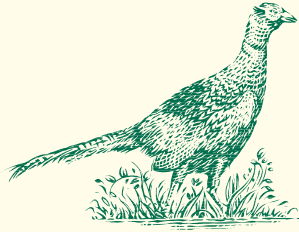




the
DOWNTON SHOOT

DOWNTON



Downton Estate is a unique venue for shooting parties from around the world. We aim to provide an enjoyable and memorable day, catering for the individual needs of all guns present. All our efforts are directed to ensuring that everyone enjoys a fine day's shooting with high pheasants in spectacular countryside.

The day is complemented by delicious food and wine, served in the warm and relaxing surroundings of the shoot lodge.

The number of guns who return year after year to recapture the special experience of the Downton Shoot testify to the success of our efforts.

D O W N T O N E S T A T E

A unique experience



A day's shooting at Downton is a day to remember. The shooting is extremely challenging even for experienced guns.

The Downton Estate extends to about 4,000 acres. Located in the spectacular, wooded and hilly countryside of the Shropshire, Herefordshire borders, close to the Welsh Marches.

Ludlow, with its splendid castle, notable restaurants, wealth of ancient buildings and celebrated Broad Street, lies some 7 miles away and the motorway network

gives convenient access to Birmingham Airport, London and Continental destinations.



In addition to the shoot, the Estate supports around 3,000 sheep and a prize-winning herd of pedigree Ayrshire cattle. There is also a noted nature reserve, a haven for flora and fauna, some unknown elsewhere in England.



The powerful appeal of exceptional days of truly demanding shooting in beautiful surroundings, coupled with excellent food and wine, gives the Downton Shoot its unique appeal to discerning teams of guns.

D O W N T O N E S T A T E



The delicious soup provided during the morning has become a Downton tradition and is served out in the field between drives. The shooting lodge itself has been magnificently converted from a range of traditional farm buildings. It provides every comfort for shooting parties, with huge

open log fires, well appointed washrooms, a high quality kitchen and an excellent cellar. Lunch is always a celebration of traditional hospitality with fine food and wine, and the kitchen can cater for individual requirements by arrangement.



For parties intending to stay near the Estate, Ludlow and the surrounding area provides a range of country houses and hotels. For those wanting to stay on the Estate a range of traditional buildings have

been converted to provide excellent accommodation. Full details are available on request.



DOWNTON ESTATE

A fascinating legacy



The Downton Estate originally formed part of Bringewood Forest, owned by the de Mortimer family. They had a considerable impact on the history of the Marches. In the early 1700's, Richard Payne Knight took a lease on the Estate to provide charcoal for his fast-expanding iron smelting business. At the peak of its activity, there were 11 working mills along the River Teme which flows through Downton Gorge, providing the power necessary to run bellows, hammers and a tin-plating process. With the discovery of coal smelting at Iron Bridge and the Industrial Revolution that followed, Downton was no



longer a viable enterprise, and gradually the mills were converted to alternative uses.

However Richard Payne Knight's fortune was preserved and he made the 'grand tour' including Italy, where his interest in architecture and landscape was developed. He built Downton Castle in 1780 and became a leading figure in the 'Picturesque Movement', which was popular at the time, furthering interest in ruins, castles and unpretentious natural beauty. He developed his ideas throughout the spectacular landscape of Downton Gorge where much evidence of his achievements can still be seen.



Downton Gorge today



As long as anyone can remember, there have been pheasants at Downton. However it was not until 1988 that the current shoot was developed and the international reputation for some of the finest, high pheasants in the country, followed.



D O W N T O N E S T A T E

The central feature of the Shoot are the classical Downton Gorge drives where the guns stand on the banks of the rushing River Teme below sheer 80 foot high cliffs with woods above, over which the pheasants fly.

So great is the challenge of Downton that it is said that, professional shots often feel like beginners.

However, the high fast birds and the spectacular countryside make the size of the bag of secondary importance. The shooting is consistently excellent, and the satisfaction to be had, probably unmatched in the country. Truly, a day to remember.

Many repeat bookings testify to the memorable day to be had at Downton.

The finest shooting service

The Downton Estate is organised to provide the finest shooting satisfaction.

We organise 300 to 500 bird days, and normally shoot five drives, with lunch either in the middle of the day, or after the shoot.

Because of the number of birds to be expected on each drive, we strongly recommend the use of double guns and provide the service of experienced loaders.

We have a good team of pickers-up with trained dogs, and the skill of the keepers and beaters is demonstrated by the way in which the birds are evenly distributed over the line of guns.

We believe that it is essential that we offer the same high quality throughout the day's shooting, not only in the presentation of the pheasants on each drive, but also in the back-up facilities.

