

THREE WAYS TO... DO A UNIQUE RENTAL

The feelgood one

Can a cottage be therapeutic? Living Architecture thinks so. Working with philosopher Alain de Botton, it rents out six spaces in the UK, including the Balancing Barn (pictured), and hosts retreats. The latest is the Life House in Wales, sleeping six, from £700 for three nights, self-catering (living-architecture.co.uk).

The remote one

Sometimes we just want to disconnect. Enter brand-new website Off Grid Hideaways, with its portfolio of utterly secluded yet stylish digs, all fully vetted — from timber huts in Portugal to fishermen's cottages in Sri Lanka (offgridhideaways.com; lodges sleeping two from £532 for three nights, B&B, including cleaning).

The stylish one

BoutiqueHomes is a new Airbnb-like rentals site with stylish pads for design devotees. Tempted to filch that hand-woven rug in your rental? No need: every stay earns you reward points, which you can use to buy your own at its online 'marketplace' (boutique-homes.com; apartments sleeping two from £70 a night).

