



*“The greatest sin
of a country house
is to be narrow-minded, predictable
or even worse... dull.”*

Desmond Leslie



Castle Leslie has always been more than a home to the Leslie family. It's been run like a private members' club for more than three centuries welcoming everyone from artists to poets, explorers to politicians, musicians to ufologists.

The Club is a world away from other hotels or clubs. You'll never enjoy such personal service anywhere else. We learn what you like, what you hate, your foibles and habits. Which leaves you to focus on enjoyment, contemplation and relaxation.

Here you can air your theories, express your individuality or just rub shoulders with interesting and different people. But you get to choose when you want the camaraderie of stimulating debate, energising outdoor activities or just a little peace and quiet.

*The private members' club
with an independent spirit*





Politics, royalty and war

Castle Leslie is used to people who stand out. The Leslie family has lived here since 1665. Their non-conformist ancestors include warlike bishops, politicians, social reformers, agricultural innovators, philanthropic wives, fine pre-Raphaelite painters, furniture collectors, writers and war heroes. They've been connected with royalty, ambassadors and prime ministers, and regularly visited by foreign émigrés, wits, poets and infamous kleptomaniacs.

The family is still very involved with the running of the Castle, one of the few Irish properties still held by the original family.



Age-old Irish hospitality decrees that you get out the best linen, pick the finest food and treat your guests to the best. The tradition continues at The Club.

There's little chance of going hungry – from lazy breakfasts to light lunches, then afternoon teas in the Drawing Room till finally the gong bids you join the other members for the splendid five-course dinners at the great table to in the Gallery. But nothing is set in stone: choose a picnic instead of lunch, or enjoy a quiet supper in the Library or the Blue Room.

Award-winning head chef Noel McMeel offers a table d'hôte and an à la carte signature menu, complimented by an eclectic list of noted wines. Inspired by his worldwide culinary training, his dishes are simple and international but spiced with Irish. He selects mainly organic ingredients, usually sourced locally and serves the delicious cheeses.

You'll sample Noel's wonderful food served communally around the same dining tables used by generations of the Leslies. Meals are relaxed, the perfect combination of good company, stimulating conversation and great food. You'll never go thirsty either. Just help yourself from the bars and cellars or wander into the kitchen and ask your chef – it's all included in the day rate.



19th Century splendour
21st Century hospitality



Country hospitality

with a flair for the unusual



Whenever you enter The Club, you can relax immediately: this is your personal country retreat. A fire always crackles in the hall fireplace and there's a sense of professional but welcoming calm.

The house is individual and unpretentious, a unique personality created by generations of unorthodox Leslies. Wander about the house and you'll find eclectic collections of curiosities, fascinating archives, elegant antiques, fine paintings and family portraits. Feel free to go below stairs, chat to the chefs and treat the Castle from home.

Everything is restored and gently refurbished with theatrically-grand public rooms for being sociable, and smaller rooms for finding peace. But you can always find a corner for a little solitude with a quiet Guinness. Enjoy pre-prandial drinks or dine in groups in the Fountain Room. Perch on strange stools with laced-up legs to flick through books in the extensive library. Or while away an unhurried hour or so in the Billiard Room or the private cinema.



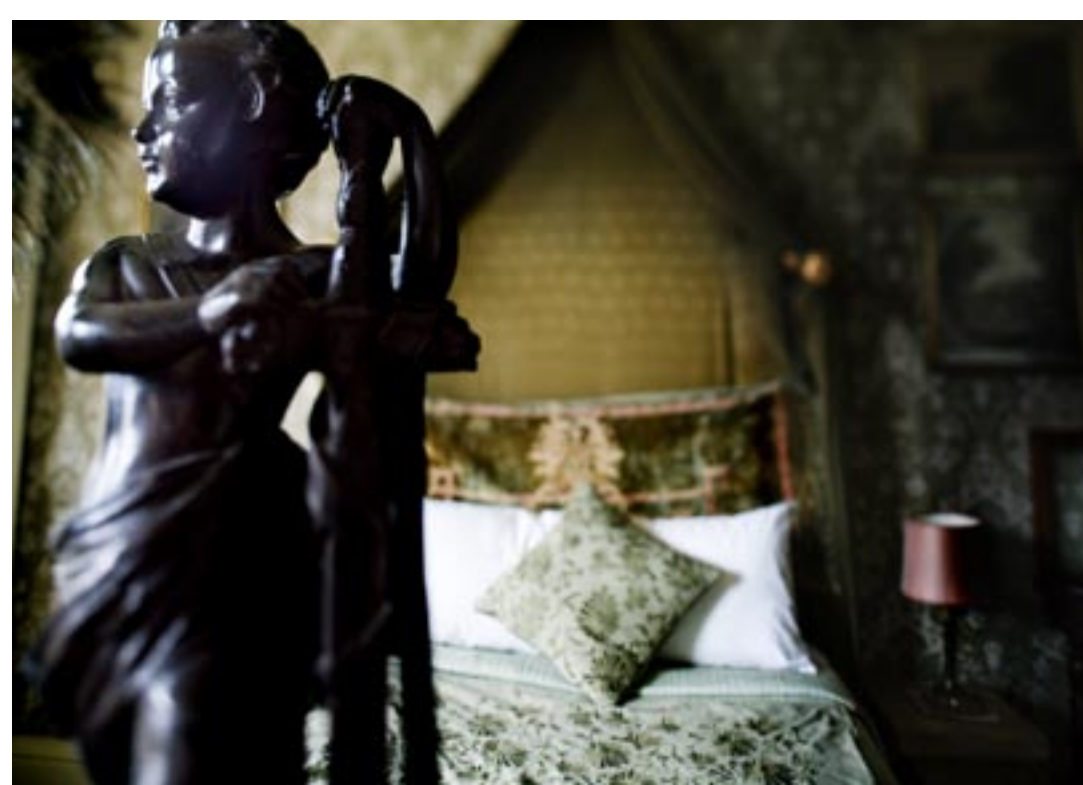
Sleep with a sense of history



No TV, radios, wifi or minibars. You sleep and dream in a choice of unique and dramatically different bedrooms. Each is furnished with a particular authentic flair and dotted with family heirlooms. Most bedrooms are en-suite, complete with majestic fully-restored Victorian plumbing.

Take the Green Room with its wide bay windows overlooking the garden and along the lake. It still boasts its original Victorian wallpaper - a bright sunlit romantic room draped in green with its own private bathroom.

Generations of Leslies have slept here. It's also accommodated Madame Volkof, a poker-faced White Russian, "Maimie" a penniless Romanian aristocrat and kleptomaniac and the famous Dublin wit Oliver St. John Gogarty.



Slumber in red splendour



One of three master bedrooms, the Red Room looks out over the sparkling lake. Here you hang your clothes in a noble French armoire, and sleep in a canopied Italian four-poster.

Generations of Leslies have been born, died and held court in this very pleasant room. W. B. Yeats and John Betjeman slept here as have numerous ambassadors to Dublin. Perhaps your dreams will be full of poetry and diplomacy too.

But the en-suite bathroom is quite extraordinary too. It boasts the first bath installed in all Ireland, a vast deep tub that's the perfect sanctuary for two after a long day.



*A magical place
to treat like your own estate*





The ultimate equestrian playground



Here the horse is king. The Hunting Lodge with its original cut-stone farmyard and state-of-the-art Equestrian Centre opened in April 2007 after a long regeneration and restoration.

55 horses of all shapes and sizes wait to be ridden. Try out our 'flying arm chair', handsome hunters or capable cobs. BHS-qualified instructors are on hand to help you improve. Try hacking along the 21 miles of bridleways or go cross-country over 300 obstacles. Race down the mile-long all-weather gallops or stay dry in the indoor cross-country arena. Try side-saddle or even the Virtual Horse.

If that sounds all too energetic, enjoy the 1,000 acres of parkland with a relaxed carriage drive.



*Emerald green parkland
and drumlin hills rolling around
the mystical green lake*

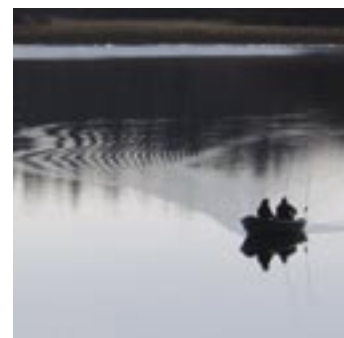
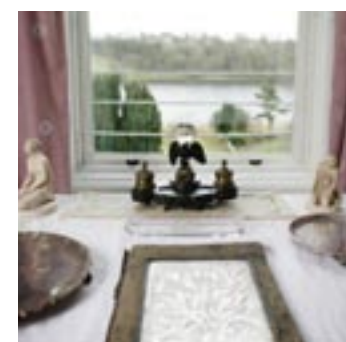
So much to do to pass the time

Some people come to Castle Leslie for the wonderful food, joining The Club's regular meals or as a small party enjoying their own private chef for the night. Others come for the famous cookery courses run by Noel McMeel in the restored Victorian kitchen. There's something for every cook from fun seasonal entertaining to learning specialist culinary skills. Or bring a corporate group for a 'cook-off' – a deliciously different team-building exercise.

If that's too energetic, try the Victorian organic spa. Its steam boxes ease aches and pains, its treatment rooms offer pampering while the hot tubs re-invigorate.

Outdoors, there's fishing in Glaslough Lake described as one of Europe's finest pike lakes. And there's nothing to stop you strolling around the 1000 acres of parkland. Except perhaps the odd rain shower.

Further afield, you can play golf, rally drive and go off-road. Or try laser clay pigeon shooting, archery, water sports and quad biking. Or you can just sit and daydream across the green hills.





Club members enjoy a home away from home in unusual tranquillity and comfort. But before applying for membership, why not sample the delights of Castle Leslie Estate on a trial visit? You are welcome to visit once as a non member.

Membership is strictly limited, with applications requiring the Club Committee's approval. Once accepted, you pay a joining fee followed by an annual fee that includes your spouse or long-term partner.

Membership
has its extra privileges

*When you're a member,
you'll be let in on some more secrets*

Then visit The Club as often as you want for as long as you like – there are social events, monthly member's dinners and limited dates when the Club is for exclusive use by members. A daily charge covers everything, accommodation, meals, drinks and a welcome massage at the Spa. You enjoy priority booking and special rates at the Equestrian Centre, the Spa, the Cookery School, for fishing and use of Village Cottages. You also get preferred access to Castle Leslie Developments, Castle Leslie Estate and Club events, and you can enjoy exclusive use of our outposts starting with our five bedroom villa in France. We will be adding reciprocal deals with the best clubs in the world to our portfolio of membership benefits over time.

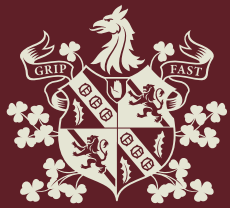
Bring your friends and they'll get a reduction in the daily charge. Bring the family to the Hunting Lodge. Bring your dogs and kennel them in the Hunting Lodge. Bring your work and use the business rooms free, and the fax/email facilities for a small charge.

But membership brings unexpected privileges and courtesies. Leave your things at The Club for your next visit. When you return, they'll be clean and ready for use. Feel free to arrive by seaplane or helicopter. If you come by scheduled flights to Dublin or Belfast, you'll be chauffeur-driven the scenic 90-minute journey.

Sound individual enough for you?







THE CLUB

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CASTLE
Leslie
ESTATE

