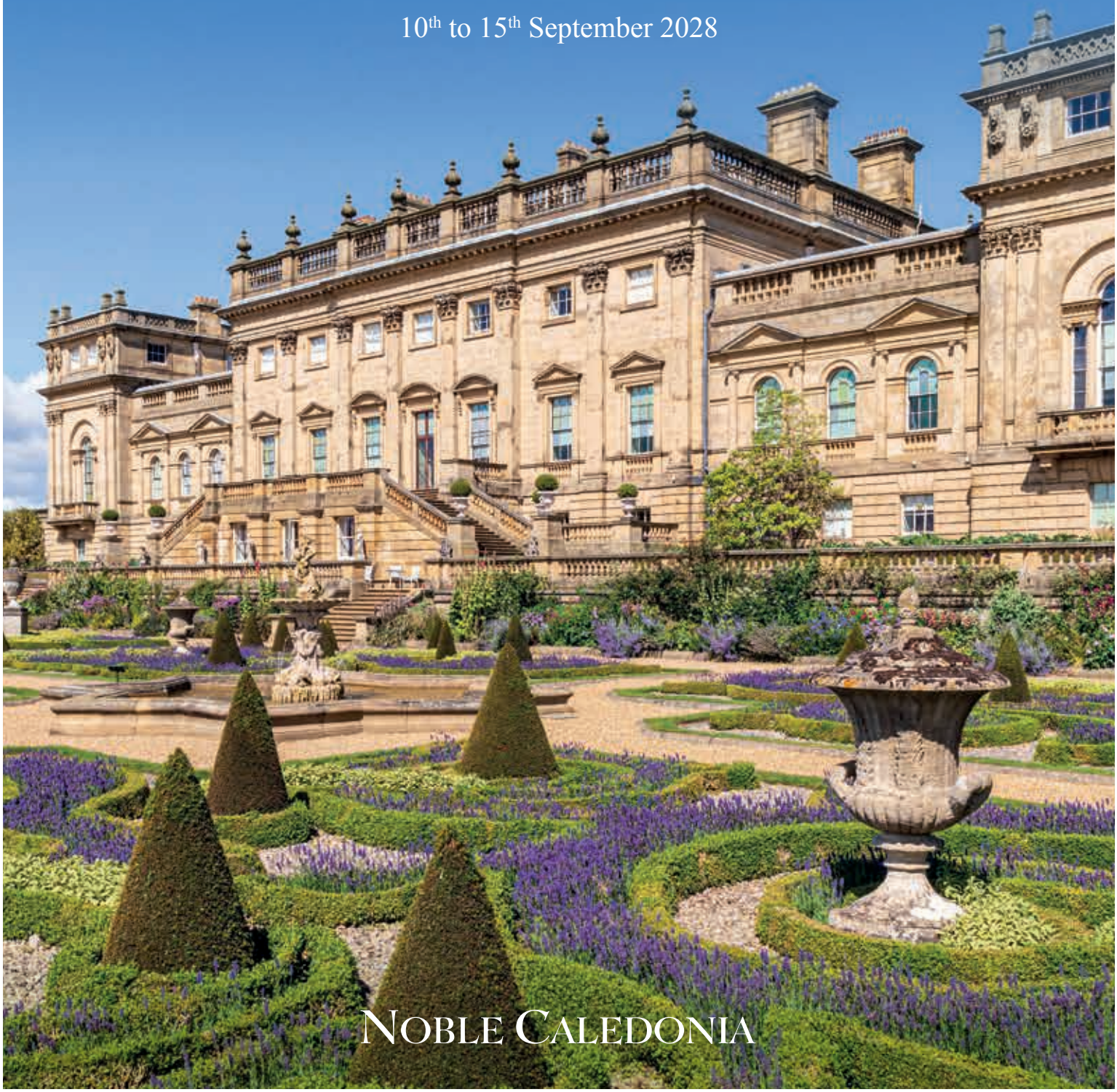
GREAT HOUSES & GARDENS OF NORTH YORKSHIRE

A five night escorted tour staying at the historic Middlethorpe Hall
with London Festival Opera, Alan Mason & Chantal Cookson

10th to 15th September 2028



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Castle Howard

For our exclusive guided tour discovering some of the great houses and wonderful gardens of North Yorkshire, we wanted somewhere special as our base and in taking over the wonderful Middlethorpe Hall for the five nights we cannot imagine anywhere better. Built in 1691, the restoration, conservation and conversion of Middlethorpe into a country house hotel has been carried out to exacting and historically accurate standards. Elegantly decorated in the manner of the 18th century and complemented with period furniture, antiques and fine paintings it is the most perfect spot from which to explore the region.

In addition to houses and gardens, we have included a musical element to our tour and will be joined by members of the wonderful London Festival Opera. Those who travel with us regularly will know that any trip with London Festival Opera adds another dimension to the experience. Over the years they have performed in some stunning locations for us and for this exclusive tour, there will be very special performances at Castle Howard and the Georgian Theatre Royal in Richmond, a unique small and enchanting theatre. The farewell performance will be in the Grill Room at Middlethorpe Hall prior to the farewell dinner.

In addition to members of London Festival Opera, we will be joined by Guest Speaker Alan Mason, one of the most experienced and best qualified garden designers and consultants in Europe and the tour will be expertly led by Tour Leader Chantal Cookson. Our party size for this exclusive tour is limited to only 50, so early booking is recommended.



York Minster



Beningbrough Hall & Park

LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA

We are delighted that London Festival Opera will be joining us for our stay and presenting two concerts in superb settings – performing a selection of celebrated arias and ensembles from the operas of Handel, Mozart, Rossini, Bizet and Puccini as well as some lighter pieces from the world of operetta and musicals. We have long been associated with London Festival Opera and each year our music themed tours grow in popularity. London Festival Opera has achieved a considerable reputation for presenting opera in the UK and overseas and has performed for Presidents, Prime Ministers and senior members of the British and European Royal Families. The company has performed at 10 Downing Street, the British Embassy in Paris, the President's Palace in Malta and as a guest company in one of Italy's greatest opera houses, La Fenice in Venice. Bringing together artists from the major British opera companies including the Royal Opera, English National Opera and Glyndebourne the programmes presented include a wide and varied range of repertoire, performed in formal evening dress and authentic period costume for an added visual impact



YOUR HOSTS

Guest Speaker – Alan Mason



Alan Mason is one of the most experienced and best qualified garden designers and consultants in Europe. He is a founder member of The Professional Gardener's Guild and the founder of Senior Garden Advisors consultancy group. Alan started his garden design consultancy business in 1987 following a period where he was the youngest Head Gardener in the country, at Bramham Park and Garden Manager to the Queen's cousin Lord Harewood at Harewood House in Yorkshire. Here, he and his team elevated the gardens into the top ten most visited gardens in the country. During the 80s and 90s he presented television programmes from around Europe, including "Le Manoir" the making of his own garden in Brittany and the long running "Gardens without Borders" from around France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Holland. Alan is also a judge of the show gardens at the prestigious Sandringham Flower Show and a garden design lecturer for The Royal Horticultural Society.

Tour Leader – Chantal Cookson



Chantal was born in Suffolk very near the sea and now lives in Northumberland where her husband farms. Chantal has been associated with Noble Caledonia since the company was founded in 1991 and has led tours, be it cruising or land, all over the world. Chantal's initial experience of cruising in British waters was in 1991 when Noble Caledonia undertook its first cruise around the British Isles, which was a groundbreaking voyage and led to a very successful and popular concept. Though her main job over the last 25 years has been working for Sotheby's, she is now a Travel and Fine Art Consultant intertwining in her busy life still working periodically as part of the Noble Caledonia field staff team. Chantal is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

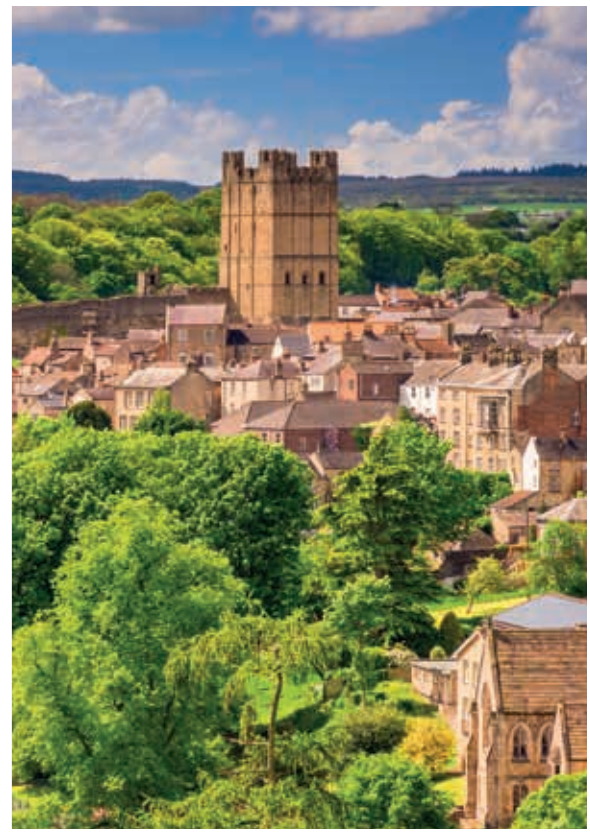




Fountains Abbey



Middlethorpe Hall



Richmond

The Itinerary

Day 1 York, England. A transfer to Middlethorpe Hall from York Railway Station will be provided to those arriving by train. Those driving may park at the hotel's car park. Meet in the evening for welcome drinks and dinner in the hotel. (D)

Day 2 Harewood House. After a leisurely breakfast meet the head gardener at Middlethorpe for a tour of the 20 acre gardens which includes a walled garden and lake. Depart in the late morning for Harewood House, built in the 18th century by Edwin Lascelles. After a light lunch enjoy private tours of the house and garden. The house was designed by architects John Carr and Robert Adams and houses an art collection to rival the finest in the land. Set amongst Yorkshire's beautiful landscape the 100 acre garden is a gem and one of Capability Brown's most inspiring. After some free time we will return to Middlethorpe Hall in the late afternoon for dinner in the hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Beningbrough Hall & Castle Howard. This morning drive to nearby Beningbrough Hall for a short visit. Our main focus here will be the Mediterranean Garden, recently designed by one of the UK's leading landscape designers Andy Sturgeon, well known for his numerous RHS Gold medals at the Chelsea flower show. In the late morning drive north to one of England's finest historic houses, Castle Howard. After lunch we will have the afternoon to explore the magnificent House and 1,000 acre garden on guided tours. Our visit will end with a performance by London Festival Opera. It will be a most memorable event as they perform amongst the splendour of this magnificent castle which took over 100 years to complete from its start in 1699. Return to Middlethorpe Hall for dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Ripon & Richmond. Drive north this morning to the town of Ripon and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Fountains Abbey. The evocative ruins of the abbey are set beside the grounds of Studley Royal, a Medieval deer park with one of the best surviving examples of a Georgian water garden. In the late morning continue on to nearby Sion Hill Hall, designed by 'Lutyens of the North' Walter H Brierley and one of the last country houses built in Yorkshire before their great twentieth century decline. Explore the house and gardens and enjoy a light lunch before we continue north to the charming North Yorkshire town of Richmond. Here we will be treated to a London Festival Opera performance in the Georgian Theatre Royal, Britain's oldest working theatre in its original form. Built in 1788 by Samuel Butler it occupies a unique place in theatre history and its charming and intimate atmosphere is the perfect place for our private performance. Return to Middlethorpe Hall for dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Scampston Hall & York. This morning Scampston Hall awaits our visit. The walled garden is quite unlike any other. Designed by the renowned Dutch plantsman, Piet Oudolf it features modern perennial meadow planting alongside more traditional areas. The garden had been derelict for nearly fifty years when Sir Charles and Lady Legard undertook the huge renovation work. There will also be the opportunity to visit the lovingly restored fine Regency house. After a light lunch return to the hotel. Those who wish to spend some time in York will be dropped off close to York Minster and perhaps make a visit to the Treasurer's House in Minster Yard. Transportation will be provided back to the hotel in the late afternoon. Tonight the farewell performance by London Festival Opera will take place prior to dinner at the hotel, a magical setting and a fitting finale for our tour of great houses, late summer gardens and wonderful music. (B, L, D)

Day 6 York. After breakfast a transfer will be provided to York Railway Station for those returning home by train. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

	Price
Courtyard Standard Bedroom	£3695
Courtyard Superior Bedroom	£3895
Main House Deluxe Bedroom	£4195
Courtyard, Cottage & Garden Suites	£4395
Main House Lady Mary Suite	£4495
Main House White Rose Suite	£4595
Courtyard Standard Bedroom for sole use	£4195
Courtyard Superior Bedroom for sole use	£4395
Courtyard Junior Suite for sole use	£4695

Please note that at the time of going to print there are just five rooms remaining for the 12th September 2027 departure. Further details can be viewed online.

PRICE INCLUDES: Five nights accommodation at Middlethorpe Hall • Meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner) • Drinks with lunch and dinner • Excursions as described • Three performances by London Festival Opera • Noble Caledonia Tour Leader • Guest Speaker • Group transfers.
Not Included: Travel insurance.



Middlethorpe Hall

MIDDLETHORPE HALL

This lovely country house hotel is located to the south of York, about one and half miles from the centre. It is our chosen base not only because it is a wonderfully comfortable and historic building in a great location but the bonus is the twenty acre landscape garden. Few hotels so close to a city centre can boast of such a benefit offering as it does the best of both worlds. We will have exclusive use of the hotel for the duration of our stay and from here we will explore some of the greatest houses and gardens in Yorkshire and look forward to returning to the comfort, food and good company of this typically William & Mary house.

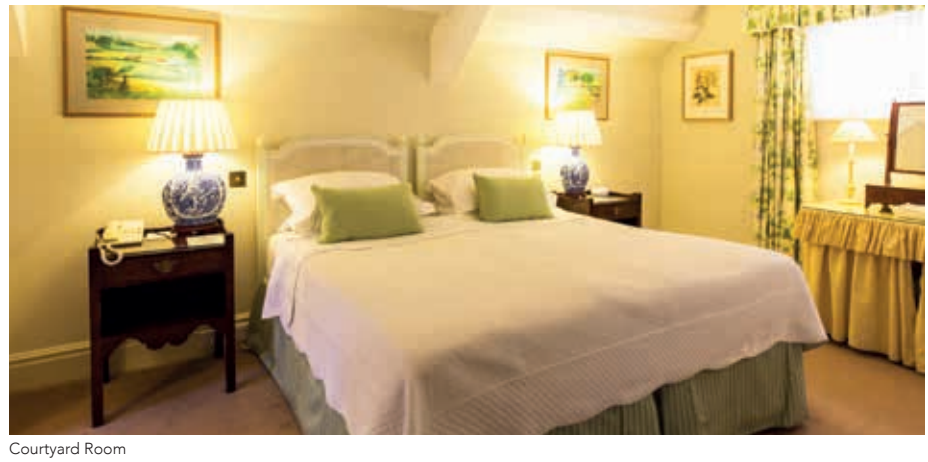
Our evening meals will be taken in the hotel famed for its cuisine and each evening will offer a memorable dining experience in the panelled dining room which overlooks the garden. There are several sitting rooms dotted with newspapers and magazines, an outside terrace overlooking the garden and perhaps most surprisingly a swimming pool, sauna and gym housed within two converted Edwardian cottages. Part of the Historic House Hotel collection it was given to the National Trust in 2008, it very much feels like a privately owned hotel where everyone involved offers a perfectly balanced mix of professionalism and friendly service.

There are 29 rooms, ten of which are located in the main building, the remainder are in the adjacent courtyard and in former cottages. All rooms are beautifully furnished with special touches, not over-fussy but traditional in the best sense of the word. Rooms feature Nespresso tea and coffee making machine, television, premium toiletries and Wi-Fi access. Some rooms have double beds whilst others feature beds which can be configured as double or twin.

Your Accommodation

Main House Suites

Located on the first floor, The White Rose Suite is a spacious apartment at the top of the main staircase. The living room contains a comfortable sofa and armchairs, a writing desk and occasional tables, while the comfortable bedroom offers a 'coronet' king-size bed, dressing table and chest of drawers, both rooms having views over the north beech avenue. The Lady Mary Suite is situated on the first floor and overlooks the beech avenue. This junior suite offers the comfort of a sitting room with desk and sofa, and a dressing room leading through to a double bedroom with queen-size bed and ensuite bathroom. Views over the beech avenue can be enjoyed from the padded window seat.



Courtyard Room

Main House Bedrooms

Superbly furnished with antiques and fine pictures, with views over the south lawn or beech avenue. Eight individually decorated bedrooms are situated on the first and second floors and accessible by a small lift. They are characterised by high ceilings, large sash windows filling the rooms with light and two of the rooms feature a four poster bed.

Courtyard Suites

The four spacious suites are located in the 18th century courtyard, with names connected to the history of Middlethorpe. The Colonel Wilkinson, Sir Henry Thompson, Paget and Sir Francis Terry Suites have a comfortable sitting room and separate bedroom with king-size double beds (that can be twinned). They are furnished with antiques and fine prints and are located on the ground and first floors. The Suites have views over the gardens or to the Courtyard, with the Paget Suite located on the ground floor and suited to guests requiring easier access. There is also a Junior Courtyard Suite for sole use.

Courtyard Bedrooms

Adjacent to the Hall in the 18th century courtyard are the well appointed bedrooms. Situated on the ground or first floors, the bedrooms overlook the gardens or the 18th century courtyard. They are furnished in traditional country house style with attention given to detail making the rooms very comfortable and with the ambience of a private house. There are both Standard and Superior bedrooms available in this category.

Cottage and Garden Suites

Three charming suites offer the comfort of the hotel with a greater degree of privacy. The Garden Suite is located in Middlethorpe Court, approximately 60 metres from the main building and has a parking space and patio garden. It contains a dining/sitting room, two bedrooms (one with a king-size bed and one with a single) and a kitchen. The Cottage Suites are located in a Victorian cottage with its own garden just 50 metres from the main house. They are accessed on the ground and first floors, which can inter-connect if required. The ground floor suite has a queen-size bed, while the first floor suite has a queen-size bed and a single bedroom, and both have sitting rooms and tea/coffee making facilities.



Four-Poster Room, Main House



Herbaceous Garden



Drawing Room



White Rose Suite



Restaurant



Terrace

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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Harewood House, North Yorkshire.