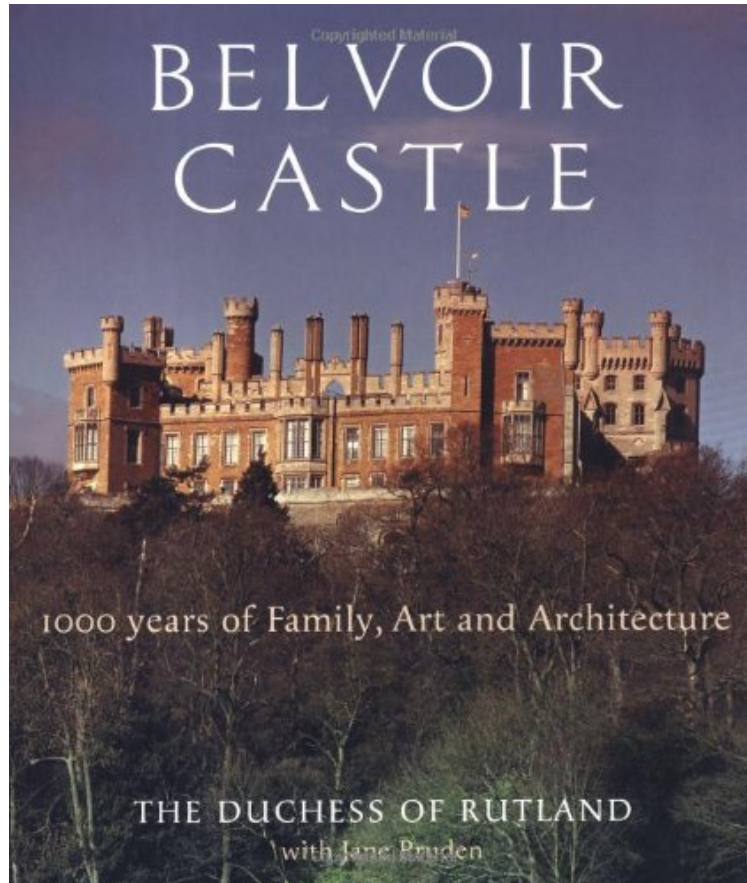


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Belvoir Castle: A Thousand Years of Family Art and Architecture

The Duchess of Rutland, Jane Pruden
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The Duchess of Rutland, Jane Pruden : Belvoir Castle: A Thousand Years of Family Art and Architecture before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Belvoir Castle: A Thousand Years of Family Art and Architecture:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Superbly Written and Illustrated Portrayal of the Quintessential English Castle and Manor HomeBy surfcitysurgeonSandringham (a favourite Royal residence) and High Clere (where Downton Abbey is filmed) have their charms, but Belvoir Castle, perched high above the vale where Leistershire and Lincolnshire meet is equally impressive, inside and out. It was built in 1067 by Robert de Tosny (Todeni), a member of the family who were the hereditary standard bearers for Normandy, who died in 1093 and was buried in the priory he founded at the base of the hill where his castle was situated. The book authored by the present Duchess of Rutland does justice in every way to place that her family has called home since the time of the Norman Conquest. Being a family historian, there were three items I hoped to see in this book, and there was no disappointment on this score. Included is a two page family tree showing the present day Duke of Rutland's link through each generation back to Robert de Tosny. Also seen was the earliest visual depiction of the castle via the seal on a 13th century document found in the castle's Muniment Room. Thirdly, this reviewer is a descendant of Robert de Tosny, and was aware that

many years ago the remains of his ancestor were taken in their stone tomb from the nearby priory and placed within the castle. The wish to see a picture of this sacred artifact, and its Latin inscription as recorded during the 18th century archaeological investigation, was fulfilled. The book has early paintings of the castle and its surrounds, and sets the building in historical context. The approach used by the author allows the reader to appreciate the history of the castle and the lives of previous generations of the family who each put their own stamp on their home - and of course, some were real "characters" in their own right. Belvoir comes to life with the "tour" given by the present Duchess, as she takes us from room to room highlighting each point of interest along the way. Her love of the place she is fortunate enough to call home shines through on each page of this splendid book. Anyone interested in art and architecture, and the lifestyle of the British aristocracy over the generations will not be disappointed. The excellent photography does justice to the rooms and furnishings as one ambles through the building and castle grounds. After reading "Belvoir Castle", this reviewer made a decision to make a "pilgrimage" to this astoundingly beautiful castle. Despite a vow to never to go through the hassle of overseas flights to Europe again, my wife and I are now planning an ambitious tour of family sites in both England and Normandy. Perhaps we will be among those fortunate enough to have their guided tour of Belvoir Castle conducted by the Duchess herself.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Book with sumptuous photographs
By Exiled warrior
Way above a guide book. Just the right amount of architectural and family history, exploration of the collection and description of how the Castle is lived in. The Duchess no doubt was much helped by Jane Pruden, but her personality (and conviction) shine through. I hadn't quite realized just how important the role the Manners family have played in so many episodes in English history. This book captures the house that is the testament to their success. Well worth it.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Beaver Castle
By Royski
This is a wonderful book. I love when this type of book is written by someone who owns and lives in the home. Like the books written by the Duchess of Devonshire. It gives you a whole different perspective. There are some wonderful pictures of the main rooms of the Castle but also a few pictures of the private apartments, I just wish there had been even more of the private rooms.

Belvoir Castle is one of the least known great houses in Britain. Rising like a fairy palace over the plains of the Vale of Belvoir in Leicestershire, and dating back originally to 1067, it is the home of the Duke of Rutland. Both one of the finest regency residences in England and a treasure trove of great paintings and furniture, the castle also houses an important collection of porcelain, silks and tapestries, sculptures and paintings. In this beautiful book, the Duchess of Rutland tells the story of the house, its contents, and its inhabitants for the first time, detailing examples of fine French furniture, Italian sculpture, and paintings by Gainsborough, Reynolds, Holbein, and Poussin. Aided by hundreds of both color and black-and-white photographs, the Duchess traces the history of the 36 generations of the family who have lived there, and proves an expert guide through the castle's gorgeous rooms and collections.

The first modern book to be published about this glorious ancestral home on its romantic hilltop site. The Duchess of Rutland takes us on a personal guided tour that includes family history and sumptuously decorated rooms with great paintings and elegant furniture. Excellent photographs by Nick McCann and Rupert Watts. Stunning. --Derbyshire Life (UK)
This collector's item will have appeal for many different readers. Whether you're after a historical biography, a nose behind the scenes of England's most magnificent Regency house, an account of modern aristocratic life, or even a catalog of classic country home interior design, this will hit the spot on many levels. Recommended. --ETC
Like its authoress, it is a stylish, informative, and charmingly candid companion to the splendors of her preposterous chivalric pile, but this is also a personal tour, which tells us something of what it's like to live in this vast house. --Country Life
An engaging and elegant portrait that should bring a fascinating house and its history the attention it deserves. --The Field
This collector's item will have appeal for many different readers. Whether you're after a historical biography, a nose behind the scenes of England's most magnificent Regency house, an account of modern aristocratic life, or even a catalog of classic country home interior design, this will hit the spot on many levels. Recommended. --Melton Times
About the Author
Jane Pruden is a freelance writer specialising in country issues, field sports, health and food. She is a regular contributor to local and national magazines including Fieldsports and Scottish Sporting Gazette.