Malmaison Deansgate, Manchester, England



Courtesy of Malmaison

Malmaison is no stranger to taking brutalist buildings and kitting them out with dazzling décor, not to mention restaurants so well regarded that they become destinations in their own right. The boutique chain's Deansgate location is no exception, with interiors that take inspiration from the city's industrial heritage and contributions to art and music – and not one, but two stylish restaurants serving up some of Manchester's most expertly executed food. Stay here, and the culinary delights of Spinningfields, Chinatown and the Northern Quarter are within easy reach; however, why dine out when there's steak (and so much more) at your home-from-home?

Malmaison Deansgate, Manchester, England



Courtesy of Malmaison

With smart leather booths, striking artwork, and delicate fronds of green foliage swaying from the ceiling, the hotel's signature Malmaison Bar & Grill restaurant is a swisher-than-your-average place serving swisher-than-your average plates. Chef director John Woodward's fusion menu offers a contemporary take on classic and seasonal dishes – from starters like Bloody Mary shrimp cocktails and miso butter scallops to meaty mains like grass-fed New York strip steaks and plump cheeseburgers, cooked over blazing coals on a traditional Japanese grill. Can't find something on the carefully curated wine list to tempt you? One of the expert mixologists will be happy to conjure a cocktail.

Malmaison Deansgate, Manchester, England



Courtesy of Malmaison

In a city that's sadly short on sky-grazing drinking spaces, Sora, the Malmaison's stellar rooftop bar, may draw crowds for its lofty vantage point alone; however, it's the spot's pan-Asian tapas menu that truly towers over the competition. Here, you can mix and match small plates from an irresistible selection of sushi, sashimi, robatayaki (fire-grilled meat, fish and vegetables) and crispy fried creations, all while taking in unparalleled views of Albert Square and the gothic John Rylands Library. With resident DJs and regular guest musicians adding to the atmosphere, it's the perfect place to top off a romantic getaway – quite literally.

Malmaison Deansgate, Manchester, England



Courtesy of Malmaison

Bursting with 1960s and 70s–inspired colours, patterns and textures, the Malmaison's rooms and suites are an ode to the decades of peace and love – and they're gratifyingly groovy, with streamlined G Plan–esque furniture, time-warp wallpaper and sleep-conducive moody lighting. The best part? If you're feeling peckish, you needn't leave the comfort of your meltingly soft flower-power bed; call room service, and you can arrange for freshly cooked fare from the hotel's Bar & Grill to be delivered straight to your door.

A standard double room at Malmaison Manchester Deansgate costs from £144 per night, B&B.

Review by Jessica Morris.

The Pheasant at Neenton, Bridgnorth, Shrophire, England



Courtesy of The Pheasant at Neenton

Sometimes, getting away from it all means sacrificing frivolities like first-rate food in favour of tranquil surroundings, deserted dining rooms and more rustic fare. However, weave your way along twisty, turny country roads to the Pheasant at Neenton – a treasure of a gastropub in the depths of the Shropshire Hills – and you'll be met with the kind of mouthwatering menu that you'd expect to find somewhere with considerably higher footfall. That said, this rural bolthole gets buzzingly busy in the evenings, packed with villagers and hotel guests enjoying everything from swift end-of-day pints to thoughtfully prepared three-course meals.

The Pheasant at Neenton, Bridgnorth, Shrophire, England



Courtesy of The Pheasant at Neenton

Positioned on a bend in a B-road opposite the All Saints Church (a bijou sandstone beauty of a building), the picturesque 18th-century pub was closed for nine years before being purchased, and lovingly restored, by the local Neenton community in 2013. Over ten years later, the quarry-tiled Village Bar and conservatory-style Oak Room are charming spots in which to enjoy head chef/manager Mark Harris' exquisite dishes – while the Main Bar, with its woodburning stoves, is a cosy space to warm your cockles while you whet your whistle. Sunny summer's day? The peaceful orchard garden beckons!

The Pheasant at Neenton, Bridgnorth, Shrophire, England



Courtesy of The Pheasant at Neenton

The Pheasant's menu is seasonal, and its dishes ever-changing. So, depending on when you choose to stay, you can expect to encounter everything from Welsh lamb rump (served with potato terrine, vegetables and salsa verde) to cod with pak choi, a tempura tiger prawn and a lemongrass and coconut bisque. Whatever's cooking, though, the kitchen always prides itself on using only the best-quality meat from local suppliers, and the freshest of fish and seafood – here today, gone tomorrow – straight off the boats from Cornwall. The desserts are every bit as tempting as the mains, too. Who could resist a rich chocolate fondant with mango sorbet?

The Pheasant at Neenton, Bridgnorth, Shrophire, England



Courtesy of The Pheasant at Neenton

Whether you're planning a culinary tour of nearby Ludlow (the slow-food capital of England) or you're simply here to stretch your legs in walking country, one of The Pheasant's three light, bright and delightful rooms – or its gorgeous new two-bedroom apartment – would make a bucolic base for your adventures. Even better, those who stay here will be lucky enough to take their pick from the restaurant's exceptional breakfast menu come morning. A word of warning: the full English breakfast is so button-poppingly delicious that it'll fill you up well past lunchtime.

A double room at The Pheasant at Neenton costs from £130 per night, B&B.

Review by Jessica Morris.