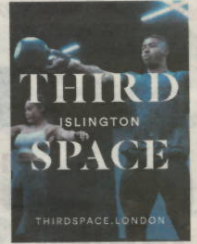


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HUAWEI DEAL PUTS CHINA 'IN CONTROL'

JAMES WARRINGTON

@_a_warrington

ONE OF Westminster's most senior MPs has warned on the eve of the government's Huawei announcement that a deal with the tech giant would "hand control to Beijing".

Tom Tugendhat, who is seeking re-election as chair of the powerful Foreign Affairs Select Committee, yesterday said the decision over whether the Chinese firm will be granted a role in building the UK's 5G network reflected the "values we will defend in the years to come".

"Get it right - we're an independent trading nation upholding the rules," he wrote in a tweet. "Get it wrong - we've taken back control from Brussels only to hand it to Beijing."

The stark warning came ahead of an expected announcement tomorrow that is set to put Downing Street on a collision course with US President Donald Trump.

Trump is said to have warned Boris Johnson that giving the green light to Huawei would pose a serious risk to national security, sparking fears of a

rift in the so-called special relationship between the US and the UK.

Last night US secretary of state Mike Pompeo said the Kent MP "gets it right", while US ambassador to the UK Woody Johnson also endorsed Tugendhat's statement on Twitter.

Trump suggested that the two nations build an alternative to the Chinese company together, but UK officials argue this would take too long, the Sunday Times reported.

Johnson is said to be considering placing firm restrictions on Huawei's market share in UK networks to avoid an over-reliance on its technology, the Financial Times reported late last night. Whitehall officials believe the move would force providers to retain equipment from a mix of suppliers, allowing any risk to national security to be mitigated.

The US has fronted a fierce campaign against Huawei, citing fears the company's kit could be used for spying by authorities in Beijing. Huawei has consistently denied such allegations.

Trump's administration has urged the UK not to collaborate with

Huawei, with Pompeo visiting the UK this week to ramp up lobbying efforts.

All four major mobile providers have now launched their 5G networks using some Huawei equipment, and industry experts have warned a ban on Huawei would slow down the roll-out of the next-generation network.

The decision risks sparking anger across the pond, as US officials have written to the UK's National Security Council urging ministers not to allow Huawei into critical infrastructure.

The row over Huawei has also played into transatlantic trade negotiations. Treasury secretary Steve Mnuchin has promised to "dedicate a lot of resources" to a US-UK trade deal this year if Britain heeded his advice.

The US has previously warned that any deal with Huawei could compromise intelligence sharing agreements between the two countries - a claim denied by British security chiefs.

The debate has also ignited a row within the cabinet, with home secretary Priti Patel forced to deny reports that she and defence secretary Ben Wallace were on the "warpath" with the PM over the issue.

CORONAVIRUS SPREADS Fears mount over government response



ANDY SILVESTER

@silvesterdn

CHINESE officials yesterday warned that the coronavirus originating in Wuhan can be passed on before symptoms show, sparking fears that current containment attempts may not be sufficient.

The death toll now stands at 56, with new cases confirmed as far away as Australia and the US over the weekend as more than 2,000 people have been affected. Chinese president Xi Jinping described the

outbreak as "a grave situation."

The mayor of Wuhan, the central Chinese city which is now in effective lockdown, told reporters yesterday that around 5m people had exited the city for Lunar New Year celebrations before checkpoints prevented individuals leaving.

The UK government confirmed yesterday that it was monitoring the situation and that an airlift of British citizens in Hubei province was "under review".

● VIRUS CONCERNS INCREASE: P6

FTSE 100 ▼ 7,585.98 -78.31 FTSE 250 ▼ 21,763.94 -223.38 DOW ▼ 28,989.73 -170.36 NASDAQ ▼ 9,314.91 -87.57 £/\$ ▼ 1.307 -0.003 £/€ ▼ 1.185 -0.002 €/\$ ▼ 1.103 -0.001

BE EXTRAORDINARY
DON'T JOIN AN ORDINARY GYM.
 THIRD SPACE ISLINGTON

THIRD
 ISLINGTON
SPACE

TRAVEL

NORTHERN DELIGHTS

Siobhan Grogan discovers a secret A-list retreat in New England

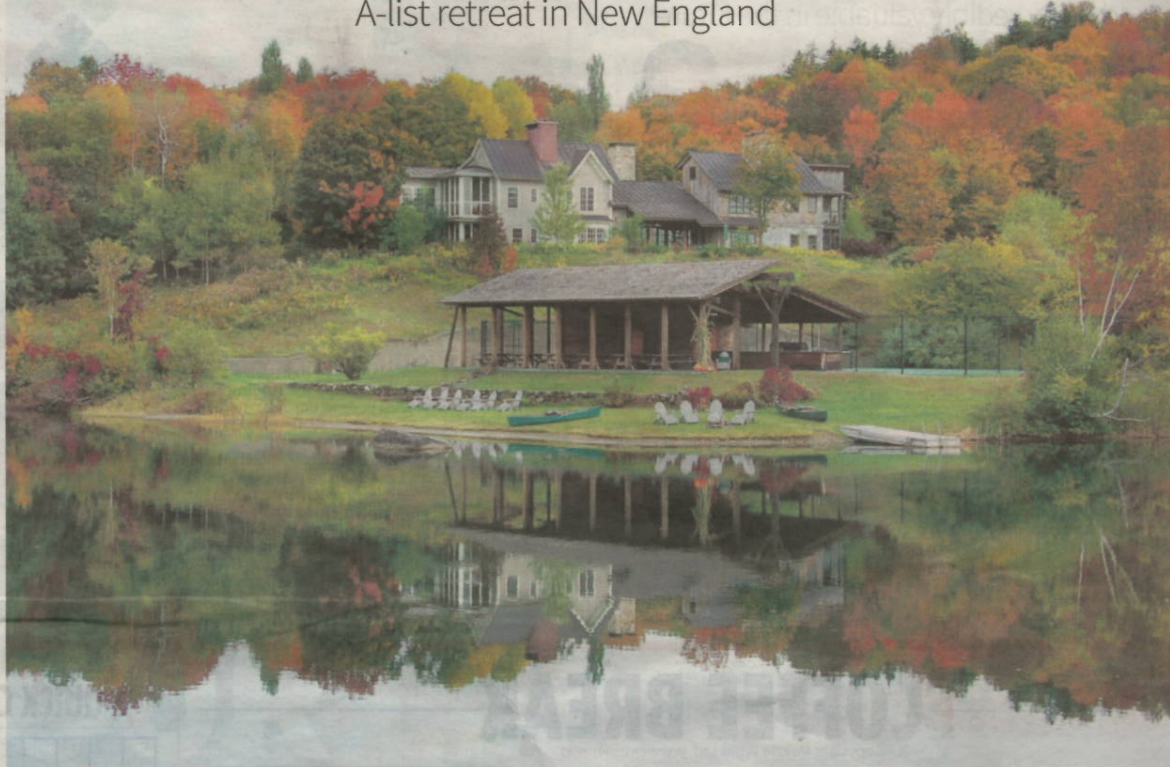
Minutes after I arrive at my very own cottage in the middle of a golden Vermont forest, an affable concierge warns me, "there is one very important rule you have to remember when you stay here".

Exhausted after a long journey and barely able to focus on anything except staggering into bed, I try to concentrate. This sounds important. Even a little worrying. "Just dial 125 if you want anything at all, at any time," he beams before disappearing off into the night.

Twin Farms is clearly not just another hotel. Buried deep within 300 acres of forests, the property was owned by Nobel Prize-winning author Sinclair Lewis and his esteemed journalist wife Dorothy Thompson in the 1930s but is now the go-to indulgent weekend retreat for America's A-list and the seriously wealthy. Despite being regularly named the best small hotel in the US, it is still hardly known elsewhere and is so hidden, many Vermont locals aren't even aware it exists.

Even when staying here, you could easily avoid seeing another soul if you chose, with only 40 guests on the sprawling estate at any one time. Adults-only apart from two family weeks a year, there are just 10 lavish suites in two farmhouses and the homely 19th century main house, and a further ten self-contained cottages for two spread throughout the silent forest. Each suite or cottage is decorated differently, themed around everything from Tuscany to dogs yet somehow managing to be less bizarre than it sounds.

I stayed in Meadow, a palatial Moroccan-themed cottage with its own huge screened porch, dressing room, large living area with a mosaic-tiled



“Every corner of this state is spectacular, spoilt with dense forests, and snow-capped mountains

working fireplace and an enormous coloured glass chandelier hanging from the tented ceiling. In the bathroom, there's a freestanding double bath (complete with rubber ducks and candles) beside a full-length bay window with only thick forest outside. Every window reveals another gloriously untouched, picture-perfect view – a carpet of vivid orange autumn leaves between the trees, chipmunks scampering around a trunk or the sun rising behind the mountains in the distance.

There are said to be moose, porcupines, coyote and even the odd black bear lurking in the forest too, though I didn't see any during my stay. But with the stunning views and secluded, romantic setting, it's not hard to understand why some guests never leave their cottage at all.

In fact, Twin Farms make it easy for you to do exactly what you want. This is all-inclusive for people who already have everything they desire. Guests are asked to fill in a questionnaire before they arrive so their holiday can be tailored to their exact specifications, from the temperature they like their coffee to the way they prefer



their bed made. Instead of menus, the chef devises seasonal dishes according to your tastes each day that appear as if by magic wherever you choose to eat them, whenever you want. Whether you fancy pancakes in bed, hot toddies and s'mores by the bonfire or warm chocolate chip cookies at 3am, nothing appears too much trouble for Twin Farms' laid-back but ever-smiling staff. Just about everything else you can think of is included too, from a speedy same-day laundry service to extensive sports equipment and 15,000 bottles of excellent wine in the cellar.

With everything taken care of, it's certainly easy to switch off and submit to a blissfully unhurried routine. I strolled through the frosty forest to the main house each morning to enjoy breakfast tacos or homemade croissants by a roaring open fire, then headed out to explore the grounds, which include an ice-skating rink, tennis and badminton

courts, small spa, lake for kayaking, croquet lawn, the hotel's very own ski slope and an unexpected fruro – a Japanese hot soaking pool.

It's easy to spend hours just hiking Twin Farms' own hillsides and well-marked woodland walkways as well, especially as staff can arrange for a champagne picnic to appear en-route if you choose.

In the afternoon, depending on the season, you can join yoga classes or fly-fishing lessons, walk the hotel's golden retriever through meadows of wild spring flowers, snow shoe or sledge (a snowmobile will even pick you up to avoid trudging back up the hill) or swim and paddle-board at nearby Silver Lake. When I mentioned cycling into the pretty town of Woodstock, a mountain bike was prepared immediately, complete with a GPS on the handlebars and water and a stash of snacks in a bag on the back. Lined with independent boutiques, antique shops and art galleries, it was

well worth the beautiful 10-mile cycle to wander the quaint streets too. Venture a little further to visit the factory of acclaimed glass blower Simon Pearce, covet the handmade furniture at Shackleton Thomas or tour Billings Farm to experience 19th century farming life in Vermont.

In fact, every corner of this state – famed for its astonishing autumn leaves – is spectacular, spoilt with dense forests, tranquil lakes and snow-capped mountains. A foodie paradise, it boasts the only state capital in the US without a McDonald's, its very own 'fall foliage forecaster' and has banned billboards state-wide in case they spoil the view.

The state's largest city, Burlington, is equally charming, perched on the banks of picturesque Lake Champlain and thronged with local stores, fantastic restaurants and a staggering number of craft breweries, including the unmissable Citizen Cider. Better still, you can stop at the Ben & Jerry's

factory in Waterbury on the way back to Twin Farms afterwards.

Once night falls, evenings are best spent in the estate's main house, chatting to other guests over champagne and canapés in the lounge before a five-course feast with exquisite wine pairings in the adjacent dining room. Afterwards, cross the covered bridge to the estate's own cosy pub complete with Wurlitzer jukebox, pool table, Steinway baby grand piano and outdoor stone fire pits, dialling 125 from the pub phone whenever you fancy another drink. Turns out it's not so hard to stick to the rules after all.

NEED TO KNOW

Rooms at Twin Farms start at £1,250 per night, based on two sharing on an all-inclusive basis. To find out more visit twinfarms.com or call +1 800 894 6327. Norwegian flies to Boston from Gatwick. Fares start at £230 return.