



## **Press Release**

### **Why the nation's foodies will "Fall in Love" with Devon this Valentine's Day!**

Devon is one of most romantic locations in the UK for Valentine "foodie" breaks as the nation's food lovers fall for the irresistible charms of Devon's breathtaking scenery and its outstanding restaurants and food producers.

From the indulgence of a mouth watering gourmet meal designed by Michelin starred chefs to a romantic seafood supper by the beach, Valentine's couples will not be disappointed by the choice of "foodie" delights that Devon has to offer.

Gidleigh Park, nestled in the wildly romantic setting of Dartmoor National Park, boasts one of the UK's top restaurants. Head Chef Michael Caines has created a wonderful gourmet valentine's dinner menu with sumptuous cuisine designed to enhance the romantic ambience. If you choose to stay in this most stunning of hotels, pink champagne and hand made chocolates will help make it a Valentine's Day to remember.

[www.gidleigh.com](http://www.gidleigh.com)

The Two Bridges Hotel is an oasis on Dartmoor which provides the perfect romantic escape for couples who want to enjoy cosy log fires, four poster beds and first class food. The hotel has a French theme for this year's two nights Valentine's Break (11 - 12 February) which includes gourmet food and love songs. Further Valentine's breaks and ideas are available. [www.twobridges.co.uk/hotel](http://www.twobridges.co.uk/hotel)

The South Sands Hotel in Salcombe, South Devon is a boutique beachside hotel and restaurant which enjoys gorgeous sea views and a fine reputation for the quality of the seafood it serves. With its New England ambience and cool styling, Valentine's couples will enjoy a relaxed and romantic experience, while enjoying some of the best locally sourced seafood and produce. Create your own bespoke Valentine's Day by choosing from a selection of delightful dishes for your perfect Valentine's dinner or breakfast. Indulge with champagne, chocolates or a special Valentine's cocktail, a choice of luxury gift sets, freshly cut flowers and relaxing spa treatments.

For the more adventurous Valentine, why not splash out with a personal yacht charter or trip in a hot air balloon with intimate champagne picnic. Tel. 01548 859000; or visit [www.southsands.com](http://www.southsands.com).

Also in Salcombe there will be the opportunity to spoil a loved one further with an indulgent trip to the Chocoholics Café at the Salcombe Chocolate Academy, enjoy a hot chocolate, or pastries or sign up to one of their truffle making courses. [www.chocoholics.co.uk](http://www.chocoholics.co.uk).

Venus was the Roman Goddess of Love and Beauty and mother of Cupid, who rose from the foam from the sea and so where better to celebrate the festival of love than down at the beach at Blackpool Sands near Dartmouth, at the aptly named Venus café. Stroll across this award-winning beach and then settle down beside a log fire before enjoying a delicious four-course meal for two. Choose from a specially prepared menu which includes Bigbury Bay oysters, succulent Riverford Beef and Chocolate Brownie topped with naughty Devon clotted cream. Saturday 12<sup>t</sup> February, Tel 01803 712 648 or visit [www.lovingthebeach.co.uk](http://www.lovingthebeach.co.uk) .

The Jack in the Green award winning Pub and Restaurant at Rockbeare near Exeter has built a reputation for serving only the very best Devon produce. Devon Ruby Red beef, Lyme Bay scallops and the best locally brewed ales are all part of the regular menu. Expect, West Country Shellfish Bisque, locally caught John Dory and the most succulent beef as part of the Valentine's Menu. [www.jackinthegreen.uk.com](http://www.jackinthegreen.uk.com).

North Devon has the grandeur of Exmoor and spectacular coastal scenery to tempt romantic couples, along with many fine restaurants and hotels. James Duckett at the Custom House in Barnstaple has some outstanding culinary credentials, having worked with the Roux brothers, and Marcus Wearing. He will be putting his passion and flair into special Valentine's Day dinners which are planned for the 11 and 12 February. Bread, pasta and ice cream are all made at the restaurant, and cheeses and other produce are all locally sourced. [www.jamesduckett.co.uk](http://www.jamesduckett.co.uk).

**Notes to Editor:**

In partnership with Visit Devon, Devon County Council supports Devon food and drink producers through a varied programme of skills training and the promotion of local food and drink to both local and national consumers. Contact Rachel Mildon on 01392 382837 or [rachel.mildon@devon.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.mildon@devon.gov.uk).

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