

**This description of Henry VIII was written by an Italian in England in 1515, when the King was about 24 years old.**

His Majesty is the handsomest ruler I have ever set eyes on; above the usual height, with an extremely fine calf to his leg, his complexion very fair and bright, with auburn hair combed short and straight....He speaks French, English and Latin, and a little Italian, plays well on the Lute and the harpsichord, sings from books at sight, draws the bow with greater strength than any man in England, and jousts marvellously..... He is in every respect a most accomplished prince.