

FIVE OF THE BEST

STUNNING GARDENS

Anna Tyzack picks the most impressive houses for green-fingered buyers



« OXFORDSHIRE

Badgemore Grange, near Henley-on-Thames, is a gracious country house with generous ceiling heights and an impressive hall with herringbone wood block flooring, a fine carved staircase and French doors to the garden. There are three spacious reception rooms, a kitchen with Aga and walk-in larder, plus six bedrooms. The gardens are divided into private areas by walling, mature hedging and lightly cut paths, plus there are magnificent trees, including cedar of Lebanon and Wellingtonia, as well as formal planting and herbaceous borders. The Coachman's Cottage is an ideal annex for a nanny. £6.495m. savills.com

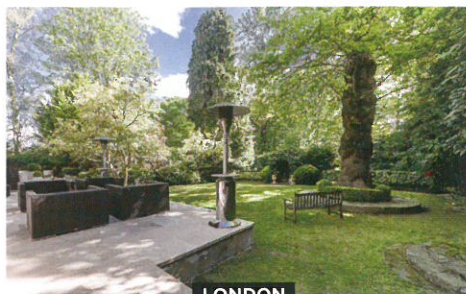
LANCASHIRE »

This country estate dates back to 1750 and has recently been refurbished to include five large bedrooms, opulent reception rooms and glazed walkways from the main house to the library and palm house. To the south are formal gardens with York stone terraces, a walled garden, rose garden and a wisteria walk leading to a summer house, plus a secret garden leading to the Beech walk, orchard and yew maze. Beautifully maintained lawns sweep away from the house, bordered by white estate fencing with paddocks and parkland beyond. There is also a kitchen garden with a potting shed and greenhouse, plus a tennis court with an all-weather surface. £3.95m. struttandparker.co.uk



SURREY

A substantial and much-loved family home with six bedrooms, just outside Chiddingfold. The house has large, light reception rooms, a substantial kitchen and generous bathrooms. The gardens are impressive and open for the National Garden Scheme: 2.5 acres of lawns and established plants and trees, plus a well-stocked kitchen garden, colourful cutting garden and orchard with apples, quince, damson, plum and mulberry trees. There is also a pool, tennis court, stables, listed barn, a Gabriel Ash greenhouse and 7.5 acres of paddocks. £POA. knightfrank.com



LONDON

Bracken Knoll is an enormous country-style home on the private and gated Courtenay Avenue, directly opposite Kenwood House. The half-acre gardens include a beautiful and mature front garden plus a rear garden with lawns, York stone borders and oak trees. Beyond is an unspoiled wilderness, akin to a private nature reserve. The house has a double height hall, vast reception rooms, seven bedrooms and staff accommodation, but planning consent will soon be reinstated to build a new 13,488 sq/ft over four floors behind a retained façade to include a substantial leisure complex with swimming pool and cinema. £8.65m. arlingtonresidential.com



KENT

Watergate House in Fordwich is a Grade II* listed property enclosed by ancient walls that form a hortus conclusus, completely concealed from the street. Within them is a country-house garden in miniature with defined areas of formal, spring, woodland, vegetable and secret garden, with watergates that open onto the river. The present owner (a medal winner at RHS Chelsea) opens the garden regularly for the National Garden Scheme. The house, which was the original manor of Fordwich and then the rectory, is spacious, with six reception rooms and seven bedrooms. £2.5m. struttandparker.com