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## News in brief

**Dover Cruise Port** hosted the first ever Discerning Traveller Show in October 2007.

Sixteen cruise lines and 20 tour operators exhibited at the event which was organised by Travelux, the Tenterden-based travel agency. The show, which was free to the public, attracted over 1,500 visitors at Cruise Terminal 1 at Dover Western Docks.  
[www.doverport.co.uk](http://www.doverport.co.uk)

### Eastwell Manor Hotel and Spa

Summer 2008 will see the opening of the newly constructed nine-hole golf course which will be an added facility for residents and conference delegates. Set in the heart of the Kent countryside there are 62 elegant manor bedrooms and luxury Mews Cottages, seven private dining and meeting rooms as well as extensive leisure and spa facilities. Visitors can choose to dine in the Manor Restaurant or the less formal Brasserie.

[www.eastwellmanor.co.uk](http://www.eastwellmanor.co.uk)

**Hempstead House** is embarking on an extension to the hotel to provide a spa, health and fitness suite, extra bedrooms and treatment rooms. The Spa (opening Oct 2008) will have an indoor pool, hydrotherapy pool, jacuzzi, sauna, steam room and fully-equipped gym. Within the area will be a Brasserie which will be open to non-members as well as members and residents.

[www.hempsteadhouse.co.uk](http://www.hempsteadhouse.co.uk)

**The Ramada Tunbridge Wells** has completed a £100,000 refurbishment of the restaurant and lounge area giving the hotel a fresh and contemporary feel. The Summit Conference Centre at the hotel comprises eight flexible conference rooms, some of which are air-conditioned and suitable for hosting discreet boardroom meetings or conferences for up to 180 delegates.  
[www.ramadajarvis.co.uk](http://www.ramadajarvis.co.uk)

## Venue Developments

### The Ashford International Hotel

has benefited from a £10 million refurbishment which was completed on 15th October 2007. QHotels purchased the hotel in July 2006 and pledged to invest heavily in the property. A large majority of the 179 guest bedrooms have been completed with stunning new décor and flat-screen TVs. The reception and newly named Quench Bar have been completely redesigned and include two large plasma screens showing high profile sports events while the Horizon Wine Bar and Restaurant is set in a slick and contemporary environment with polished dark wood tables and a vibrant maroon colour scheme.

With 16 conference and meeting rooms Ashford International is the largest functions facility in Kent and a large proportion of the investment will be spent on the conference and event facilities. All of the conference and meeting rooms will be

