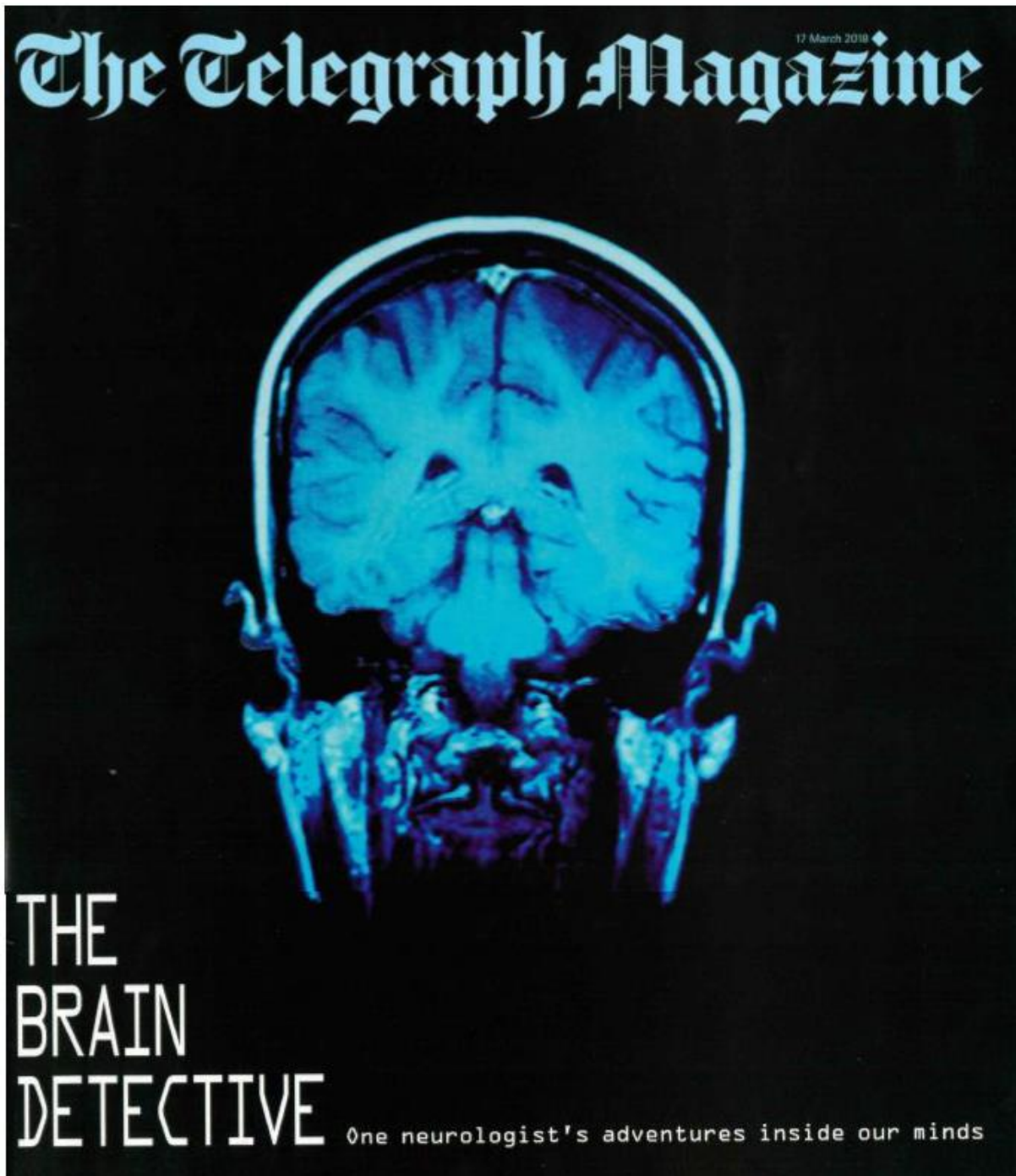


BEAVERBROOK

Press Coverage

Telegraph Magazine

17th March 2018



QUINTESENTIALLY

BEAVERBROOK

The Cut // Travel



Francesca Syz

GRAND DESIGN

Wine, dine and sleep like a lord in this historic Surrey pile

BEAVERBROOK, SURREY
Doubles in The House from
£225 (beaverbrook.co.uk)

French fancy The property's east front, The Parrot Bar, views over the Surrey Hills



IT WAS WHILE OUT driving with his friend Rudyard Kipling in 1911 that Lord Beaverbrook spotted a 'for sale' sign on Cherkley Court, a mansion modelled on a French chateau, near Leatherhead in Surrey. After one viewing, he bought it and lived there for 50 years.

Beaverbrook, who revitalised the *Daily Express*, launched the *Sunday Express* and served as minister of aircraft production in the Second World War under his friend Winston Churchill, never let politics get in the way of friendship. So while the War Cabinet made Cherkley Court their home from home, so did Charlie Chaplin and HG Wells.

Today, Beaverbrook, as the estate is now known, has been splendidly - and

sympathetically - transformed into a hotel, golf club, cookery school, kids' club and, later this year, a spa with indoor and outdoor pools. It has opened in stages, the vintage-chic 11-room Garden House coming first, then, a couple of months ago, The House: grander, but equally inviting, with each of its 18 bedrooms named after a famous guest.

Designed by Susie Atkinson, whose previous projects include Babington House and Dean Street Townhouse, Beaverbrook feels like the stylish historic home it once was. Our room, the Elizabeth Taylor Suite, has a four-poster bed, a vast bathroom and views over Lord Beaverbrook's old outdoor pool, now a pond. In the glass-domed hall is a grand piano, on which jazz is played at weekends. Opposite is a vast tapestry by Gerhard Richter, on loan from Beaverbrook's creative director, advertising pioneer Sir Frank Lowe. You will also find family photographs and framed newspaper clippings, including the cover of the *Daily Express* from the day Lord Beaverbrook died in 1964. The 1920s-feel Parrot Bar is a confection of velvet armchairs and tasseled table lamps, with French doors leading out on to a sunny terrace overlooking the gardens and Surrey Hills beyond. It's the perfect spot for a Spitfire (vodka) Collins with peach, elderflower, ginger and lemongrass.



A library is filled with Lord Beaverbrook's books (from Rupert Bear annuals to a section on Irish history) and the hotel's fine-dining Japanese restaurant is headed up by ex-Nobu chef Taiji Maruyama, featuring fish from British waters, such as grilled Loch Duart salmon with green-tea miso, or sea bass with crispy ants for the more adventurous. Lord Beaverbrook and Churchill used to watch news bulletins in the art-deco cinema. Now, you can choose from 200 films chosen personally by director Alan Parker (a pal of Sir Frank's), whose illustrations are also dotted around the hotel.



QUINTESENTIALLY