

PERIOD LIVING

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Visit historic Tetbury and immerse yourself among highly regarded antiques dealers and unique independents. The draw of this charming town may prove hard to resist

The market town of Tetbury, set among rolling Cotswold hills, is regarded as one of the pivotal destinations for antiques buyers outside of London. With over 25 dealers, the town is synonymous with high-quality furniture and decorative finds. Local antiques dealer Lorforde has recently opened new extensive out-of-town antiques hangars but, for those in the know, the draw of Tetbury and its collection of specialist dealers and fabulous lifestyle independents, is something not to be bypassed.

History in a nutshell

The early prosperity of the town is credited to Sir William de Braose, lord of the manor, at the start of the 13th century. He broke the customary feudal rights system in 1200, and granted Tetbury merchants the right to govern themselves.

By 1623, the Berkeleys presided, who allowed locals to buy properties. A system of local government was established for 250 years, which gave unprecedented levels of independence.

Today, the streets of this prestigious market town, lined with a plethora of Jacobean and Elizabethan former merchants' houses and workers' cottages, lend a nod to the town's prosperity during the Middle Ages, when it thrived as a major wool and yarn trade centre. The 17th-century Market Hall, built in 1665, remains an iconic landmark, and the honey-coloured, period buildings of Long Street are now synonymous with Tetbury's thriving antiques scene.

Antiques dealers insider's guide

A few of the fabulous specialists you will find – prepare to be mesmerised as the quality of dealers is exceptional.

AMY PERRY

Amy's new shop is light, bright and spacious, with a charming walled garden. Sourced in France and beyond, the unique pieces include foxed mirrors, antique linens, upholstered chairs, zinc tables, paintings and sparkling chandeliers.

amperryantiques.co.uk

ANNE FOWLER

Trading since the 1970s, Anne specialises in interior design and garden items, with a focus on stone and metal, displayed among antique furniture, up to and including 20th-century finds. The atmospheric shop also sells original 'Anne Fowler' paintings, alongside hand-silvered and antiqued mirrors for walls and frames.

Favourite recent find? 'Some giant Willy Guhl planters (a Swiss 20th-century designer) – they are very 'now' and smart'.

Why Tetbury? 'I moved from Bath so I could live above the shop. Tetbury has retained its original Cotswolds feel and offers a great day out.'

annefowler.co.uk

ANTIQR

Founded by Spanish couple, Cuca and Pep, who specialise in European antiques, art and design from the 18th century, and mid-20th-century design. The shop has a pared-back, monochrome feel and expect to find exquisite pieces from the likes of Pierre Jeanneret and Charlotte Perriand.

Why Tetbury? 'We moved from Spain with our young family in 2016 – attracted by the town and the quality of antiques dealers, and to be near our friends Jorge and David from Brownrigg.'

antiqr.co.uk

BROWNRIGG

An inspirational business with a newly remodelled 3000 sq ft antiques store, it was founded 20 years ago by Jorge Perez Martin and managed with partner, David Gibson. Brownrigg specialises in an eclectic mix of ▶





European decorative and country house antiques. 'We are passionate about sourcing diverse antiques that appeal to different clients and budgets, creating unexpected looks, regardless of period or genre.' Think impeccable taste, beautifully styled room sets and impressive one-off finds.

Favourite recent find? 'A stunning 'crown' centre table: the base was the decorative pierced top of a steamboat funnel - quirky in the extreme.' brownrigg.co.uk

CATHERINE WATERS

Catherine sells antiques that are simple, honest and interesting. The charming shop space is full of farmhouse tables, fruit-picking ladders, simple, pegged wooden benches, wrought-iron day beds, stoneware bowls, pestle and mortars, and industrial lights; with interesting art and antique textiles woven in.

Favourite recent find? 'A primitive 19th-century oil painting of a house; unfinished, with a couple of spectre-like figures in the foreground. It is only partly restored and I loved the rawness and provenance.'

Why Tetbury? 'It's the best place; so many independents, all with their own unique character.'

Instagram:

catherinewatersantiques

CHLOE

'I deal in 18th- and 19th-century decorative Swedish and French antiques and accessories, and am best known for my Swedish furniture and antique textiles.' A new chic standalone store, it has recently moved from No 52 Antiques and Interiors.

Current favourite finds? 'Crested monogrammed glasses and a charming portrait of a girl on canvas - both Swedish, 1700s.' chloeantiques.com

EMMA LESCHALLAS

A purveyor of unusual, decorative antiques, specialising in a pared-back look, with deconstructed upholstery a key feature. Think modern rustic shop interiors with a time-worn

aesthetic, along with occasional touches of gilding and the odd chandelier or two.

Favourite recent find? 'The life-size plaster model of the Madonna of the Boats was an interesting find... if only for the comment, "brave buy, Emma; brave buy," from another Tetbury dealer!'

Why Tetbury? 'It's full of small antiques businesses with passionate owners, not soulless high-street chains.'

leschallas-antiques.co.uk

THE DECORATOR SOURCE

Founded by Colin Gee more than 25 years ago, The Decorator Source specialises in antique and contemporary English and continental furniture from the 17th to the 20th centuries, including pieces from France, Italy and Scandinavia. Here you can find painted furniture, mirrors, antique prints and contemporary artworks, alongside restored lighting.

Favourite recent find? A rare sugar chest from the US Federal period, with veneers, cross-banding and 'rope twist' legs for use in the best parlour.'

thedecoratorsource.co.uk

TWIG

Su Daybell, owner of Twig, sources quality period furniture from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. 'I search for pieces with an extra something, whether it be great colour, design, surface, proportion or craftsmanship. When the quality jumps out at me, that's when I buy,' Su says. She is also well known for her large-scale abstract paintings, handpainted wallpapers and lampshades. Think drama, scale, elegance and attention to detail.

Favourite recent find? 'A bold, 18th-century Italian walnut refectory table. A very strong piece with excellent colour and a wonderfully rich patina.'

Why Tetbury? 'I feel that it is important to place yourself with some of the best dealers in the country. There is no other town in the country like it.'

twigoftetbury.co.uk



THE BEST OF THE REST INDEPENDENTS

Art Galleries - Art Gallery (artgallery.co.uk)
Bay Gallery (baygalleryhome.com)

Café 53 - fresh homemade food, great coffee and cakes. Very cool interior and an outside garden oasis (cafe53.strikingly.com)

Domestic Science - a vintage/lifestyle mini department store, set in a 10-room Georgian townhouse (domscihome.wordpress.com)

Emily's House London - based at Brownrigg, find Middle Eastern and African Beni Ourain rugs, boucherouites, tribal kilims and handmade vintage carpets (emilyshouselondon.com)

French Grey - homeware, gifts (frenchgrey.co.uk)

Hobbs House Bakery - best bread and Portuguese custard tarts for miles (hobbshousebakery.co.uk)

Hotels - The Close Hotel (theclose-hotel.com)

The Priory Inn (theprioryinn.co.uk)

The Royal Oak (theroyaloaktetbury.co.uk)

The Snooty Fox (snooty-fox.co.uk)

House of Cheese - artisan British, French and European cheeses (houseofcheese.co.uk)

Scentiments - florist (tetburyflorists.co.uk)

The Highgrove Shop - organic food and branded homeware from the Prince of Wales Charitable Foundation (highgrovegardens.com)

The Tetbury Tailor - traditional menswear shop (thetetburytailor.co.uk)

Vinotopia - independent wine merchant (vinotopiawine.co.uk)



DIARY DATES

The Cotswolds Decorative, Antiques and Art Fair 10-12 August, Westonbirt House (cooperevents.com)

Westonbirt House and Garden 23 September. Guided tours of Westonbirt, now the girls' school, on the hour from 1pm-4pm. Booking not required, £10 entry.

The Tetbury Music Festival 4-7 October. The four-day event is held at The Close Hotel in Tetbury, featuring internationally acclaimed performers and new musicians (tetburymusicfestival.org.uk)

The Woolsack Race - a unique, and very British, annual race that takes place on the last May Bank holiday every year in the town, and raises money for local causes. (tetburywoolsack.co.uk)

