



conservationist), South African activist Denis Goldberg and Zimbabwean politicians Herbert Chitepo, Leopold Takawira and Ndabaningi Sithole.

Between 1955 and 1964 the Courtaulds were the greatest philanthropists in Africa, funding the construction of Mutare's Courtauld Theatre, Queen's Club and Rhodes' Club. They financed the Kukwanisa Agricultural School in Watsomba as well as Harare's National Gallery and the College of Music. They gave lavish donations to the Bulawayo Theatre and University College. In 1958 Stephen was knighted for his good works, only accepting the knighthood at the insistence of Federal Prime Minister Sir Roy Welensky. Sir Stephen passed away in 1967. After Lady Courtauld's death in 1972 La Rochelle was donated to the National Trust.

The "Courtauld Rooms" are seven beautifully appointed and individually designed rooms and suites in the historic Courtauld House. The free-standing West Wing comprises five rooms and a magnificent honeymoon suite called "The Fantasy", the epitome of romance situated a small distance from the Country House overlooking the tranquil dam. There are a couple more secluded cottages available.

The gardens were designed by John Mitchell of Kew Gardens, and feature paths, ponds and classical pillars. The rose garden was replanted by Henrietta Courtauld and Bridget Elworthy, with "Iceberg", "House and Garden", "Duet" and "Virginia" varieties. An avenue of white standard roses and lavender leads to the original circular pond, where the pergola beyond is still planted with a thick roof of purple Queen's wreath; a beautiful setting for a romantic wedding.

A visit to one of the finest orchid houses in southern Africa, featuring a fine collection of exotic, rare and indigenous

TOP: Courtauld guests signatures on one of the windows.

CENTRE: The main lounge.

LEFT: Interior of "The Fantasy" suite.