

PRESS RELEASE

“NEW ON THE SCENE” SHOOTING PACKAGE FOR FIRST TIMERS AT SWINTON ESTATE, NORTH YORKSHIRE

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*Swinton Park
Masham
Ripon
North Yorkshire HG4 4JH
01765 680900 www.swintonpark.com*

Swinton Estate, in North Yorkshire, has launched a new shooting package, combining tuition and driven bird shooting for first timers, with accommodation at Swinton Park, the luxury castle hotel.

Mark Cunliffe-Lister, Lord Masham, has recently taken on the running of the estate and has been aware for some time that the opportunities for shooting enthusiasts who want to get their foot in the door are few and far between. “I have been anxious to open up the sport of shooting to those who have found it to be a bit of a ‘closed shop’ and I really hope that this new package helps achieve this” he comments.

This is a package that has been put together for those who are already proficient at clay pigeon shooting, and want to experience driven bird shooting for the first time. It is not suitable for those who want to learn to shoot.

The day starts with an intense half day course of instruction on clays at the shooting school, Warren Gill. This would bring the standard of shooting up to speed and to get one’s eye in, with specific focus on the drives planned for the afternoon. This is followed by lunch at the hotel and then an afternoon of driven pheasant shooting. There would be two drives and, depending on the level of shooting, the bag is expected to be in the region of 50, for a team of four guns. Each gun would be supervised by an instructor during each drive - offering advice and support throughout. The aim is to ensure that all of the guns get a good opportunity to experience the excitement and thrill of driven bird shooting, enough to whet the appetite for shooting on a grander scale in the future!

The package includes :

- Guns, cartridges and insurance
- Half day instruction at Warren Gill shooting school
- Lunch at the hotel
- Transport to and from the shooting school and to each drive in the afternoon

- Two pheasant drives
- Hotel accommodation (single occupancy) and three course dinner (either the night before or night after)

The cost per gun is £800, for a booking of a party of four guns.

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PR Contact : Felicity C Lister DDI 01765 680944 felicity@swintonpark.com

NOTES FOR THE EDITOR :

Swinton Estate in the Yorkshire Dales offers some of the most extensive shooting in the UK, with 20,000 acres of woodlands and valleys that stretch from the River Ure in Wensleydale up onto the moorland Dales.

The Cunliffe-Lister family acquired Swinton Estate in the 1880s. At the time Swinton was one of two premier sporting estates for sale, the other being Sandringham. The story goes that the Royal Family (after inspecting Swinton) decided that the pheasants were too high and plumped for Sandringham instead. Since then the excellent sport and hospitality at Swinton has been legendary and has attracted a great range of people from former British Prime Ministers Neville Chamberlain and Harold Macmillan, to American singer and actor Bing Crosby and even other European royals.

The Estate offers a beautiful mixture of heather moorland and deep valleys that produce some of the best grouse, partridge, pheasant and duck shooting in the country, and the Warren Gill Shooting School offers an excellent choice of drives for all standards of clay pigeon shooting, providing tuition at every level. The school also has a rifle shooting range. The hotel has a gun cabinet and boot room, and is just a short walk from the estate yard and game larder where guns meet and disperse at the end of the day. Other country pursuits available on the estate include river fishing (grayling, trout, sea trout and salmon), reservoir fishing (rainbow trout), golf, riding, walking and falconry at our Bird of Prey Centre.

The Estate has over half of the ground in nationally run conservation schemes supported by Natural England which helps maintain the hugely valuable habitat recognised to have worldwide conservation importance. Game preservation for shooting provides an essential link in the chain of keeping this habitat intact for conservation and environmental sustainability purposes.