

SECKFORD HALL

Steeped in History



BY SAM HUNT

Snaking down the winding drive you're met with a breathtaking sight. The broad Tudor mansion is nestled in a natural hollow with sweeping grounds. Red brick gables stand shoulder-to-shoulder, topping large windows and sprouting ornate chimneys. Cast your eyes down and they settle on a dark oak door...

Entering, you walk down an historic corridor with Tudor arches. Flanked with a suit of armour, large oil paintings and mounted stags heads, I was itching to learn about the history of the hotel.

The staff members were ever so friendly and eager to explain how the hotel owed its illustrious past to over 520 years of the Seckford family heritage.

Thomas Seckford was believed to have begun construction of the hall, with his son, also Thomas completing the Hall as it stands today. The latter was known as Thomas the Settler, after consolidating his estates in Suffolk. We learned how The Manor of Seckford and the accompanying title can be traced back to the reign of Edward 1, Hammer of the Scots!

Shown to our room 'The Lower Granary': a night would hardly be enough...



Seckford Hall – Steeped in History...

CLEARLY MUCH LOVED

“Snaking down the winding drive you’re met with a breathtaking sight. The broad Tudor mansion is nestled in a natural hollow with sweeping grounds.”

A capacious sitting room with large double doors revealed the bedroom, complete with four-poster! There were two bathrooms, one with a Jacuzzi bath, a dressing room, and even a spare room. Whilst the latter was probably underutilized, we were sure to enjoy relaxing in the Jacuzzi, with it's own flat screen TV.

The current owners advocate that the hall is a home and are happier when the hotel is full of

people. Indicative of this, guests are made to feel at home and are able to dine in many areas around the hotel including the bedrooms, suites, bar, gardens, lounge areas, and of course the 2 rosette restaurant.

Dining in Seckford's 1530 Restaurant we were presented with a mouth-watering, seasonal menu. Kicking off proceedings, I opted for the Slow Cooked Blade of Beef with Braised Onions,



Parsnip, Parsley and Watercress, which was delicious. Rachel went for Terrine of Ham Hock and Parsley, Crispy Quails Egg and Pickles with equally good reviews.

The Roast Tenderloin of Pork, Potato Fondant, Savoy Cabbage, Dried Ham and Cider Sauce came highly recommended. It lived up to it's billing and was indeed wonderfully tender. Rachel was all smiles and delighted with her, beautifully presented choice of Pan Roast Guinea Fowl, Sweetcorn, Girolles, Pancetta, Glazed Baby Carrots, Braised Potato and Guinea Fowl Reduction. Unable to resist, we both had the Dark Chocolate and Salted Caramel Fondant, Pistachio Tuille and Pistachio Ice Cream, which had a divine melting texture.

Seckford Hall is clearly much loved. The current owners have gently developed the building while being careful to retain its heritage. There is a great



balance struck; blending history and Elizabethan splendour, guests are able to enjoy modern day comforts with beautifully designed bedrooms and suites, a swimming pool, banqueting hall and the 2 rosette 1530 restaurant. Combined with stunning gardens, grounds and the Seckford Golf Course next door, Seckford Hall is the perfect place to spend a break away, a business trip, or even host a wedding! We had lovely stay in tranquil surrounds with genuinely friendly and accommodating staff and look forward to visiting again soon.

