Timeless traditions
Invitation to tea in the orchard

KITCHEN SPECIAL
Create, update, renovate

CORNISH ROMANCE
The family home of Daphne du Maurier

FARMHOUSE FARE
Choice cheeses, healing herbs & country notes from Marco Pierre White

ESCAPE TO THE DERBYSHIRE DALES
Streams, spas & stately homes
The domain of DU MAURIER

Daphne du Maurier’s love affair with Cornwall began with a house on the creek at Fowey. Seventy years on, her son lives there, in an atmosphere redolent of her memory.

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Swine Cottage was bought and renamed Ferryside. Throughout the winter and spring it was put in the hands of decorators and builders and on May 14th, 1927, the day after my 20th birthday, my mother and sister [Angela] who had come with me to see the transformation, returned to London, leaving me on my own for the first time in my life. Oh! the happiness of those first weeks! The thrill of crossing backwards and forwards on the ferry never palpitated.

Daphne du Maurier’s words could easily be those of her 24-year-old granddaughter Grace nearly 70 years later when, in October 1993, she and her family moved in to Ferryside at Bodinnick in Cornwall.

“I love it. I was overwhelmed when my parents told me that we were actually going to live here.” Christian (“Kits”) Browning, Daphne’s son and his wife Olive bought Ferryside from Angela du Maurier, Daphne’s elder sister, who had lived there since 1957.

The Fowey estuary is unique in that the deep draught of the river allows huge vessels to
B orn in the French Quarter of New Orleans in 1925, Daphne du Maurier was the only child of Sir Muriel du Maurier, a well-known painter and author. She spent her childhood in France before returning to England to attend school in London. At the age of 16, she began her writing career, publishing her first novel, 'The Salmon Fisherman's Daughter,' in 1934. Her subsequent works, including 'Rebecca,' 'The Birds,' and 'Dark Dragon,' have become enduring classics of English literature.

Daphne du Maurier was known for her evocative descriptions of the English countryside and her ability to capture the essence of the British upper class. Her novels often explore themes of love, loss, and revenge, and her vivid imagery and atmospheric settings have earned her a place among the most beloved authors of the 20th century.

In 1947, Daphne du Maurier was awarded the Order of the British Empire for her contributions to literature. She died in 1989 at the age of 64, but her legacy continues to inspire readers around the world.