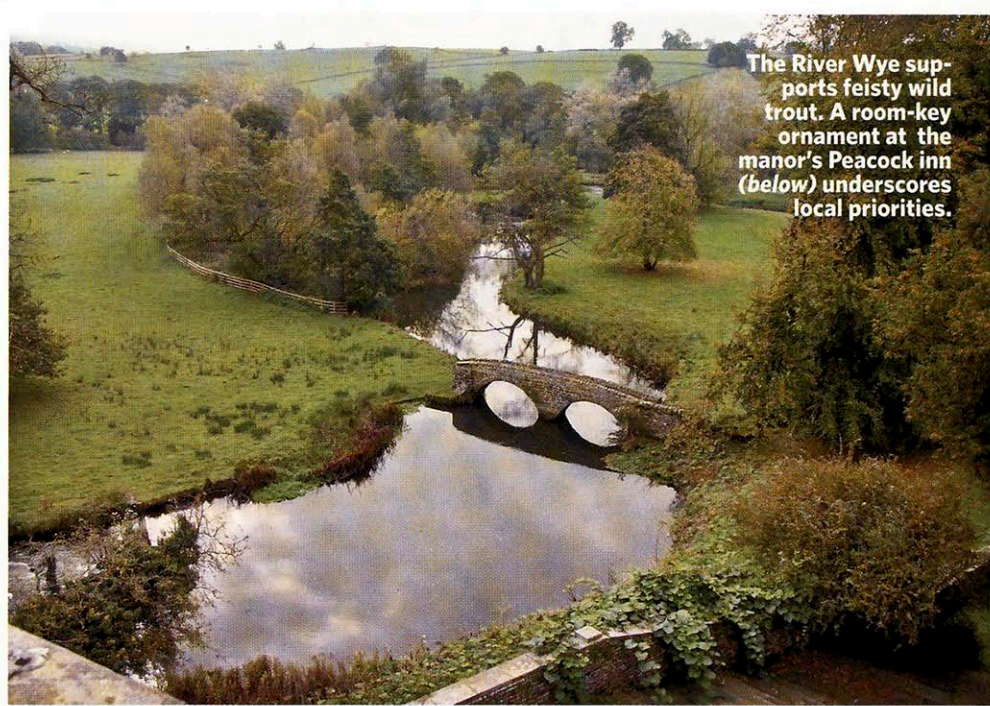
"The surprise was finding how much smarter a wild trout is. They're harder to catch," Lord Edward says. "When you do, it's a tremendous thrill."

And the secret for luring a fish onto the line?

"A particular favorite is the Blue Winged Olive fly; the fish love it," he says. "Though it's more about finding the right fly for the moment, watching to see what they're

biting on, and making adjustments."

A tour of history-soaked Haddon Hall is yet one more reward. Lord Edward,



The River Wye supports feisty wild trout. A room-key ornament at the manor's Peacock inn (below) underscores local priorities.

famous for popping in to meet visitors, knows every inch of the 14th-century Banqueting Hall and the original 13th-century kitchen. The Long Gallery—the last major addition—dates from around 1570, when Good Queen Bess sat on England's throne. In 1703, John Manners, ninth Earl of Rutland, became the first Duke of Rutland and the family moved in for a short time before building the larger Belvoir Castle. Haddon Hall remained locked and silent for 200 years. Its 20th-century resurrection remains great news for anglers.

**LOGISTICS:** Haddon Hall—[www.haddonhall.co.uk](http://www.haddonhall.co.uk); 011-44-016-2973-3518—is 1.5 miles from Bakewell and 35 miles southeast of Manchester. Trains from London—a three-hour trip—stop in Chesterfield, six miles from the estate. A three-day fishing package for a six-rod party (the minimum), offered June 15-Oct. 7, is \$1,860 per person and includes guide, fishing, meals, and overnights at 16-room Peacock at Rowsley (on the Haddon Hall estate). The Peacock's restaurant gets two rosettes from the British AA guide. Non-fishing partners can come along for an additional \$780. For more information: [www.thepeacockatrowsley.com](http://www.thepeacockatrowsley.com). Customized fishing trips can be arranged on selected dates.

