



ARVA ELVA, UPPER REISA RIVER, NORWAY

After a long day tramping into the headwaters of the Reisa River, my guide Morten and I set out on the long march home. I was lost in thought, the cameras and kit weighing heavy on my shoulders, when suddenly we stumbled upon Arva Elva, one of the Upper Reisa's most bewitching little pools, with the gurgling waters of a pretty little stream rushing into it.

We'd fished the pool through once already, hours before, but now the cold waters of the recent storm were swelling the side-stream and tumbling into the main river, enlivening and cooling the pool, while the rain and dark clouds of the storm's aftermath had replaced the broiling sunshine at last, offering near perfect conditions. Despite the fact that we still had a long, long walk ahead of us, and a fridge full of cold beer and a delicious supper waiting for us back at the lodge, I pleaded with Morten for one last pass through the pool.

Halfway down, just where the frigid streamwater careered into the main river, pushing the current over against the cliff on the far side of the river, my tenacity was finally rewarded. From nowhere, a big silver flank came flashing through the gunmetal grey of the rain and my line came up suddenly tight and singing. The big silver fish came crashing up into the gloowering northern sky and went tearing around the pool. Not the 50-pounder I'd have given my eye teeth for, but 20lb and more, and a fish to set the heart racing. I felt the adrenaline rush as I stumbled out of the river and over the rain-slick rocks, doing my best to get after the fish, as it went greyhounding off downstream...

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The world's best salmon pools

PART 2 OF 2

Globetrotting fly fisher Matt Harris nominates seven more of his all-time favourite Atlantic salmon pools on the planet.

There are plenty of salmon pools that offer breathtaking scenery, and some can also boast a lovely, lively stream that swings a fly seductively across its depths, preferably offering fishable water in *all* water heights. Occasionally, a pool offers all this *and* a very real chance to tangle with a hefty salmon or two. But what makes some pools *really* special? How can an angler choose a dozen or

so salmon pools from the countless spots that he or she encounters in a salmon-fishing lifetime? In truth, it's impossible and perhaps foolish to rank one pool over another – each angler has their own favourites, and they might change from day to day or year to year. Thus, this selection is simply a collection of a few of my own personal favourites. There are some glaring omissions of course, but these spots are, to me at least, very special.

SÆTER-KULPEN, LOWER REISA RIVER, NOR

Few rivers are tougher nuts to crack. I'll grant you, but if there is a more beautiful salmon river on earth, I have yet to find it.

Sæter-kulpen is a small pool – a shallow tail-out that is easily missed by many anglers as they

rush between the bigger holding pool of Rovellen below and the long and often productive run at Lailla a little upstream.

Ignore it at your peril. For reasons best known to themselves, some of the very biggest beasts

that run this absurd river like to sit in the 10-cast dream of a no-one's-at-home, never find a more likely in which to cast a fly

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