



# CONNOISSEURS' COLLECTIONS

## Inspiring Gardens of the Test Valley



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### Mottisfont Abbey

A profusion of wonderful, old-fashioned roses make this glorious garden a delight. Founded in the 12th century in an idyllic spot beside the River Test, the former Augustinian priory sits amongst sweeping lawns, majestic trees and walled

gardens. The gardens were gradually remodelled throughout the 20th century and in 1972 the National Trust added the famous Rose Garden, designed by Graham Stuart Thomas. The Rose Garden was established primarily to conserve what still remained of 19th-century French roses, which flourished under a fashion started by Napoleon's wife, the Empress Josephine. It now displays the National Collection of Old Fashioned Roses, comprising some 300 world-wide varieties with nostalgic names and ancient lineage, often dating from medieval or even prehistoric times. The house itself has many notable features, including the drawing room decorated by Rex Whistler and a fine collection of 19th & early 20th century pictures donated by painter Derek Hill.

Mottisfont, Nr Romsey, Hampshire SO51 0LP. **Tel: 01794 340757** [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

**Open:** Garden & Grounds: 11.00-18.00 as follows: weekends in Mar; 22 Mar-2 Nov, Sat- Wed; Good Friday and Thursdays in July & Aug. *Rose Garden special opening:* 9-29 June, daily, 11.00-20.30 (last admission 19.30). *House:* 22 Mar-2 Nov, as Garden, 11.00-18.00 (last admission 17.00). **Admission:** Adults £6, Children £3



## HAMPSHIRE'S TEST VALLEY

Tucked away between Winchester, Salisbury and the New Forest - and only an hour's drive from London - The Test Valley is one of Hampshire's best-kept secrets. Revered by anglers everywhere, the River Test flows through trim green countryside, threading its way between ancient and thriving market towns like Romsey, Stockbridge and Andover and thatched villages rich in old-world charm. The area boasts some beautiful historic houses and gardens and its own gardening celebrity: Charlie Dimmock worked here in one of many local garden centres before catching a TV producer's eye!

For more holiday information, contact: Romsey Tourist Information Centre, 13 Church Street, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 8BT **Tel: 01794 512987** Email: [romsey.tic@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:romsey.tic@ukonline.co.uk) [www.visit-testvalley.org.uk](http://www.visit-testvalley.org.uk)

Romsey Abbey



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### Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

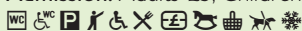
Beauty, inspiration and information are all present in abundance in the impressive gardens established in 1953 by the distinguished plantsman, Sir Harold Hillier. Visitors embark on a horticultural journey of discovery amongst stunning seasonal displays created by a magnificent collection of over 42,000 plants from temperate regions around the globe. The journey takes in no

fewer than eleven National Plant Collections, which together form the greatest collection of hardy trees and shrubs in the world. Set in 180 acres of rolling Hampshire countryside, the gardens' wonderful mixture of woodlands, formal and informal landscapes are always alive with interest, from perfumed winter witch hazels to autumn's fiery hues. Special features include the Gurkha Memorial Garden, with its extensive display of Nepalese plants, and Europe's largest Winter Garden - planted with some 650 species selected to brighten the dullest months.

Jermyns Lane, Ampfield, Romsey, Hants SO51 0QA  
**Tel: 01794 368787** [www.hillier.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hillier.hants.gov.uk)

**Open:** Daily, except 25 & 26 Dec, 10.30-18.00 (or dusk).

**Admission:** Adults £5, Children (10+) £4. Concessions.



### DON'T MISS!

#### POCOCKS ROSES

Jermyns Lane, Ampfield, Nr Romsey, Hampshire SO51 0QA.  
**Tel: 01794 367500** Email: [sales@pococksroses.co.uk](mailto:sales@pococksroses.co.uk)  
[www.Pococksroses.co.uk](http://www.Pococksroses.co.uk)

One of the largest selections of all types of roses in the South of England! **Open:** Apr-Sept, Tues-Sun; Oct-March, Thurs-Sun.  
**Admission:** Free.



### PLACES TO STAY...

#### STOCKBRIDGE YORK LODGE



Welcoming, comfortable, self-contained annexe in peaceful, secluded garden on edge of picturesque village.

**B&B from £25**  
**DB&B from £40**



Five Bells Lane, Nether Wallop,  
Stockbridge, Hants SO20 8HE  
**Tel: 01264 781313**  
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Email: [bradley@yorklodge.fslife.co.uk](mailto:bradley@yorklodge.fslife.co.uk)  
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