



OLD
Victorian daybed, £1,800, Molly and Maud's Place. 01423 330803; mollyandmaudsplace.co.uk



OLD
Ebonised Regency chaise longue, c1820, £9,115, Talisman. 020 7731 4686; talismanlondon.com



NEW
'Brontë' chaise longue, £895, Loaf. 0845 468 0698; loaf.com



OLD
c19th-century Swedish daybed, £3,950, Lorfords. 01666 505111; lorfordsantiques.com



NEW
'Lorena' chaise longue, £1,848, Oficina Inglesa. 020 7226 4569; oficinainglesa.com



OLD
Austrian bentwood chaise longue, c1910, £1,140, Pascale Drieux Antiquités. www.pamono.co.uk

SIT BACK

We pick some of the most elegant chaises longues and daybeds available, mixing antique and contemporary styles

In the language of furniture nothing says 'relax' quite like a chaise longue. While a bed invites sleep and a chair invites rest this hybrid promises that most indulgent mid-point, where you do more than simply sit: you lie back and relax.

The chaise or daybed is believed to have its origins in ancient Egypt, and what piece of furniture could be more suited for an Egyptian queen to recline on while servants fan her with giant palm leaves? The poster for the 1963 Hollywood blockbuster starring Elizabeth Taylor as the eponymous queen featured her in just such a pose flanked by Rex Harrison and Richard Burton, both looking desperate to join her.

The ancient Greeks were partial to a daybed. It was their preferred place for eating and drinking, and they eschewed the table and chair in its favour as early as the 8th century BC. The Romans liked their style and adopted the practice for their banquets, taking the opulence up a notch with plenty of animal skins and cushions and the practice of sharing with a friend or two.

So next time you need some serious relaxation, make like the ancients and recline... aah.