

# Elan Spa

## The Eden Hotel Collection aims to create Warwickshire's leading destination spa after investing more than £7m in a spa at its Mallory Court Hotel.

THE launch of Elan Spa at Mallory Court Hotel this spring achieved a number of notable milestones. Not only is it the first spa to open in Warwickshire for more than 10 years, it is also the first new build spa for Eden Hotel Collection, a portfolio of luxury hotels owned by IT entrepreneur Sir Peter Rigby.

The award-winning Mallory Court in Leamington Spa was the first hotel acquired by Sir Peter Rigby back in 2001. The collection has since grown to nine hotels, each with its own character and personality, and now comprises Buckland Tout-Saints Hotel, Devon; The Kings Hotel, Cotswolds; The Arden Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon; Arden House, Stratford-upon-Avon; Brockencote Hall Hotel, Worcestershire; The Greenway Hotel and Spa, Cheltenham; The Mount Somerset Hotel and Spa, Somerset and Bovey Castle, Dartmoor.

Eden Hotel Collection forms part of The

Rigby Group, one of the UK's largest and most successful family-owned businesses. Founded by Sir Peter Rigby, who was knighted for his contributions to information technology, the group's portfolio spans hotels, aviation, technology, property and investments.

Eden Hotel Collection was awarded the AA Small Hotel Group of the Year 2014-2015 for its outstanding commitment to improving and developing its portfolio of hotels, while maintaining a high level of consistency throughout the group.

### **luxury spa design**

Set in 10 acres of woodland, Mallory Court is a country house hotel and now, following an investment of more than £7m, it is also home to Eden Hotel Collection's Elan Spa.

The new facility has been designed by spa designers and consultants, Spa Creators, which has specialised in luxury

spa design for more than 20 years. Spa Creators' recent clients include Carbis Bay Hotel & Spa, The Woodland Spa for Crow Wood Leisure and Spa Sirene at the Royal Yacht Club Hotel; all winners at The Good Spa Guide awards in 2015.

The company was appointed two and a half years ago to work on the project at Mallory Court. Set within the existing historic garden, the new building has been designed to complement the main hotel, a Grade 2 Listed Building built in 1915-18. David Brain Partnership, which was responsible for the extension to the hotel in 1999, was lead architect for the project with Kier acting as main contractor.

The Elan Spa launched this spring following a 14-month build. The three-storey building houses a spa, restaurant and gym on the ground floor, a treatment area comprising seven rooms on the top floor with 12 new spa bedrooms (in addition to existing 31 bedrooms in the main hotel) on the intervening floors. The orientation of the building allows for all day outside terrace use and sheltered evening dining.

### **treatment-led business**

Spa Creators was responsible for the concept design as well as the interiors, and founder Alistair Johnson worked closely with Sir Peter Rigby and director Marian Cartter on the design of the spa and the treatment area.

Eden Hotel Collection wanted to create the leading destination spa for Warwickshire, bringing visitors from across the UK to the area as well as offering facilities and membership to the local community. As such, Sir Peter Rigby visited Spa Creator's previous projects at Ellenborough Park, a







five-star retreat in Cheltenham and The Mere, one of the UK's premier golf and country clubs, as part of his research.

"Sir Peter wanted to develop a luxury, treatment-led business. We are operators as well as spa designers and consultants, so we know how to design facilities that deliver," says Johnson.

The centrepiece of the spa is 10m deck level hydro pool featuring a variety of water features including both swan neck and fluted cannons as well as bench seating and massage stations. The pool is finished in striking iridescent black tiles.

"This is the first time we have done a black pool and we're really proud of it," says Johnson.

Loungers – approximately 16 to 18 in total – surround the pool, while a salt sauna featuring Himalayan rock salt, an aroma essence steam room and a four

person Rhassoul mud room – all provided by Rigo Spa – are accessed from the pool and changing areas with electric under-floor heating throughout.

Outside is a 10-person vitality pool and a 160sq m glazed modular sauna, which was constructed off site and delivered to the hotel ready to operate by Spa Creators.

The ground floor is also home to The Spa Café, a boutique nail bar with two mani and two pedicure stations, as well as a gym equipped by Technogym.

#### leading destination spa

Crown Sports Lockers, which has worked with Spa Creators on a variety of projects over the last 15 years, fitted out the male and female changing areas providing the two-tier lockers (with the Ojmar RFID lock system) with upholstered integrated seating and incorporating shoe storage below. The lockers are finished in Egger driftwood laminate. The company also supplied the wet and dry vanity units with corian tops and storage cupboards below.

Elsewhere, Crown built linen store and drop units in the lobby area, a fridge unit with corian top and integrated storage in the gym and furnished all seven treatment rooms with driftwood laminate finish, pull out therapist trolleys, Corian worktops, product storage and concealed towel heaters. They also supplied hold-all lockers in the staff room.

Crown delivered the project on time and to budget despite tight lead times and having to accommodate last minute changes in the nail bar, when the company was forced to remodel the manicure bar and display units on site, cutting and reshaping the corian to accommodate the

new shape of the room.

It's only been a few months since the launch of Elan Spa at Mallory Court, but early signs are encouraging say the owners. The spa had 450 guests in May and 160 day spa visits. It is now working to grow the spa breaks and midweek market, while also extending the stay of its leisure guests. The pool and outdoor sauna are proving particularly popular with guests, says Johnson.

"People's expectations for spa facilities are increasing all the time. The Elan Spa at Mallory Court offers a very luxurious spa experience, and I'm confident that in time it will become Warwickshire's leading destination spa."

[www.crownsportslockers.co.uk](http://www.crownsportslockers.co.uk)

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