

## DONNINGTON VALLEY HOTEL A TO Z

### A

#### Awards & Accolades:

- 2 Rosettes
- AA Four Star
- English Tourist Board (ETB)
- Five Crowns Highly Commended
- Egon Ronay's Top 200 Guide
- AA Notable Wine List Award 2006-2010
- RAC 2 Grade Dining Award
- English Tourism Council 4 Stars
- Tattinger Wine List Award Finalist and Winner
- The British Beauty and Spa Awards, finalist
- Cateys award, Hannah Henley "Spa Professional of the Year" 2010
- Wine Spectator- Award of Excellence 2008-2010
- Imbibe Louis Roederer, Wine list of the Year 2010 finalist
- The South East Excellence Awards – Runner up Large Hotel of the year 2006.

At First Light: A bronze statue by Maurice Blik, PRBS is situated on the Golf Course, and can be seen from the WinePress balcony. This large-scale bronze statue, approximately 25' long, is named 'At First Sight' because it was specifically designed for a site, which catches the first light of dawn. The light highlights a male figure emerging from earth and ethereal female enveloping him. The piece illustrates the two complementary sides of all human beings.

Afternoon Tea: Served in one of the various patios, at the bar or club lounge. Homemade scones with Susie's preserves, selection of sweet treats, home made fresh sandwiches and a choice of English teas.

### B

Bacchanalian Feast II: A piece of art by Diamantis Staggidis. Diamantis was born in 1959 in Prosotsani in Greece. He never went to art school as he believed that art was a passion and that passion wasn't taught. For many years he educated himself about art and copied pieces of art from many well known artists. The Bacchanalian Feast II is placed in the Bacchus Bar.

Baby Sitting: we recommend Newbury Nannies or Safe Hands to look after the little ones while the parents are out of the room, the reception team have full details on request.

The Big Dipper: At Donnington Valley Golf Course the 15<sup>th</sup> signature hole is known as the 'Big Dipper'. This Par 5 of 513 yards from the yellow tees provides a real challenge for all. First you must hit a good drive to set you up for a precision 2nd shot to the top of the hill in between the trees. This will leave you with a long medium iron downhill to a green protected by a pond on the left and a bunker on the right. However, a great drive followed by an excellently executed 2nd shot over the trees, can see you playing your 3rd shot from the approach.

## C

Clarins: Clarins are award-winning beauty specialists offering skin care for the face, body and effective sun protection. Botanically based, they contain ingredients especially selected for their proven effectiveness. The basis for all their treatments is the 'Clarins Touch', a unique professional massage method utilizing over 80 intricate hand movements.

Classic British Hotels: Classic British Hotels. Is a recognised hallmark for quality independent hotels located across the UK. Each member hotel keeps its individuality promoting its independent features.

Conference: Donnington Valley Hotel provides purpose-built conference facilities offering organisers the finest facilities for conferences, meetings or incentive gatherings with comprehensive audio-visual equipment. Meeting rooms are available from 2 up to a large seminar for 140. Donnington Valley offers a choice of 9 conference rooms. The Cromwell suite, our largest conference room at Donnington Valley Hotel & Spa has recently been refurbished with a modern and contemporary style. It is perfect for private dinners, conferences and weddings.

Cedar Tree: The Donnington Valley Golf Clubhouse is shadowed by a Lebanese Cedar Tree which sits above the 9<sup>th</sup> green.

## D

Day Meetings: With 9 conference rooms available all offering natural day light and air conditioning our fantastic facilities are ideal for day meetings and are particularly popular for local business. Day meeting packages include unlimited coffee, tea and refreshments throughout the day with Wi-Fi access plus support and advice from a dedicated, specialist event co-coordinator.

Dinky Nippers: Children are very welcome at Donnington Valley Hotel & Spa, an ideal setting for family holidays. Dinky Nipper packs, which are full of goodies, are available on arrival, .We do have dedicated children's swimming times at the spa so they can have a splash. DVDs , boards games and the Wii are available on request.

## E

Espa: Espa is a totally holistic and therapeutic skincare range of Spa treatments and is suitable for both men and women. The treatments are highly beneficial to mind and body. The luxurious range has been inspired using the highest quality organic or naturally grown plants known for their purity, potency and therapeutic benefits. Whatever your needs ESPA have a product and a treatment that can eradicate all your aches and stresses.

Entertainment: Donnington Valley Hotel and Spa offers a selection of DVDs from reception. A wide variety of board games and the Wii are available on request.

## F

Flowers: The hotel flowers are provided and maintained by the local Newbury Florists, Bokis. They come in every Tuesday to change and refresh the displays and is our first recommendation for functions and events.

Fairhurst Estate: This is an area 2 minutes away from Donnington Valley Hotel & Spa. We hire this space for outdoor activities such as Clay Pigeon Shooting, Quad Biking and Archery.

Fish Mural: By Frankie Cummins, this fish mural in Greens was the culmination of many sketches. The fronds of weed were each painted with one stroke and involved some careful manoeuvring of the artist on a trolley! The fish mural and cornucopia mural in Greens are undoubtedly her best known pieces at Donnington Valley Hotel & Spa.

Fairway: By Philomena Davidson Davis, PPRBS situated next to the Spa. 'Fairway' is a 9' high sculpture in bronze and was conceived as 'A Winner' surmounting obstacles in pursuit of the pathway to success. The geometric structure of the piece represents conquered hazards frozen in time, while the human figure, having established a secure grip on the wheel of fortune, climbs though to take the lead. 'At First Light' and 'Fairway' were cast at the Mike Davis Foundry in Milton Keynes.

## G

Golf: The golf course was re-designed and lengthened between 1998 and 2000 to a now challenging 6353 yards, 18 hole, par 71 from the back tees. Although some of the holes are quite forgiving, the closing four holes are regarded as one of the toughest finishes in the country, with water featuring prominently on 15th, 16th and 17th holes.

Gift vouchers: The Vineyard Group gift vouchers can be purchased from all of our properties; The Vineyard at Stockcross, Donnington Valley Hotel and Spa, Donnington Valley Golf Club and The Vineyard Cellars; at a normal value or a package or product.

Greenham Common: During World War 2, Greenham Common was used as a base for 101st Airborne and was used as a launch place for scores of gliders used at D-Day on June 6th 1944.

Greens: As well as the WinePress restaurant, the Donnington Valley Hotel and Spa's Greens room is the perfect setting for exclusive private parties and gourmet dinners. Greens is an extremely popular hexagonal shaped private dining area, with views overlooking the fairways, and is only one of the many options available to guests.

## H

Health Club and Spa: Donnington Valley Hotel and Spa has everything you could wish for: an 18m lap pool, steam room, sauna, aromatherapy room and monsoon shower, a generous poolside lounge and relaxation area, including a sun terrace; a large, air-conditioned gym with state-of-the-art equipment and dance studio.

Handicap: This refers to the numerical representation of a golfer's playing ability. Golfers of all levels are welcome at Donnington Valley Golf Club so no handicap is required.

## I

Interior Design: Lady Michael oversees all the interior design for the hotel. She works closely with Serena Richards.

## J

Jessica Nails: Jessica Nails is a treatment and product system devised by renowned manicurist Jessica Vartoughian. Considered the world's foremost authority on natural nail care, Jessica Nails has a unique understanding of the importance of what it takes to achieve and maintain naturally beautiful nails.

Jewel in the Crown: A wide variety of jewellery is displayed in cabinets around the hotel for guests to purchase at reception.

Johnson, Kelvin: Head Chef since the opening of Donnington Valley Hotel and Spa in 1991. menu offers a choice of traditional British favorites with a twist. By using fresh produce that is locally sourced and simply prepared, Kelvin creates dishes that are light and stylish in their appearance, using classical combinations and seasonal ingredients.

## K

Kaleidoscope: At Donnington Valley Hotel and Spa we offer a kaleidoscope of nail polishes for you to choose from for your manicure or pedicure. We have the perfect colours in house from Jessica natural nail care range to match your outfit.

## L

Les Pavot: Les Pavot is the flagship wine for the Peter Michael winery. A Cabernet Sauvignon based blend, known as Meritage in California. The 1996 vintage has received worldwide accolades and was voted one of the top five wines in the world by Wine Spectator magazine in 1999. At President Bush's official visit to the UK in 2004, the 1997 Les Pavot was served for the dinner, hosted by the American President. It was once again served to Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, when they dined with George Bush at the White House in May 2007.

Location: Donnington Valley Hotel and Spa is only 5 minutes from J13 of the M4 and only 50 minutes away from west London.

## M

Michael, Sir Peter: He was knighted by Queen Elisabeth in 1989 in recognition of the economic prosperity spawned by his work. In 1992, Sir Peter founded the first national commercial classical radio station in the UK, Classic FM, which is now one of the biggest commercial FM stations in the world. Sir Peter lives locally.

## N

Newbury: The name Newbury was first mentioned in 1079 in 'Ecclesiastical History of England and Normandy'. It was then given a license to hold a fair and a market. As a curiosity, England's oldest road is located not far from here: 'The Ridgeway' is 85 miles long, stretching between Ivinghoe Beacon and Overton Hill. In the late 15th Century, cloth manufactured in Newbury was highly regarded on the continent. The 'Newbury Coat' was made in 1811 as a bet between Sir John Throckmorton and John Coexter. The bet was 'A Sheep's Coat at Sunrise, A Man's Coat at Sunset'. A painting of this event can be seen behind reception at The Vineyard at Stockcross. Today Newbury is home to the largest mobile phone company in the world, Vodafone. Newbury is located 45 minutes from Heathrow and 1 hour 15 minutes away from central London.

Newbury Racecourse: Newbury Racecourse was opened in 1905. Her majesty the Queen has her own Royal Box at the racecourse. Fitted with its own private entrance, a reception area and two main rooms for entertaining and its own private kitchen.

## P

**Pro Shop:** Located next to the clubhouse, the on-site Pro Shop is a retail outlet of outstanding quality. With a wide range of golfing clothing and equipment for sale, there is the option to hire golf buggies and clubs, and the use of an indoor practice facility, which allows you to try clubs before you buy. The shop offers golfers everything they need under one roof.

**Professionals:** Qualified golf professionals are available to help with every aspect of your game at Donnington Valley Golf Club.

**Physiotherapists:** At the treatment rooms we have our own health care professional physiotherapist on duty. Together, as a team, they can offer treatments from sports massages to teeth whitening.

## R

**Refurbishment:** The main bar, mezzanine and reception area were all refurbished in January 2010. The new Bacchus bar houses two specially commissioned artworks. The Cromwell suite was completed in February 2011 to compliment the theme. Sir Peter and Lady Michael hold great value in the hotel, and Lady Michael takes time to carefully look at the interior design for the hotel.

**Relais & Chateaux:** Donnington's sister hotel, The Vineyard at Stockcross joined Relais & Chateaux in 2002. 21 hotels in the UK belong to this exclusive group, which currently has with 450 members around the world.

**Rooms and Suites:** There are 111 rooms and suites at Donnington Valley Hotel and Spa. All of the bedrooms and suites have been elegantly designed to include Egyptian cotton duvets, marble bathrooms, air conditioning, Wi-Fi internet access and laptop safes. In addition to Luxurious Suites, we have Classic, Executive and Family rooms.

**Room Service:** Donnington Valley Hotel and Spa offers 24hr room service all year round.

## S

**Snelsmore House:** The golf club house is a Grade II listed Victorian building. There are two bars, the sociable Spike Bar for a welcome break after nine holes or an informal, relaxed environment after your game, and the Oak Room, a traditional oak paneled room for the more formal board meeting or conference. Both bars serve bar snacks, whilst the Cedar Room on the first floor is ideal for private dining & wedding receptions in Newbury.

**Spa:** We have six treatment rooms at Donnington Valley Hotel & Spa which offer a wide variety of treatments. The spa is open to all residents, local members and non-residents. You can enjoy a choice from our large selection of different treatments or relax on a spa day.

**Sculpture:** Sir Peter has a passion for art and has purchased a number of sculptures that are placed around the property. 'Daylight' is on the Golf Course, 'Fairway' is in front of the newest part of the hotel, and Michael Kenny has two sculptures called 'Comedy' at the main entrance and 'Memoria', which is at the entrance of the Health Club and Spa.

## T

**The Vineyard at Stockcross:** Donnington's sister hotel is a 5-star Relais and Chateaux Property. Formerly a 19th century hunting lodge, it served as a country retreat for the Hartley family, who were 'Lords of the Manor of Stanford Dingley', Formerly known as 'Foley Lodge', The Vineyard was developed as a country house hotel in the 1980's. Sir Peter took full control of the company in 1996, closed the hotel down for a year and a half, and reopened it in May 1998 as 'The Vineyard at Stockcross'.

**The Fish with Golf Clubs.** This sculpture by Siobhan Coppinger is situated above Greens. It is a weather vane based on an oriental fantail fish, measures over a metre long, and is beaten and raised from copper. The large three dimensional fantail catches and directs the wind most effectively. The ironwork, which supports the fish, was forged by fine art blacksmith Daryl Ford of Eastbury.

## V

**Vineyard:** In 1982, Sir Peter established the Peter Michael Winery on a square mile of rocky volcanic ridges that form the western face of St. Helena in Sonoma County, California. Due to the commitment to quality, only a very small amount will be made every year.

Vineyard Cellars: Part of The Vineyard Group, The Vineyard Cellars are the exclusive UK agents for over 45 Californian and Pacific North-West wineries. Their selection of wines is drawn from small boutique estates and represents some of the greatest and rarest wines in the world. The Vineyard Cellars prides itself on the depth of the range that they carry, and also the range of prices starting from only £9.99. The main estates they represent are Waterstone, Hendry, Rosenblum, Littorai, Rudd, Peter Michael Winery, Arietta, Caymus, Chateaux Montelena, Flowers, Schramsberg.

Visit Newbury: The website: [www.visitnewbury.org.uk](http://www.visitnewbury.org.uk). features details on the local area of Berkshire and what there is to offer including details of , The Vineyard at Stockcross and Donnington Valley Hotel & Spa.

## W

Website: View all that Donnington has to offer [www.donningtonvalley.co.uk](http://www.donningtonvalley.co.uk)

WinePress Restaurant: The restaurant offers an intimate, yet informal atmosphere where guest can enjoy superb dishes complimented by wine from an excellent cellar. Careful attention has been made to the lighting and music in the restaurant to ensure that it reflects the time and mood of the evening, and creates a warm and intimate atmosphere. With two menus available, the WinePress menu and the 'Bacchus Bar' menu, offer lighter snacks, coffees and pastries during the day and cocktails at night.

Wine: The food at Donnington Valley Hotel & Spa is complimented by a large selection of over 350 wines, including 25 by the glass and over 30 listed by price in £14, £16.50 and £19 categories. Wines on the award-winning list include those from the Peter Michael Winery, and are supplied by a sister company in The Vineyard Group, The Vineyard Cellars. The Donnington Valley Hotel & Spa wine list also won the prestigious Johansens' Taittinger Wine List of the Year in 2004, and were runners up in 2005. Our full wine list can be viewed on our website.

Weddings: Donnington Valley Hotel & Spa is a unique 4-star venue, blending charm and elegance with luxury and personal service. The hotel is licensed for civil ceremonies and also civil partnerships.

## Y

Young Bacchus: This statue by Lorenzo Bartolini (1777-1850) is situated in the foyer of the hotel, and depicts young Bacchus treading grapes. The marble original is owned by Sir Peter Michael, and this bronze cast was taken from the original. Another 'Young Bacchus' stands at the Peter Michael winery in Knights Valley, California.