

A joyful stay at The Swan, Tarporley

When Shire sent our reviewer to report back on the popular Cheshire coaching inn, we nearly lost him for good...

Tarporley is one of those villages that seems to exist just slightly outside of time – unspoiled, welcoming and quietly stylish. At its heart sits The Swan, a striking Georgian coaching inn that has been serving weary travellers and cheerful locals for centuries. Dating back to the 1500s, The Swan is steeped in history but it wears its heritage lightly: never stuffy, always full of life.

Behind the historic exterior you'll find modern styling and friendly service



THE SWAN AT TARPORLEY
50 High Street, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0AG
Call 01829 733 838
[www.theswantarley.co.uk](http://www.theswantarporley.co.uk)

FOOD SERVICE

Breakfast
8-11am Monday-Sunday
Lunch
Noon-4pm Monday-Saturday
Evenings
5-9pm Monday-Saturday
Noon-9pm Sunday



Did you know?

The Swan has the oldest function room in England, dating back to 1762



Clockwise: the welcoming bar, my blissful bed, excellent wines

Arriving for a weekend stay, I was immediately struck by the sense of warmth and character that radiates from every corner of the place. The inn has evolved beautifully with the times: interiors blend original features with contemporary comfort, and the whole space carries an easy, unpretentious elegance. The bar is lively and atmospheric, full of the gentle clink of glasses and the buzz of conversation this is, quite simply, a joy.

Upstairs, the rooms are calm and inviting. Mine was an airy, characterful space with classic touches – plush throws, polished wooden floors, and a bed so comfortable it was hard to peel myself away from it. A stylish modern bathroom, thoughtful amenities and those all-important details (fresh coffee, fluffy towels, generous space) made it feel like a real escape from the everyday.

Dinner at The Swan is to be lingered over. The menu is rooted in seasonality, with a focus on quality local ingredients presented with flair but never fuss. I chose sea bass fillet with crushed new potatoes and a saffron cream sauce, which was perfectly balanced, beautifully cooked. From the artisan sourdough starter to the indulgent sticky toffee pudding, every bite was a pleasure. The wine list is smart and well-curated, and service was faultless: knowledgeable and refreshingly down-to-earth.

What really sets The Swan apart is its spirit, a kind of relaxed exuberance that stays with you even after you've checked out. Perhaps it's the history in the walls, or the laughter in the bar, or the feeling that you've stumbled on somewhere with real soul.

For anyone exploring Cheshire, or simply in need of a relaxing break with good food and genuine hospitality, The Swan in Tarporley is the perfect escape. ■

SPECIAL OFFERS

Wellness Break

Overnight stay and breakfast, plus 45-minute treatment at Sanare Spa, Tarporley (options can be discussed on booking), from £199 for two (available Monday-Saturday, supplement applies for Friday and Saturday night stays)

Roast and Relax

Sunday roast including bottle of wine, supper (cheese board and port), plus overnight stay and breakfast, from £169 for two sharing