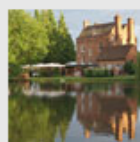
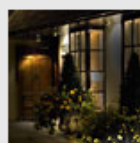


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## Auberge du Lac – Hertfordshire

*Brocket Hall, Welwyn, Hertfordshire, AL8 7XG*

*01707 368888*

[www.brocket-hall.co.uk](http://www.brocket-hall.co.uk)

Review by Annabelle Hood

Chances are, you will have heard of Brocket Hall thanks to bad-boy Lord Brocket hitting the headlines a few years ago, when he fraudulently tried to sink four of his Ferraris into the estate's lake. He didn't get away with it (hell hath no whistle-blower like an ex-wife scorned).



What his departure from the Brocket estate left, however, is an enchanting Michelin starred restaurant – Auberge du Lac – which overlooks the imposing Hall and golf club from across the lily-padded waters of this lake. There's also a beautiful Championship golf course. Sadly Brocket Hall itself remains largely closed to the public, except to those able to hire the whole mansion for a wedding or event for a tidy sum. A pity, as its grand rooms contain genuine Van Dykes, Chippendale furniture and the UK's longest dining table, second only to that at Windsor Castle.

The Auberge du Lac is an 80-cover Michelin restaurant based in a stand-alone cottage dating back to 1760 when it was a Hunting Lodge. At the helm is Executive Chef Phil Thompson ("I'm the first Michelin-awarded chef from Essex, as far as I know"), who runs the entire catering offering on the Brocket estate. The Auberge also houses five Private Dining/meeting rooms that can cater for between two and 60 guests.

The lakeside restaurant also boasts a delightful canopied al fresco terrace, which, in fine weather, is ideal for eating a great-value Michelin starred lunch, or enjoying a pre-dinner aperitif. Service is efficient, friendly and down-to-earth.