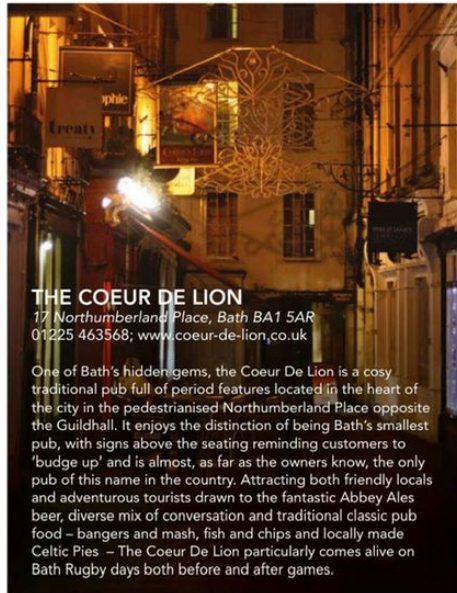


VIBRANT SPRING PUBS

Drinking and dining to make the most of the season



THE COEUR DE LION

17 Northumberland Place, Bath BA1 5AR
01225 463568; www.coeur-de-lion.co.uk

One of Bath's hidden gems, the Coeur De Lion is a cosy traditional pub full of period features located in the heart of the city in the pedestrianised Northumberland Place opposite the Guildhall. It enjoys the distinction of being Bath's smallest pub, with signs above the seating reminding customers to 'budge up' and is almost, as far as the owners know, the only pub of this name in the country. Attracting both friendly locals and adventurous tourists drawn to the fantastic Abbey Ales beer, diverse mix of conversation and traditional classic pub food – bangers and mash, fish and chips and locally made Celtic Pies – The Coeur De Lion particularly comes alive on Bath Rugby days both before and after games.

THE STAR INN

23 Vineyards, Bath BA1 5NA
01225 425072; www.star-inn-bath.co.uk

Situated on Vineyards (The Paragon), The Star Inn is Abbey Ales brewery tap and remains a classic example of an untouched multi-roomed English public house, where beer is still served from the jug. First licensed in 1760, The Star Inn retains many of its original features including 19th century bar fittings and wooden benches. Described by CAMRA (The Campaign for Real Ale) as a 'rare and unspoiled pub interior of outstanding historic interest', The Star Inn is listed on the National Inventory of Heritage Pubs. The pub features four separate drinking areas. The smaller bar, used by many of the regulars, features a long single bench known as 'death row' where a complimentary pinch of snuff can still be found in tins on the ledge above the wall panelling.

Uninterrupted by juke boxes or gaming machines, chat amongst the locals is the theme along with dominoes, cribbage, shove halfpenny and live music.



HOPE AND ANCHOR

Midford Road, Midford, Bath BA2 7DD
01225 832 296; www.hopeandanchormidford.co.uk

The Hope and Anchor Midford is set in the heart of the delightful Cam valley, a 10-minute drive from Bath city centre, or a fairly gentle and very scenic cycle ride along the two tunnels cycle path, which leads straight into the pub car park (and then on to Radstock for the more energetic). The pub is one of Bath's few remaining independently owned and run establishments. The historic country pub has been family-run for 30 years now, making it a well established favourite among Bath's discerning diners for consistently delicious, reasonably priced food in a relaxing, friendly atmosphere.

THE OLD HAM TREE

Ham Green, Holt, Trowbridge, BA14 6PY
01225 782581; www.theoldhamtree.com

The Old Ham Tree is a traditional 18th century village pub with letting rooms, where everyone is welcomed. Serving Wadworth ales and tasty, homemade comfort food, you can order most mains in smaller portions (£7.50) as well as the regular size, and tasty, homemade desserts, also available in small (£4). Customers can benefit from the pub's loyalty scheme, with members receiving points to use on future visits. Dogs are welcome in the bar area and the pretty beer garden. The Old Ham Tree serves a very popular traditional Sunday roast for £8.50/£12.95 catering for meat eaters, vegetarians and vegans. Separate menus available for those with gluten-free and coeliac diets. Whether you want to visit for a meal alone, with family or friends or simply pop in for a cup of tea, everyone is welcome.



THE CATHERINE WHEEL

The High Street, Marshfield, SN14 8LR
01225 892220; www.thecatherinewheel.co.uk

Eight miles north of Bath, The Catherine Wheel is a 17th century coaching inn in the historic village of Marshfield. With the front and façade dating back to 1680, the building first became an inn around 1740 and was originally known as The Star, changing its name to The Catherine Wheel in the 1780s. The Catherine Wheel is a great place to visit before or after taking one of the many fantastic walks in the countryside close by, including the Cotswold Way and Limestone Link, as well as being a great base for nearby attractions such as Castle Combe and Westonbirt Arboretum (the Inn is dog friendly).

Along with first class accommodation, The Catherine Wheel is known for its real ales and wholesome food freshly prepared by the highly regarded kitchen team using local produce, with an offering including lunch, dinner and takeaways.



THE GEORGE & DRAGON

High Street, Rowde, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2PN
01380 723053; www.thegeorgeanddragonrowde.co.uk

Are you a foodie that loves a bit of luxury? You need to visit the George & Dragon in Rowde near Devizes, a 16th century coaching inn that specialises in fresh fish and seafood from St Mawes in Cornwall.

The George & Dragon will open its lovely garden for alfresco dining this spring, with newly installed heaters and trusty hot water bottles and blankets at the ready for those colder days. The garden includes two private alfresco tables – the potting shed, which holds up to six people, and the new pavilion, which can hold up to 12. Finish the night with a stay in one of the pub's three individually designed bedrooms, prices from £75 per night.