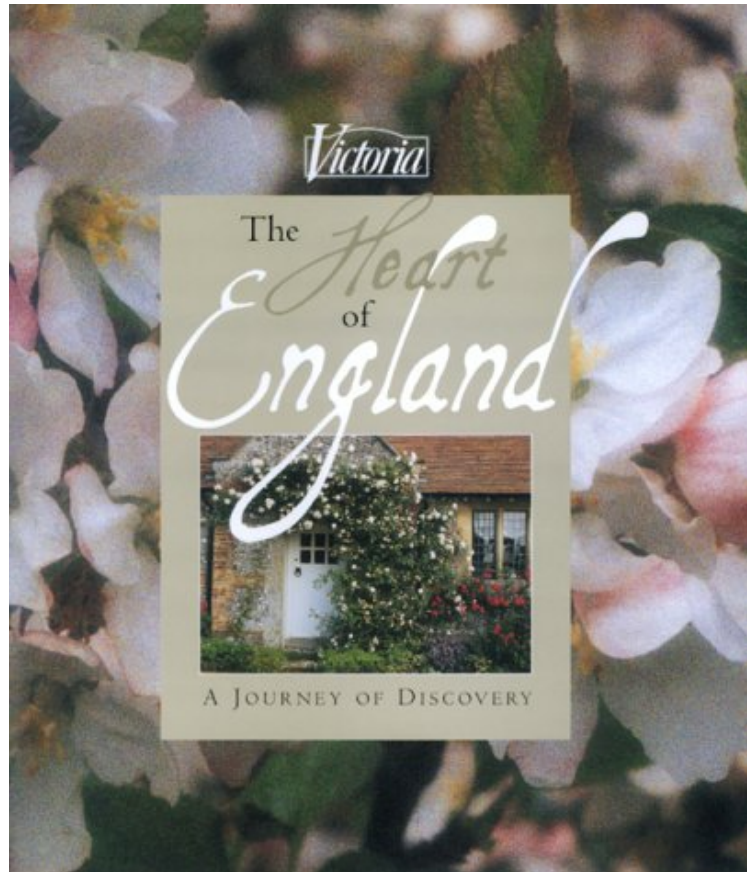


[FREE] The Heart of England

## The Heart of England

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**From Brand: Hearst : The Heart of England** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Heart of England:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ... years under Nancy Lindemeyer's editorial reign - I was delighted with this book By Vonna Viglione As a fan of Victoria - and most especially of the first 16 years under Nancy Lindemeyer's editorial reign - I was delighted with this book, recapping some of my favorite "armchair vacations" to that wonderful country. Let others dream of exotic adventures into deserts and steaming jungles. England is the destination for many of my fantasy itineraries and this book helped me appreciate the both the variety and "essence" of England. I heartily recommend it for those who enjoy "all things English", or even just a pleasant overview. It's going into my personal library - instead of being donated to our public library (which is my usual practice once I've read and enjoyed a book) 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Informative By Shawna Marie Johnson A lovely book as all Victoria books are, but I was hoping for more decor and this was more of a guidebook. Perfect for someone planning a visit to England! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Sylvia Lovely book but dust cover was not good

Much more than a traditional travel guide, Victoria The Heart of England speaks with an insider's voice to reveal what's truly the best about England. Instead of where to go, where to stay, where to eat, the book reflects a much more personal portrait of England, and of the English. Victoria The Heart of England is organized around four themes that are important to England and its culture: tradition, wit, romance, and pride. The tradition section, for example, includes information on pewter, England's island heritage - "The Gift of the Sea" -- and the etiquette of port. The section on romance highlights the Brontes, an English cottage garden, and an Englishwoman's retreat. This book helps readers get to know England so that when they do visit, they truly will experience England at her best, rather than just visiting the usual tourist haunts. After whetting readers' appetites for a trip to England, the book delivers even more: itineraries and a gazetteer, to provide practical help and advice for planning a visit. And because it's such a delightful read, armchair travelers can have almost as much fun as those who visit England in person.

Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Tradition The patterns of English life play across the year. Every season has its certitude ( lingering over Sunday lunch in winter, with Yorkshire puddings steaming on a plate; golden summer afternoons, when punters pole their way on sun-dappled waters. Tradition gilds each moment, as time slides by in its silent stream. To the Manor Born If there is an art at which the English excel, surely it is the art of the home - a glorious celebration of domesticity which, over the centuries, has resulted in architecture that invites and interiors that welcome. In country houses such as actress Jane Seymour's home. St. Catherine's Court near Bath, the elements that make a house a home are preserved for each generation to enjoy - the mullioned windows that open to fragrant blossoms, the paths that lead into the well-tended garden, the fireplaces where coals glow, the chimney pots that top the peaked roof where the doves coo. These are charms that reside in houses where countless lives have been sheltered over time. The walls could speak of vanished families - of weddings that filled the halls with laughter, of tears that accompanied sons and brothers off to war, of toasting crumpets in the nursery fireplace, of a rose bush blooming for its hundredth spring. This is bedrock beauty, the sort that lasts forever. For a nation that sent so many across sea, surely it was the thought of these home fires burning that warmed their journeys. In English county houses, perfection is never the goal. It is comfort that lies at the heart of English domesticity and county-house style. Copyright (c) 1999 by Hearst Communications, Inc.