



ABOVE The Crown room's trompe l'oeils add a dash of grandeur. BELOW Linger in luxury at bath time. RIGHT Pale was never so interesting.



THE OLD RECTORY *Hastings*

The lowdown Calm, chic, unique – other seaside B&Bs take note
Best for Getting to know one of England's hippest towns in style

Stepping over The Old Rectory's Georgian flagstone threshold feels more like visiting the cool country home of artistic friends than a seaside B&B. Yet here it is, amid the higgledy-piggledy streets of Hastings' Old Town. Just down the road is the pebbled beach, where rickety fishermen's huts rub shoulders with the new Jerwood Gallery, and fish 'n' chips cafés mix with lobster 'n' prosecco eaterie Webbes. Hastings has always been a laid-back mash-up – arcades and artists; candy floss and curiosity shops. But back at The Old Rectory, there's no dissonance; only stylish calm, with bespoke trompe l'oeil wall coverings, hand-painted motifs by Melissa White, plus a smattering of sculpture and artworks. Our Crown room exuded easy opulence, with a roll-top bath, smoked-glass chandelier and a secret door in a bookcase that revealed the loo. Luxurious, and the perfect base for exploring Old Town's bohemian corners.

Book it Double rooms from £100 (theoldrectoryhastings.co.uk)

