AS MAY hoves into view it isn't with just a bang but a barrage: the simulated shooting season is starting to swing. Over the past decade there has been exponential growth in the clay shooting on offer for keen close-season guns and those eager to give shooting a go. Particularly popular are days that aim to recreate the camaraderie and rhythms of a traditional shoot: think elegant Elevenses, excellent hosts, gun buses and banter. The sadness of the last shoot lunch no longer needs to be lingered over: corral the troops and put a spring or summertime simulated day into the diary. Yet with so many to choose from, how does one winkle out the shoot to suit? *The Field* has compiled a list of some of the best.

Away for the weekend

Plenty of top-drawer simulated shoots can provide excellent accommodation too. It's the perfect reason to set off for some fun farther afield.

Bryngwyn estate, Powys *(below)*

This Welsh estate close to the Cheshire and Shropshire border has a choice of 16 drives utilising the steep topography and handsome parkland. High, simulated pheasants are a staple as are three lines of grouse butts. Double Barrelled Shooting has been putting on sim days here for the past 14 years, with drives designed by shoot captain Ian Hartland and his knowledgeable team. Hosting duties are shared by estate owner Auriol, Marchioness of Linlithgow, whose family has lived at Bryngwyn for more than two centuries. Elevenses by the lake are a must, and breakfast and lunch in the house are included (as is use of the billiard room for a cheeky post-shoot game of snooker or Freda). Guests can arrange to stay in the main house. "Our hospitality is legendary," says Lady Linlithgow.

Price: from £285pp plus VAT (without accommodation). Teams: 12-20 guns. Single pegs: Yes. Tel: 01691 648647; enquiries@bryngwyn.com bryngwyn.com

